

The Grand Lodge AF & AM of North Carolina
Application for the 2022
Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence

To the Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

We went to work and now as the elected officers of _____ Lodge # _____ of _____ submit the following information, completed and attached, as true and accurate for this Lodge. We understand and agree that all items are subject to review by the District Deputy Grand Master; Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education; Financial Officers of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, and the NC Masonic Foundation; The Board of Publications; Appendant and Concordant organizations connected to Freemasonry in North Carolina; and the Grand Secretary; with final approval by the Grand Master. We understand that the basic Application includes completion of the annual standard items as directed in Categories 1-5. These lodges will be listed in the Book of Reports.

We understand the Grand Master’s Award and Platinum Level that will be presented at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge includes the items that are listed in that section of the application. We agree to submit the form to: info@lionandpillarnc.org

We understand that this request and checklist application MUST be submitted and MUST be received no later than **June 30th of the ensuing year** for consideration.

Signed by:

Master: _____ Date: _____

Senior Warden: _____ Date: _____

Junior Warden: _____ Date: _____

Secretary: _____ Date: _____

Treasurer: _____ Date: _____

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO info@lionandpillarnc.org

Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Program

Standard Program

Work for the 2022 program receives credit for all items beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

Category 1 Education Complete 3 of items 1-8

- 1 Implement the Lodge System of Masonic Instruction as a subordinate lodge or as a district, with participating lodges receiving credit. DDGMs will certify lodge participation.
- 2 Host a speaker from the Grand Lodge Speaker's Bureau, a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education, a faculty member from Wilkerson College, a faculty member from the Davie Academy or a faculty member from the Middle Chamber for a program at a stated communication.
- 3 Have a deacon graduate from Wilkerson College.
- 4 Have a member complete a Davie Academy session.
- 5 Have a member complete a Middle Chamber session.
- 6 Establish a Masonic Book Club for the lodge and have members regularly provide a review and/or personal reflection of a book on Masonic Ritual, Symbolism, or Philosophy.
- 7 As a regular part of the stated communication of the lodge, have a member read a portion of the ritual, invite the brethren in attendance to contemplate and discuss what it means, and encourage them to consider it at a deeper, more personal level.
- 8 Document three lodge members viewing videos if produced by The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education, Wilkerson College, Davie Academy, or Middle Chamber and posted or approved by the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Committee.
- 9 ***In the event of Pandemic, natural disaster or other extenuating circumstances, contact the Lion and Pillar Committee no later than April 15th of the ensuing year and request special dispensation. The Chair of the Committee will respond for the Committee after consultation.***

Category 2 Patriotism Complete Item 1 and four (4) of items 2-11

- 1 ***Recognize veterans at every meeting.***
- 2 Organize a lodge visit to veterans in a nursing home.
- 3 Visit veterans in a VA hospital in Salisbury, Fayetteville, Durham or Asheville.
- 4 Have a Masonic Education on Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) Hospital Visitation OR volunteer in a VA hospital/clinic
- 5 Host a member of the National Sojourners for a program.
- 6 Hold a Masonic education program on the MSANA's Disaster Relief initiatives or contribute to the Disaster Relief as a lodge.
- 7 Host a veteran's meal for veterans and active military personnel at your lodge separate from a regular stated meeting. Include non-masonic veterans, active military personnel, and local high school youth/JROTC interested in military careers at this event.
- 8 Support a "Wreaths Across America" or similar veterans projects.
- 9 Document three lodge members viewing videos if produced by MSANA regarding VA Hospitals, National Sojourners, and the George Washington National Memorial in Alexandria and posted or approved by the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Committee.
- 10 Participate in a visible community-wide Memorial or Veteran's Day observance or remembrance program.
- 11 Be creative. Request approval for your idea in this category from the Lion and Pillar Team.
- 12 ***In the event of Pandemic or extenuating circumstances, contact the Lion and Pillar Committee no later than April 15 of the ensuing year and request special dispensation. The Chair of the Committee will respond for the Committee after consultation.***

