

# FEZ OWNER'S MANUAL

A Handbook for  
Every Shriner



**SHRINERS**  
INTERNATIONAL



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# About the Fez Owner's Manual

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The Fez Owner's Manual provides basic fraternal knowledge for members of Shriners International.

Refer to this manual for a better understanding of our brotherhood's mission as expressed by the Shriners' Creed (page 2) and to become a more informed and active Shriner.

Inside, you will find a dictionary of terms commonly used by Shriners, a brief overview of protocol, and some interesting facts about our great fraternity and our cherished philanthropy, Shriners Children's™.

While this manual provides only a glimpse into the organizational culture of Shriners International, we hope its pages inspire you to learn more about your fraternity.

# Shriners' Creed

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Shriners believe in God and that He created man to serve His purposes, among which is service to others in His name.

We believe that care for the less fortunate, especially children who suffer from burns and crippling diseases, is our institutional calling.

We are patriots, each willing to serve his country with fidelity and courage. We cherish independence under law and freedom with responsibility.

We honor family. We respect our parents, wives and children. We should instill in our children the tenets of this creed, and the heritage from which it emanates.

As individuals, we pledge ourselves to integrity, virtue and nobility of character. Our intentions will be honorable, our relations will be trustworthy and our spirits forgiving of each other.





*As Shriners, we look  
beyond ourselves to serve  
the needs of others.*

As brothers, we offer each other fraternal affection and respect. Together, we support each other in adherence to this creed, so that we may positively impact our communities.

As Shriners, we look beyond ourselves to serve the needs of others, especially children in need of specialized medical care. We believe Shriners Children's to be the world's greatest philanthropy, and we support its "temples of mercy" with spirit, time, talent and means.

# About Shriners International

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**Sept. 26, 1872:** The fraternity's first temple, Mecca Shriners in New York City, held its first meeting. The fraternity was established when a group of Freemansons, led by Walter M. Fleming, M.D., a physician, and Billy Florence, an actor, decided to create a Masonic brotherhood that included fun and fellowship as part of its purpose. They enthusiastically adopted a near-East theme, which was popular at the time and is still reflected in the fraternity's iconography and distinctive headgear, the fez.

**June 6, 1876:** The governing body of the fraternity, the Imperial Council, was founded. Later, June 6 was recognized as Shriners International Awareness Day.

**1922:** The first Shriners Children's hospital opened, in Shreveport, Louisiana.

**Today:** You can find Shriners on six continents, along with nearly 200 temples and thousands of sponsored clubs located throughout the world.



## MISSION STATEMENT

Shriners International is committed to:

Being the premier fraternal organization for men of good character.

Providing attractive, quality programs and services for its members, their families and their friends in a spirit of fun, fellowship and philanthropy.

Fostering self-improvement through leadership, education, the perpetuation of moral values and community involvement.

Serving mankind through the resources of its philanthropy, Shriners Children's.

# About Shriners Children's

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The fraternity's official philanthropy is Shriners Children's, which provides care for kids who have orthopedic conditions, burn injuries, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate, regardless of the families' ability to pay or insurance status. Founded in 1922, this healthcare system has treated more than 1.5 million children.

As expressed in its three-part mission statement, Shriners Children's is dedicated to providing pediatric specialty care, conducting innovative research and offering outstanding educational programs for medical professionals. There are Shriners Children's locations in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. In addition, outreach clinics are held throughout the U.S., and in several other international locations.

Shriners are devoted to supporting their philanthropy with their time, energy, and incredible fundraising skills. In addition, several signature sporting events support Shriners Children's, including the East-West Shrine Bowl™, a college football all-star game that has been played since 1925, and the Shriners Children's Open™, a FedExCup golf tournament.



# Pledge, Prayers and Salutations

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## The Pledge

*“I pledge allegiance to my flag, and to the country for which it stands — one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”*

Shriners International is a fraternity with members throughout the world; therefore, our pledge respects the flags of all countries, especially recognizing and honoring those where our members reside.

A noble wearing a fez during the pledge should execute a right-hand salute. A noble who is not wearing a fez should place his right hand over his heart.

