

GRAND MASTER'S LODGE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM, 2018-19

The Grand Master's Lodge of Excellence Award is designed to raise the overall proficiency of a lodge by increasing visibility within the community and the fraternity. Lodges attaining the award will receive it at the 2019 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky. They must meet the requirements from September 1, 2018 through August 17, 2019. All applications must be signed by the Master of the lodge and certified by the lodge Secretary, with his signature and the seal of the lodge. Applications must be received by the Grand Lodge Office by August 26, 2019. The requirements for this award are based on input from individual lodges, Past Grand Masters, previous excellence programs and the Grand Master himself. The Grand Master's Lodge of Excellence Program is point-based again this year.

The purpose of this program is to encourage lodges to become very active in their communities and in Masonic knowledge and procedures.

See Appendix H for the Grand Masters Excellence Award Program

APPENDIX H

GRAND LODGE OF KENTUCKY GRAND MASTER'S LODGE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

2018-2019

Gary C. Rose, Grand Master

Directions:

- Step 1: Read and do the Required Items 1 through 5.
- Step 2: Read the choices of activities in Categories 1 through 5.
- Step 3: Decide which activities you are going to do to get 150 points. (You must complete at least 1 activity from each category)
- Step 4: All Required Items and activities must be completed between September 1, 2018 and August 17, 2019.
- Step 5: All required paperwork must be submitted to the Grand Lodge Office before August 26, 2019.
- Step 6: Come to Grand Lodge Annual Communication in October 2019 and pick up your award!!!

Required items for the Grand Master's Lodge of Excellence Award

1. All officers **must** be proficient in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Entered Apprentice Degree, in full form. Each elected or appointed officer must confer his part from memory, without books, notes, or other aids. This opening and closing must be observed and approved by an elected or appointed Grand Lodge Officer or District Deputy Grand Master.
2. Must support a youth group in your area (preferably a Masonic Youth Group). If none are available, make a financial contribution to a Masonic Youth Group.
3. Each Master must appoint a committee which shall be responsible for outreach and communication with all the lodge's inactive and shut-in members and report results to lodge monthly.
4. Must have a member of the lodge pass the Masonic Scholar Quiz or earn a Ritualist Pin.
5. Must have at least three members participate in the Veterans Cemeteries Program, or adopt a local cemetery. Check the Grand Lodge website, or ask your D.D.G.M., for details.

CATEGORY 1 – MAINTAINING THE BROTHERHOOD

- A) **5 Points:** Fly the American Flag outside the lodge hall during each meeting (weather permitting).
- B) **10 Points:** Implement an automated calling system for your lodge. (Example: Phonevite System)
- C) **10 Points:** Lodge uses the long form petition which is available online instead of the old short form petition.
- D) **10 Points:** Host a Friend to Friend Dinner and invite worthy men, and their significant others. (Consider inviting Coaches, Pastors, Professionals, Community Leaders, etc).
(Note: Family Night or Past Masters Night will not qualify for this)
- E) **20 Points:** At least three lodge members participate in the Great Day of Service at one of our Masonic Communities campuses.
- F) **20 Points:** Adopt a policy that the lodge will use a national criminal background check service on all petitioners (Example: Info Check USA. The Grand Lodge of Kentucky has no affiliation with, and receives no proceeds from, this company)
- G) **20 Points:** At least three members of the lodge visit all lodges in district and three lodges out of district. (Verify by using a Masonic Passport.) *Attendance at your District Meeting will count as visit to the lodge under whose charter the District Meeting is held.*

CATEGORY 2 – QUALITY OF WORK AND OUR OBLIGATIONS

- A) **5 Points:** Provide refreshments at each meeting.
- B) **10 Points:** Have a Reobligation Ceremony. (Procedure: The lodge is opened on the MM Degree. An exemplar candidate assumes position to receive the MM obligation. The other brothers stand behind him, a hand on the shoulder of the brother in front of them. The Master, or his designated representative, recites the MM obligation, which all repeat in unison. The EA and FC obligations may be added to the ceremony, but are not required.)
- C) **10 Points:** The Master and at least 2 of the following officers: SW, JW, Secretary, Treasurer, attend the Education Conference, either by telecast or in person.
- D) **10 Points:** Participate in the Masonic Communities “Adopt a Resident” Program.
(For example: Send Birthday and Holiday Cards, personal visits, telephone calls, fruit baskets etc. to a Masonic Homes Resident) (Contact Bruce Lott at the Masonic Communities of Kentucky for more details. (502) 259-9627
- E) **10 Points:** At least one member of the lodge attains a Ritualist Pin, or advances to a higher award, during the 2018-19 Masonic Year. (Example: If a member receives a Ritualist Pin, or a Ritualist advances to Senior Ritualist, or a Senior Ritualist advances to Master Ritualist, the lodge receives 10 points.) (see APPENDIX G) **NOTE: If used to earn points under this category, it may not be used to qualify for Required Item 4; the lodge must also have at least one member pass the Masonic Scholar Quiz.**