Category 3 Philanthropy Complete #1 and 2 and two (2) others of items 3-11

- 1 ***Make a donation and send a copy of your check or receipt to ALL THREE following Masonic Charities of any amount***
 - 1.1 ***North Carolina Masonic Foundation***
 - 1.2 ***WhiteStone, A Masonic and Eastern Star Home***
 - 1.3 ***Masonic Home for Children at Oxford***
- 2 Document a contribution to a charity of your choice **IN YOUR COMMUNITY**
- 3 Host a North Carolina Masonic Foundation development officer for a program at a stated communication,
- 4 Attend or host a program that includes a NCMF, MHCO, or WhiteStone development officer for a program
- 5 Document at least three members of your lodge visiting the campus at Oxford or Greensboro, taking a tour of the home, and making contact with at least one resident. Documentation should include photographs.
- 6 Assist a brother or his widow in getting financial assistance from the MESH LLC Outreach program (336-601-5593).
- 7 ****Contact the Masonic Home for Children and agree to sponsor a cottage for Christmas, a summer trip, send birthday cards throughout the year, or offer another service as directed by the MHCO.**
- 8 ****Contact WhiteStone and agree to sponsor a resident receiving financial assistance for a minimum of 1 year.**
- 9 Document three lodge members viewing videos if produced by NCMF, MHCO, and WhiteStone: posted and approved by the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Committee.
- 10 Present, participate, or donate to a scholarship to a High School or College Student as a lodge sponsored through the NC Masonic Foundation.
- 11 Be creative. Request approval for your idea in this category from the Lion and Pillar Team.
- 12 ***In the event of Pandemic or extenuating circumstances, contact the Lion and Pillar Committee no later than April 15 of the ensuing year and request special dispensation. The Chair of the Committee will respond for the Committee after consultation.***

**** "The Masonic Home for Children and WhiteStone will provide the lodge with the information related to the financial obligations necessary to complete this item."**

Category 4 Masonic Membership Complete #1 and 4 others of items 2-15

- 1 **Contact no less than 50% of your inactive members, a minimum of once per year, either by voice contact via phone (voice messages do not count) or an in person visit. Provide a list of names and dates when contacted**
[An inactive member for this purpose is any member who has not attended a meeting within a twelve-month period.]
- 2 An appreciation dinner for lodge families and widows.
- 3 Identify and contact widows, by phone or visitation, at least two (2) times prior to June 30th of ensuing year. Provide any assistance they may need and record the nature and outcome of the outreach. *See calling tree sample or contact Lion and Pillar Team*
- 4 Grow the Masonic family by having at least one lodge member join the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Order of the Eastern Star or Amaranth, or contribute to the formation of, or support for existing DeMolay or Rainbow Girls organizations in your lodge or district.
- 5 Have your Lodge Secretary validate full use of the Grand Lodge approved database: currently MORI. ***Counts as Three Credits***
- 6 Confirm valid email addresses, phone numbers, and occupation information in MORI for at least 75 percent of lodge members.
- 7 Adopt and use the Our Lodge Page function in MORI. Hold a Masonic education program to explain OLP to members.
- 8 Help plan and participate in a district-wide event such as a fundraiser for Masonic charities, a Masonic education event (not including a School of Instruction, Lecture Service or Grand Master district meeting), a district-wide degree, a district-wide funeral service, a district-wide fellowship dinner with Masonic education speaker, or a district-wide community service project.
- 9 Engage new brethren at the lodge or district level. Form an Under 5-degree team consisting of Masons with less than five years in the craft or require new members to deliver papers or Masonic education programs within three months of raising.
- 10 Plan an observance of the Feast of St. John the Baptist on or near June 23 as a lodge or a district, with a meal and Masonic speaker. Submit your event announcement, flyer, or other advance event publicity to qualify.
- 11 Host a member of the Grand Lodge Masonic Renewal Committee for a program.
- 12 Implement an “innovative” use of technology in the lodge. For purposes of the Lion & Pillar award, “innovative” is defined as utilizing any form of technology that is not presently in use in the lodge. For example, if a lodge does not currently use a laptop and projector for presentations in the lodge, adding and using those items will constitute an “innovative” use of technology, since it will be new to the lodge.
- 13 Attempt to contact all “unfinished work” from the prior 3 years, determine why they have not continued, and report findings as part of the final application materials for the Lion & Pillar award.

