



Scottsdale Lodge #43 F.&A.M.

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Scottsdale Lodge #43 Lodge Etiquette & Courtesies

Masonic Etiquette or Blue Lodge Etiquette, is largely unpublished as well as unspoken, therefore, up until now, it has been more difficult to learn its rules and nuances. You may study ritual work, degree work, floor work and know all Masonry's glorious history, Masonic symbols, jewels, etc. but there is very little written about how to comport yourself so you do not look foolish or be regarded as disrespectful.

Some are small things, and some are not, but your Lodge conduct is continually on display.

Few Masonic mentors include a list of proper Lodge behavior, as they have learned it, themselves, incident-by-incident, and usually learned by them after their having made an error and being kindly informed by another member as to the correct Masonic etiquette of the situation.

1. Hats:

Only the worshipful Master wears a Hat in the lodge. It is a symbol of his office.

2. Gavel Raps:

1 Rap of the Gavel – Everyone standing should be seated, or if the Worshipful Master wants the lodge to be quiet.

2 Raps of the Gavel – Appropriate officers of the Degree arise.

3 Raps of the Gavel – Everyone in lodge that is physically able, stands.

3. Lodge Prayers:

The Chaplain or Worshipful Master will say "AMEN" after every prayer and the Lodge will respond with "So Mote It Be" which is an old English term that we respond in an affirmative manner.

4. Altar

You will notice that the space between the altar and the Worshipful Master is never violated, with the exception of degree work. This is done to assure the Worshipful Master may receive guidance from the Great lights on the Altar.

5. Always Be Fully Dressed:

Brethren do not enter their Lodge room either without their apron nor while putting on that apron...not even the tying of its strings.

In respect to the formalities of their Lodge, officers expect that the Brethren will have the courtesy to enter it fully dressed and ready for the labor. They should not have to wait for a member to be fully "dressed", even just tying or adjusting their apron, to salute that member. It is expected that you will be properly and entirely dressed when you pass by the Tyler and enter your lodge room.

You will also notice that the officers of this lodge wear tuxedos during ritual or degree work. It is not necessary for you to wear a suit or sport coat to a lodge but it is suggested you dress in a respectable manner for lodge activities. You are asked not to wear shorts, flip-flops, tank tops, etc... Please keep in mind that in some jurisdictions, it is mandatory for you to have a coat and tie to gain admission into lodge.

6. Masonic Jewelry:

You will notice that some of the brethren have Masonic rings and pins. It is suggested that you do not wear any Masonic Jewelry until you are a Master Mason. Should you choose to wear Masonic Jewelry before you are a Master Mason, you could be in an awkward position.

7. Stand When You Speak:

No man sits while speaking in the lodge room, no matter if he addresses an officer or another brother.

All lodge activity is based on each man in the lodge as being a servant of the Brethren. This includes the Worshipful Master and his officers.

While the man, himself, who has been elected Worshipful Master does not gain any special honor, personally, as the Worshipful Master, it is to the Worshipful Master as the Master of the Lodge that a member stands to address. It is simply a form of respect ...and no different than attending a shareholder's meeting or a City Council meeting. It is expected that if you wish to address the audience, you will stand so all may see who is speaking.

8. Talking:

"Side" talk while a degree is being conferred is considered bad manners.

The lodge room is a Temple of the Great Architect of the Universe. The brethren within are working to make the best ashlar (stones) for His spiritual temple. Just as it is impolite to talk in a church, synagogue or mosque service, so it is improper to distract the officers, the workers in the degree or the candidate.

Talking without asking to do so shows irreverence for the proceedings. God's house is not for social conversation within the lodge room. It is for worship and learning the lesson of the day which is being taught. Unless you have requested of the Master to speak, silence is the rule. This also means no whispering.

If you have something of interest to say, raise your hand. When the Master recognizes you, you must stand up, and be recognized by the Master to speak.

9. Salute:

Some lodges (not all) offer salutes to the Master. Each of the brethren will salute the Master with the appropriate due guard and sign of that degree when they enter and when they leave the lodge room or any other Masonic lodge room. If the Worshipful Master is busy, you may also salute the Senior Warden.

The Masonic etiquette of saluting the Master is your renewed pledge of fealty and service. It is your public display of decorum before all other brothers of your obligation. It shows your courteous respect for all that the Master stands for and shows that you acknowledge his authority.

Salutes should reflect your heart-felt respect for all that for which he stands. The salute to the Master is your pledge of honor and service, your publicly shown obligation. A lazy, sloppy or improper salute is to be Masonically impolite and, thus, to exhibit poor Masonic etiquette.

10. Balloting:

Do not enter or leave the lodge room during a ballot.

It is discourteous to leave the lodge room during a speech, during a degree, etc. There are several natural periods, such as at the end of one section and before the next begins, or when the Master puts the lodge at ease until the sound of the gavel. Then, and only then, you may leave the lodge without being considered rude. It is Masonic Etiquette that all brethren are expected to vote when requested to do so.

Failure to cast your ballot not only results in your failure to share in your duties, but is in direct disobedience of the Master's request.

11. Voting is Mandatory:

When an issue is put to a vote, all brethren should vote.

A brother who does not vote is discourteous because he skews the ballot. He becomes the weak link in a strong chain. No matter what the reason of his non-vote, he injures the lodge's ballot, its value and its secrecy. Failure to vote can injure a lodge's feeling of brotherhood, and by that injury, can injure the Masonic fraternity. No matter what reason you may privately hold about voting, it is poor Masonic Etiquette to fail to vote when requested to do so by the Master.

12. Correction of Verbal Errors:

Lodge customs state that no one except for the Worshipful Master or his prearranged designee, may correct any mistake that may occur during the course of a Ceremony, and even he does so only when the error is a serious one.

It is discourteous to point out others mistakes in front of the lodge brethren. If you are in possession of a mind which allows you to be able to perform each and every degree and ceremony, perfectly, please advise the Worshipful Master of such that he may take advantage of your services to mentor others.

13. Exhibit Good Posture:

Good posture is necessary while within the Lodge room. Lounging, leaning and slovenly attitudes should be avoided. Poor posture is considered poor Masonic etiquette.

14. Use Proper Masonic Names:

It is common courtesy to be accurate in speaking a brother's name, so it is proper Masonic etiquette to address officers, members, and visitors by their correct Masonic titles and addresses.

15. Entering Lodge After Meeting Has Begun:

If a brother should enter the Lodge after the opening ceremony is under way, he should go to the Altar to salute the Master with the appropriate dueguard and sign of that degree. If he must leave before the meeting is over, the correct Masonic etiquette of his departure is that he should salute the Presiding Master at the Altar before he departs. The salute should always be given properly and not in a careless or perfunctory manner.

16. Turn Cell Phones Off:

All cell phones should be turned off before entering the lodge room so as not to disrupt the proceedings.