CATEGORY 3 – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/MASONRY MATTERS

- A) **10 Points:** Award a scholarship to a high school or college student.
- B) **10 Points:** Enter a Masonic Float, either as a lodge or jointly with other Masonic Appendant Bodies, in a local parade.
- C) **10 Points:** Have a Masonic Information booth at a community event, county fair, or other local activity
- D) **20 Points:** Support your local schools' Family Resource/Youth Service Center programs, such as backpacks, clothing, coats, shoes, food, supplies, laptops, tablet computers, etc.
- E) **40 Points:** (10 points per bicycle, maximum of 40 points) Donate a new bicycle(s) to your local elementary school(s) as an attendance or incentive award. You may partner with an O.E.S. Chapter. Contact the principal to organize this activity. The principal should set the attendance or incentive criteria. (See APPENDIX E) for an example of a letter to have signed by school principal and presentation talking points)

CATEGORY 4 – THE FUTURE OF FREEMASONRY

- A) **5 Points:** *Have Who are the Masons and What do they Do?* and/or *What has Freemasonry Done for the World* brochures available for the lodge. The brochures may be purchased from the Masonic Service Association.
- B) **10 Points:** The Master, or his designated representative, will participate in your district Facebook page. (See APPENDIX D)
- C) **10 Points:** Support a Masonic Youth Group through finances or in-kind contributions (meeting place, etc.). **NOTE: If used to earn points under this category, it may not be used to qualify for Required Item 2.**
- D) **20 Points:** Host an appreciation dinner(s) for active duty military, veterans, first responders, police, and/or local community leaders. (Note: Past Masters Night or Widows Dinner will not qualify)

CATEGORY 5 – GOVERNANCE OF THE LODGE

- A) **10 Points:** Adopt a policy that "All officers will wear ties" during each tiled lodge meeting.
- B) **10 Points:** Establish a "Mason of the Year" program complete with a quality certificate.
- C) **20 Points:** The Master installs his own officers using the Installation Ceremonies in the Kentucky Monitor or the Kentucky Ritual, from memory.
- D) **20 Points:** The lodge adopts a cellular phone usage policy that specifies: "No cellular phone, or other electronic devices, will be used while the lodge is at labor on any degree, for social media, texting, or any other unnecessary activities." (*Note: a permissible exemption is for brothers to check or record events on electronic calendars.)
- E) **20 Points:** The Master and seven of his officers attend their district meeting (*Note: No makeup visits to other districts are allowed without approval by the Area Officer and the Grand Master*)
- F) **20 Points:** Establish a planning committee and develop a long-term growth plan for your lodge. The plan must be discussed and adopted in open lodge.

2018-2019 Grand Master's Lodge of Excellence Scoresheet

Lodge Name, No.: _____ District No.: _____

Required Items:

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

MUST EARN AT LEAST 175 POINTS FROM CATEGORIES BELOW:

Circle each Activity completed. Must complete one Activity in each Category.

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5
A) 5 pts	A) 5 pts	A) 10 pts	A) 5 pts	A) 10 pts
B) 10 pts	B) 10 pts	B) 10 pts	B) 10 pts	B) 10 pts
C) 10 pts	C) 10 pts	C) 10 pts	C) 10 pts	C) 20 pts
D) 10 pts	D) 10 pts	D) 20 pts	D) 20 pts	D) 20 pts
E) 20 pts	E) 10 pts	E) 10 pts (up to 40 pts)		E) 20 pts
F) 20 pts				F) 20 pts
G) 20 pts				

Total Points from Each Category:

Category 1: _____
 Category 2: _____
 Category 3: _____
 Category 4: _____
 Category 5: _____
 Grand Total: _____

Grand Lodge Use Only

Required Items	Categories	Total Points:
1: Y / N	1: Y / N	Y / N
2: Y / N	2: Y / N	
3: Y / N	3: Y / N	<i>Award Earned:</i>
4: Y / N	4: Y / N	Y / N
5: Y / N	5: Y / N	

Master's Signature

Date

Lodge
Seal

Secretary's Signature

Date

Please make a photocopy or scan of this form for your records before mailing!