Protocol having been established, active military and veterans are always authorized to salute as directed by their governmental or military protocol. Specifics related to protocol are outlined in a separate publication that is available through your temple office.

## Prayers

All prayers at Shriners events are non-denominational. During a prayer, a noble wearing a fez should remove it and hold it over his heart.

At the end of a prayer, the response is,  
*“So mote it be.”*

It's another way of saying,  
*“The will of God be done.”*

## Salutations

A Potentate or Past Potentate is always addressed as “Illustrious Sir,” while an Imperial officer and all past Imperial officers are addressed as “Imperial Sir.” Members of the temple, including elected or appointed Divan members who are not Past Potentates, are addressed by the title of their office or “Noble.”

The Shriners salutation and response is,  
*“Es selamu aleikum”*  
(pronounced AH sell-AHM uh-LAKE-um).

*“Aleikum es selamu”*  
(pronounced uh-LAKE-um AH sell-AHMuh).

It means:  
*“Peace be on you.”*  
*“On you be the peace.”*



# Shriners Clubs and Units

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To best enjoy being a Shriner — get involved! Clubs and units help to create a welcoming atmosphere, and provide a variety of activities that offer fun and fellowship for nobles and their families.

Shrine clubs essentially serve as “mini temples.” Some temples' geographic jurisdictions are vast, with areas far from the home temple. In such situations, clubs are created to help nobles connect and stay involved.

Shriners may also form groups to enjoy various hobbies or activities together. While the term “club” is usually associated with a group of nobles in an outlying area, it may also refer to a group of Shriner hobbyists or sportsmen. Units are also groups of nobles with similar interests. Shriners are encouraged to build their own experience — to join clubs and units that suit their interests, and to create new ones as desired.

Service units benefit the nobility or the temple, providing assistance such as maintenance, first aid or hospitality.



Performing units primarily offer entertainment, for both Shriners and the community. Examples include clown groups, marching bands and minicar drivers. Units usually participate in parades, and many compete against similar units from other temples. Other groups, such as taproom or fishing clubs, technology units, and more, provide a multitude of opportunities for nobles to enjoy fun and fellowship.

Whatever each unit or club's theme, its purpose is the same: To let each noble express himself and enjoy community and camaraderie with his brothers. Membership in clubs and units helps nobles connect through shared interests and provides a platform for raising awareness of the fraternity in communities and spreading the word about Shriners Children's.

THE FEZ IS AN UNMISTAKABLE  
EXPRESSION OF BROTHERHOOD.



# Fezzes and Pins

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A noble should wear his fez at stated meetings, ceremonials and Shriners parades, events and activities. Care should be taken to maintain the fez in its proper shape, without crushing, creasing or alteration, and it should be worn straight on the top of the head, not the crown.

The only pin permitted on the fez is one to hold the tassel in place. The length of the black tassel may be directed by temple protocols. Appropriate verbiage relating to a unit or club, a temple office or special distinction may be worn on the brim of your fez — check with your temple. Custom fezzes may be ordered through a temple office.

When wearing your fez in public venues, be mindful that you will be recognizable as a member of the Shriner fraternity. Please do not wear your fez anywhere you would decline to introduce your family.

# Shriners Dictionary

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**Many unique terms are used by nobles.  
Here are some of the most common:**

**AAONMS** – Acronym for the original name of the fraternity, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and an anagram of the words A MASON. This name has been retired, and the fraternity is now officially known as Shriners International.

**Aide** – A noble appointed by a Potentate or Imperial Potentate to assist with his duties during his term.

**Ambassador** – A noble appointed by a Potentate to represent him and the temple at club and unit meetings and functions.

**Black Camel** – Refers to the death of a member of the Shriners fraternity.  
Example: "During the course of this calendar year, 22 nobles were taken by the black camel."