- 14 Attend a Masonic and/or Eastern Star function at Camp Gray Rock.
- 15 Host a member from the **Lion and Pillar Team** for a program at you lodge.

Category 5 Affiliated Connections Complete 4 of 12 items

- 1 Host an appreciation meal for local firefighters, police officers, and/or rescue personnel/EMT's as a district or lodge.
- 2 Hold a lodge Open House and invite the community.
- 3 Contribute a minimum of \$5 per member to support a charitable cause in your local community.
- 4 Participate in a Habitat for Humanity program in your community by providing labor to support one of their projects. Donations only do not count towards this item.
- 5 Partner with a local public school on literacy. Read to students, contribute to a school library or book drive, or establish a Bikes for Books-type reading reward program as a lodge or district (www.masoniccharitablefoundation.org/programs/Masonic-bikes-books/).
- 6 Utilize the MHCO Print Shop for printing requirements in your lodge or a District event coordinated by your lodge.
- 7 Sponsor a Blood drive in your community.
- 8 Sponsor a cooking team for the MHCO Homecoming Festival or the Masonic Carolina Pig Jig (www.carolinapigjig.com)
- 9 Sponsor a youth organization (Little League, Soccer, Volleyball, etc.) in your community.
- 10 Support a School Project, "Stuff the Bus", "Backpack Program for summer food support to the needy" or other similar programs.
- 11 Present a scholarship to a High School or College Student as a lodge or part of a district effort. If this is done through NCMF, automatic credit is given here.
- 12 Be creative. Request approval for your idea in this category from the Lion and Pillar Team.

Lion and Pillar Grand Master's Lodge of Excellence Award

To earn this level and receive the Award at Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, complete the following.

- 1 Complete REQUIRED ITEMS IN CATEGORIES 1-5, PLUS ONE EXTRA IN EACH CATEGORY
- 2 Accomplish the following directives of the incoming Grand Master
 - 2.1 Document a lodge building or lodge grounds improvement project that improves the lodge "curb appeal" or aesthetics.
 - 2.2 Document a lodge building improvement project within the building itself.

Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Program Platinum Award

To earn the Platinum award, you must **complete one of the five choices** below, after first qualifying for the **Lion and Pillar Grand Master's Lodge of Excellence Award** on the prior page. The application deadline is June 30, 2022.

- 1 Starting July 1, 2021, and prior to June 30th, 2022, a member or the installed senior deacon gives his first-ever Fellow Craft Degree lecture. This can be accomplished in his own lodge (preferable) or at another lodge within his district if his lodge experiences no such degree work during the qualifying period **or by documentation with the District Deputy Grand Lecturer.**
- 2 Starting July 1, 2021, and prior to June 30th, 2022, a member of your lodge conducts **his first-ever** Masonic graveside or memorial funeral service. This also can be accomplished in his own lodge or at another lodge within his district if his lodge experiences no such requests during the qualifying period **or by documentation with the District Deputy Grand Lecturer.**
- 3 Starting July 1, 2021, and prior to June 30th, 2022 confirm 5% of all current lodge members are signed up for a recurring monthly gift to MHCO (<https://my.simplegive.com/App/Giving/mhco>) or MESH LLC (<https://www.liveatwhitestone.org/donate/>). Note that recurring gifts DO also count towards Category 3, Item 1.
- 4 Starting July 1, 2021, and prior to June 30th, 2022 participate, as a lodge, in a public ceremony, which brings Freemasonry to the public view and attention. Examples include public cornerstone laying, public building dedication, etc. Past events that would count toward this item include the 2015 rededication of NC capitol building, the 2016 Vance Memorial rededication, the 2017 rededication of Raleigh Presbyterian Church, Halifax Day, **or Masonic Unity Events that are public and approved by the Lion and Pillar Team.**
- 5 **A member of your lodge becomes a Certified Instructor or Lecturer, is recertified, or receives a 10, 25, or 50-year recognition for certification.**

To apply, submit the application on page 1 or write a letter of application listing the items your lodge chose to complete. Provide details about your lodge's performance on or plans for completing each selected item.

Send your applications to Info@lionandpillarnc.org

Recipients will be notified by Aug. 1 and will be recognized during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge