

The Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina

Application for the 2025

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 No. _____ of _____, we 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 Lion and Pillar items as directed in Mandatory Category and Categories 1 through 5.

We understand the Platinum Level Award that will be presented at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge includes the items listed in that section of the application. We agree to submit the form to:

lionandpillars@gmail.com

We understand that this request and checklist application **MUST** be submitted and **MUST** be received no later than **June 30th of the ensuing year** to guarantee consideration. Work for the 2025 program receives credit for all items beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

Signed by:

Master: _____

Date: _____

Senior Warden: _____

Date: _____

Junior Warden: _____

Date: _____

Secretary: _____

Date: _____

Treasurer: _____

Date: _____

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO lionandpillars@gmail.com

Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Program

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. Recipients of the awards will be notified by August 1st of the ensuing year.

Send your applications to lionandpillars@gmail.com

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.

The Mandatory Category and Categories 1-5 must be completed to receive the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Award. Lodges receiving this award will be listed in the annual Book of Reports.

Mandatory Category: Complete all items

- 1 Recognize our veterans at every stated meeting.
- 2 Make a donation of any amount to each of our THREE following Masonic Charities.
(Submit a copy of the checks or lodge receipts)
 - 2.1 North Carolina Masonic Foundation
 - 2.2 WhiteStone, A Masonic and Eastern Star Home
 - 2.3 Masonic Home for Children at Oxford
- 3 Make a donation to a charity of your choice **in your local community**.
(Submit a copy of the check or lodge receipt)
- 4 Contact no less than 50% of your inactive members each year, either by voice contact via phone (voice messages do not count) or an in person visit. Submit 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.)
- 5 Master, Treasure, and Secretary use the Grandview system.
- 6 Have three (3) or more members of you lodge attend a Grand Masters District Meeting organized by the Grand Lodge. (To receive credit take a photo with the Grand Master or Grand Lodge Officer and submit photo with this application to receive credit.)

Category 1 Education: Complete at least three (3) items

- 1 Implement the Lodge System of Masonic Instruction in your 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, or a faculty member of Wilkerson College, Davie Academy, or Middle Chamber for a program at a stated communication.
- 3 Have a deacon attend Wilkerson College.
- 4 Have a member attend a Davie Academy session.
- 5 Have a member attend a Middle Chamber or Inner Chamber session.
- 6 Establish a Masonic Book Club for the lodge. Members will regularly provide a review and/or personal reflection of a book on Masonic Ritual, Symbolism, or Philosophy.
- 7 As a regular part of your stated communications, 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 Have someone in your lodge give a masonic education on the Press Release Form (This form can be found on Grandview under the resource tab in the member portal). (If you lodge submits a Press Release Form it will count for 2 credits.)
- 9 Document three lodge members viewing videos posted by the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Committee via Facebook, or otherwise shared, on the topics of: Masonic Education, Wilkerson College, Davie Academy, or the Middle Chamber program.
- 10 Be creative. Request approval for your idea in this category from the Lion and Pillar Team.

Category 2 Patriotism: Complete at least four (4) items

- 1 Have a Masonic Education on Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) Hospital Visitation OR volunteer in a VA hospital/clinic.
- 2 Visit veterans in a nursing home or in a VA hospital in Salisbury, Fayetteville, Durham or Asheville.
- 3 Hold a Masonic education program on the MSANA's Disaster Relief initiatives or contribute to the Disaster Relief as a lodge.
- 4 Host a member of the National Sojourners for a program.
- 5 Host a veteran's meal for veterans and active military personnel at your lodge. Include non-masonic veterans, active military personnel, and local high school youth/JROTC interested in military careers at this event.
- 6 Support "Wreaths Across America" or a similar veterans' project.
- 7 Participate in a public, community-wide Memorial or Veteran's Day observance or other remembrance program.
- 8 A member of your lodge performs his first-ever 'A Toast to the Flag'.
- 9 Document three lodge members viewing videos posted by the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Committee via Facebook, or otherwise shared, on the topics of: MSANA, National Sojourners, or the George Washington National Memorial in Alexandria.
- 10 Be creative. Request approval for your idea in this category from the Lion and Pillar Team.