**Bylaws** – The rules and regulations governing Shriners International and each temple.

**Cabiri** – A social organization composed exclusively of Past Potentates.

**Candidate** – A Master Mason who has petitioned for membership in the Shriners fraternity.

**Ceremonial** – The Shriners unique initiation ceremony.

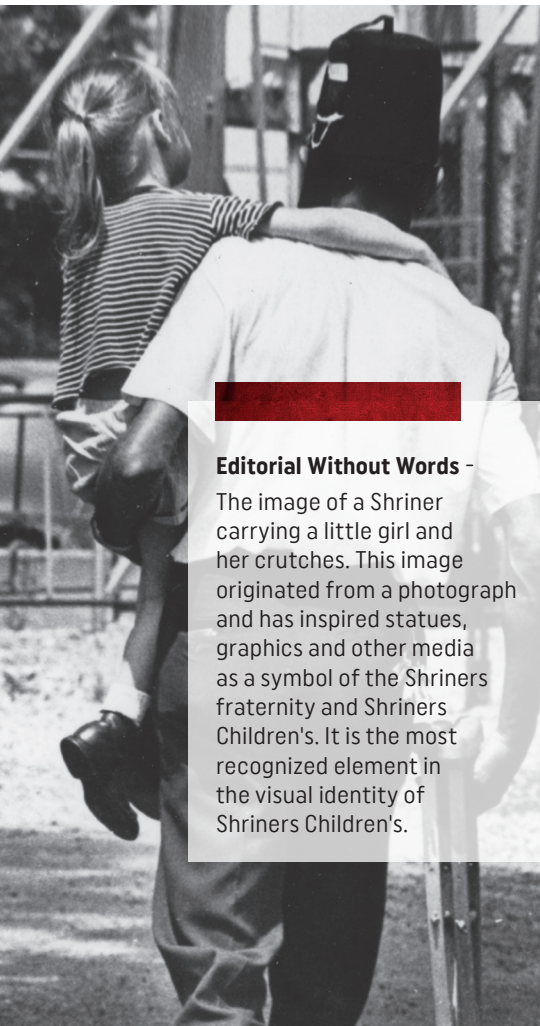
**Divan** – Leaders and officers of the fraternity.

- » **Appointed Divan** – Nobles appointed by the Potentate to assist during his term. They include the First Ceremonial Master, Second Ceremonial Master, Director, Marshal, Captain of the Guard and Outer Guard.
- » **Elected Divan** – The collective name of the officers of a Shriners temple: the Potentate, Chief Rabban, Assistant Rabban, High Priest and Prophet, Oriental Guide, Treasurer and Recorder.
- » **Imperial Divan** – The corps of officers elected by Shriners International representatives to lead the fraternity.

**Dues and Life Members** - Each year, temples are assessed a per-capita amount for each member on their rolls. Likewise, the temples are assessed for each of their members to support the healthcare system. These are paid by the temple to Shriners International, and are usually included in the total amount of dues paid by the member to the temple. Each of these elements has a buyout option; if any of these elements are paid off, the noble is exempt from paying those in the future.

- » **Temple Life Member** – a noble who has prepaid his temple dues, but still owes his per capita and hospital assessment. A temple life membership may also be granted for meritorious service.
- » **Per Capita Life Member (PCLM)** – a noble who has prepaid his per capita life dues, but still owes his temple dues and hospital assessment.
- » **Permanent Contributing Member (PCM)** – a noble who has prepaid his hospital assessment, but still owes his temple dues and per capita.
- » **Total Life Member** – a noble who holds life memberships in each of the three areas and is therefore exempt from being assessed for any portion of the dues payment in the future.





### **Editorial Without Words -**

The image of a Shriner carrying a little girl and her crutches. This image originated from a photograph and has inspired statues, graphics and other media as a symbol of the Shriners fraternity and Shriners Children's. It is the most recognized element in the visual identity of Shriners Children's.

**Fez** – The official headgear worn by members of the Shriners fraternity. It derives its name from the city where it was first manufactured — Fez, Morocco.

**Imperial Sir** – The title preceding the name of a Shriner who is serving, or has served, on the Imperial Divan.

**Imperial Session** – The Shriners' annual convention, usually held in July, where the business of both the fraternity and Shriners Children's is conducted. The event also features parades, unit competitions and social activities.

**Illustrious Sir** – The title preceding the name of a Shriner who is serving, or has served, as Potentate of his temple.

**Lady** – The title preceding the name of the wife of any Shriner. The wife of a Potentate or the Imperial Potentate is referred to as the "First Lady."