Category 3 Philanthropy: Complete at least two (2) items

- 1 Donate any amount to one of the following independent bodies' charities: Scottish Rite, Shriners, and York Rite. *(Submit a copy of the check or lodge receipt)*
- 2 Attend or host a program that includes a NCMF, MHCO, or WhiteStone development officer for a program.
- 3 Document at least three (3) members of your lodge visiting our campuses at Oxford or Greensboro, taking a tour, and making contact with at least one resident. *(Submit photographs of the visit)*
- 4 Assist a brother or his widow in getting financial assistance from the MESH LLC Outreach program. (336-601-5593)
- 5 **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.
- 6 **Contact WhiteStone and agree to sponsor a resident receiving financial assistance for a minimum of one year.
- 7 Document three lodge members viewing videos posted by the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Committee via Facebook, or otherwise shared, on the topics of: NCMF, MHCO, and WhiteStone.
- 8 Be creative. Request approval for your idea in this category from the Lion and Pillar Team.

** 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 at least three (3) items

- 1 Hold an appreciation dinner for lodge families and widows.
- 2 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)*
- 3 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.
- 4 Confirm valid email addresses, phone numbers, and occupation information in the Grand View database for at least seventy-five percent (75%) of lodge members.
- 5 Have 25% or more of your lodge's members create a Grandview account.
- 6 Help plan and participate in a district-wide event. Such as a district-wide degree, fellowship dinner with Masonic education, funeral service, fundraiser for Masonic charities, community service project, or Masonic education event.
- 7 Engage new brethren at the lodge or district level by forming an Under 5 year degree team (consisting of Masons with less than five years in the craft) or requiring new brothers to deliver papers or Masonic education programs within six months of raising.
- 8 Plan an observance of the Feast of St. John the Baptist on or near June 24th as a lodge or a district, with a meal and Masonic speaker. *(Submit your event announcement or flyer)*
- 9 Implement an "innovative" use of technology in the lodge. *(This is any technology that is newly used in the lodge, such as a projector used for a presentation for the first time)*
- 10 Attempt to contact all "unfinished work" in Grand View from the prior 3 years, determine why they have not continued, and submit a report of findings as part of your Lion & Pillar application.
- 11 Support a chapter of DeMolay or Rainbow Girls in your area. This could be monetary, material, or by lodge members joining or attending their functions.
- 12 Host a member from the Lion and Pillar Team for a program at your lodge.
- 13 Be creative. Request approval for your idea in this category from the Lion and Pillar Team.

Category 5 Affiliated Connections: Complete at least four (4) 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 alone will not count towards this item)*
- 5 Partner with a local public school regarding literacy. Examples include: read to students, contribute to a school library or book drive, or establish a Bikes for Books-type reward program as a lodge or district (<http://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 or host 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 such as "Stuff the Bus", "Backpack Program for summer food support to the needy" or any other similar programs.
- 11 Present, participate, or donate to a scholarship for a High School or College Student as a lodge **sponsored through the NC Masonic Foundation**.
- 12 Be creative. Request approval for your idea in this category from the Lion and Pillar Team.

Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Program Platinum Award

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

- 1 **Complete the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence Award**
- 2 Complete **five (5) EXTRA items** in any of the Category lists
 - 2.1
 - 2.2
 - 2.3
 - 2.4
 - 2.5
- 3 Complete **at least one (1)** of the five choices below
 - 3.1 A member of your lodge gives his first-ever Fellow Craft Degree lecture. This can be accomplished in his own lodge (preferably) 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.**
 - 3.2 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.**
 - 3.3 Confirm 5% of 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: these recurring gifts DO count towards Mandatory Category Item 2.
 - 3.4 Participate, as a lodge, in a public ceremony, which brings Freemasonry to the public view and attention. Examples: public cornerstone laying, public building dedication, Halifax Day, laying a wreath for fallen Masons at Wreaths Across America, 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.
 - 3.5 A member of your lodge becomes a Certified Instructor or Lecturer, is recertified, or receives a 10, 25, or 50-year recognition for certification.
 - 3.6 A member of your lodge passes the Coaches Proficiency in Catechisms examination.