**Noble** – Refers to a member of the Shriners fraternity, and is also the title preceding the name of any Shriner who is not a past or current Potentate or who has not served on the Imperial Divan.

**Potentate** – The leader of a temple, elected for a one-year term.

**Prospect** – A Master Mason who has not yet submitted a petition for membership in the Shriners fraternity.

**Shrinedom** – The realm of the Shriners fraternity, including its members, governance, programs, activities, culture, etc.

**Shriners Children's Patient Ambassadors** – Shriners Children's patients selected to represent the healthcare system and its patients.

**Shriners International** – The international fraternal organization, including its members. The term also refers to the governing body and its representatives.

**Stated Meeting** – A regularly scheduled meeting for temple business to be approved by the nobles; usually held monthly.

**SIEF** – The Shriners International Educational Foundation, which supports and expands educational opportunities and leadership development of our fraternity members and allied organizations.

**Temple** – Any group of nobles chartered by or under dispensation of Shriners International. "Temple" should not be used in the proper name of a group of Shriners. For example, the proper name for the first temple formed is "Mecca Shriners," not "Mecca Temple."

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **What are my responsibilities as a Shriner?**

Each Shriner is expected to:

- » Be as active as possible.
- » Help the fraternity by recruiting new members.
- » Support the philanthropy in various ways, which all help improve the lives of children around the world.

## **How can I support Shriners Children's?**

There are many ways to support the philanthropy, from volunteering at a Shriners Children's location to transporting patients to and from their medical appointments, and more. You can also support the philanthropy by hosting fundraisers or by donating to Shriners Children's. For more information about the many giving opportunities available, please visit **lovetotherescue.org** or call **844-739-0849**.



### **How did the fraternity adopt its theme?**

Like many college fraternities that adopt a Greek theme, the Shriners fraternity also reflects a particular theme — Arabian Nights. The fraternity's founders, Masons Walter Fleming, M.D., and Billy Florence, an actor, fashioned a colorful backdrop for their new fraternity based on an Arabian Nights-themed party Noble Florence attended while touring Europe.

### **How can my family participate?**

Temples are broadening their appeal by including opportunities for families to participate. For example, with Potentate approval, nobles, their ladies and children may participate in civic parades.

In addition, there are several organizations especially for women and youth:

- » Women's organizations include Daughters of the Nile, Ladies' Oriental Shrine of North America, Shrine Guilds of America Inc. and the Order of the Eastern Star.

- » DeMolay International (for young men, ages 12 to 21); Job's Daughters International (for young ladies, ages 10 to 20); and The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (for young ladies, ages 11 to 20).

For more information on these organizations, please contact your temple office or the membership office.

### **How are my annual renewal fees divided?**

Temples' dues may vary, but typically, a portion of your dues is paid to Shriners International as a per-capita tax, and a \$5 assessment goes to Shriners Children's. The balance is used for temple operations. Lifetime prepayment options may be available for each portion of your annual renewal fees.

### **What happens if I don't pay my dues?**


Dues are billed annually and made payable to your local temple. After a specified period, your membership may be suspended until your dues are paid. Contact your temple if you are having financial difficulties and need assistance.





HELP A  
MASON  
TAKE THE  
NEXT STEP



A man with dark hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and a large blue backpack, is shown from the side, looking up towards a bright, overexposed sky. His right arm is extended upwards. The background is a solid white, suggesting a bright sky or a studio backdrop. The man's expression is one of hope or aspiration.

If you know a fellow  
Mason who is interested in  
joining Shriners International,  
please have him:

**Visit:** [beashriner.com](http://beashriner.com)

**Email:** [membership@shrinenet.org](mailto:membership@shrinenet.org)

**Call:** 813-281-0300



**Shriners**  
Children's™

If you know a child who might benefit from services offered by Shriners Children's, please relay these toll-free numbers to their parents or guardians.

**800-237-5055** (In the U.S.)

**800-361-7256** (In Canada)

**[shrinerschildrens.org](https://shrinerschildrens.org)**

## **LOCAL SHRINERS CONTACT:**

Khedive Shrine Center  
645 Woodlake Dr.  
Chesapeake, VA 23320  
(757) 420-4510



**SHRINERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

**Shriners International**

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