

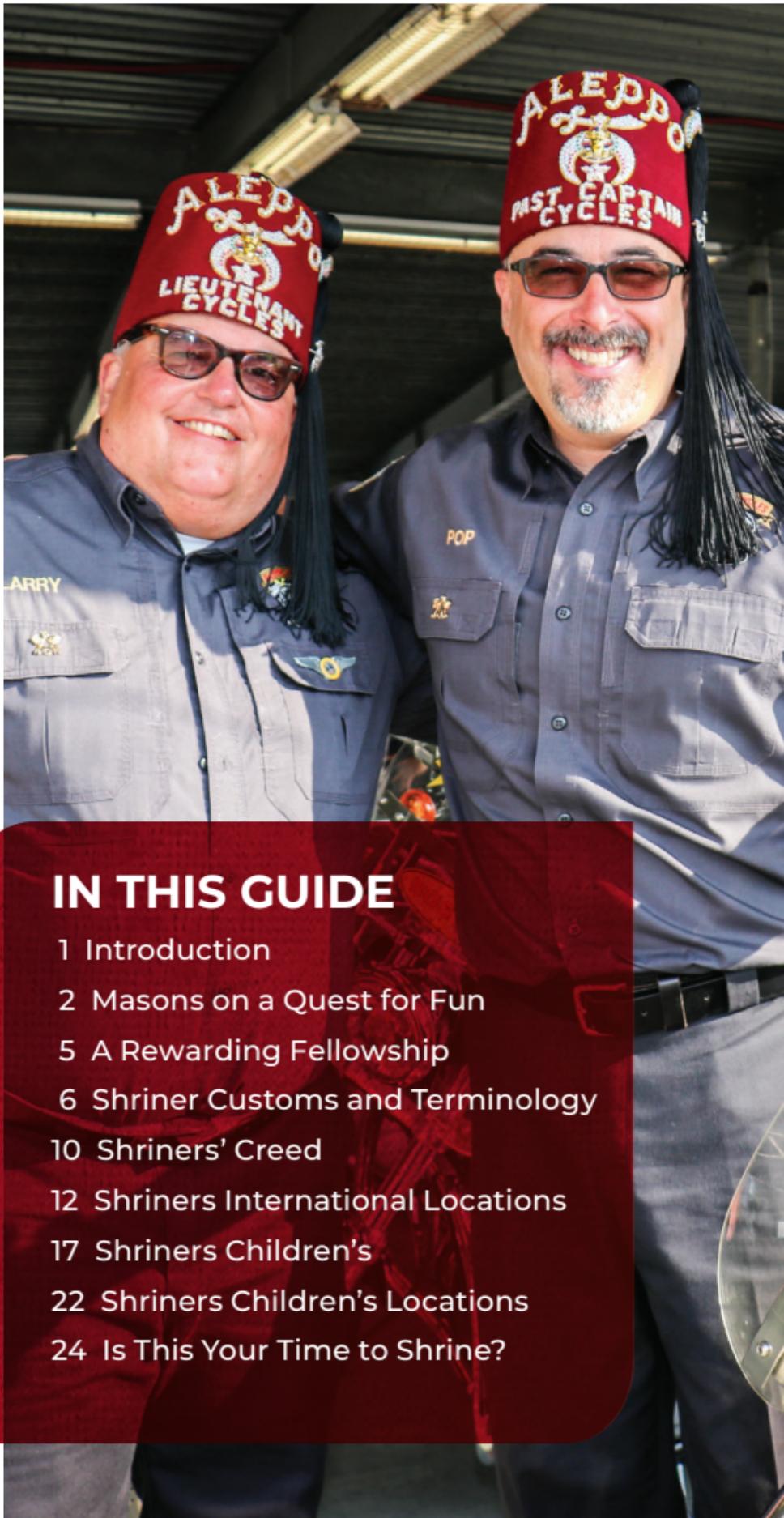


# SHRINER PRIMER

The Ultimate Guide



**SHRINERS**  
INTERNATIONAL



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# Introduction

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Professional golfer Arnold Palmer. Astronaut Buzz Aldrin. Country music entertainer Brad Paisley. Race car driver David Ragan. They have something in common, and it might not be what you expect: They are all Shriners.

Shriners are educators, store owners and business professionals. Shriners come from all walks of life. Some families have been involved with Shriners for generations, while for others the experience is new.

What brings diverse men together to become Shriners?

It's more than wearing red hats and entertaining crowds during parades. The short answer to that question is "fun, fellowship and philanthropy."

Find out more in the pages of this Shriner Primer. Discover how commitment to those three simple principles makes Shriners membership tremendously rewarding for good men worldwide. If you are interested in giving back to your community, having fun and being part of a greater purpose, read on.

# Masons on a Quest for Fun

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Back in 1870, a group of Freemasons were hanging out at their favorite restaurant in Manhattan. During that memorable luncheon, talk turned to livening things up within their Masonic brotherhood. Possibly the world's oldest fraternity, with roots back to medieval stonemasons, the Masonic Order was a tad too focused on ritual, the guys thought. These Masons wanted a fraternity that emphasized fun and fellowship.

Billy Florence, an actor, conceptualized the idea for the new organization after attending an Arabian-Nights themed party in Europe. Walter M. Fleming, a doctor, added the structure to Florence's proposed pomp-and-circumstance, drafting the fraternity's name, initiation rites, rituals and rules. Together, the men designed the new fraternity's emblem, devised a salutation and determined the red fez with a black tassel would be the group's official headgear. And local Shriners chapters, it was decided, would be called "temples."



## The Idea Catches On

Together with 11 of their Masonic brethren, Fleming and Florence formed the first temple, Mecca Shriners, in New York City in 1872. Word of the new group spread quickly — even without the internet or cell phones. Thanks to an effective public relations campaign, membership grew rapidly in what was then known as the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. (It has been pointed out that the acronym [AAONMS] is an anagram for “a Mason”).

Not long after Mecca Shriners was founded, temples began springing up across the U.S. and Canada, followed by Mexico and Panama. International development is on the rise, strengthening worldwide interest in the fraternity. Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Germany, Brazil and Bolivia have all established temples in recent years.

Today, you can find Shriners on six continents, with more than 200 temples and thousands of sponsored clubs located throughout the world.



# A Rewarding Fellowship

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There's something special about having a place among good men who share your values and welcome you in a spirit of camaraderie. Whether in service to the community, involved in a club activity, or engaged in casual fun, Shriners derive value from fellowship that carries over to make a positive impact on every aspect of their lives.

It's not unusual to find Shriners who have been members for 30, 40, 50 years ... or longer. A young man who joins the brotherhood can look forward to establishing lifelong friendships.

# Shriner Customs and Terminology

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Some people have a hard time wrapping their heads around the rituals, symbols and terminology used in the Shriners fraternity. *What is an Imperial Potentate? How about a Divan? And what's up with the fezzes?*

## **The Emblem**

Just as Mercedes-Benz is known for its three-pointed star symbol, Shriners International is known for its emblem — a crescent formed by two claws of a tiger, joined in the center by a gold setting. In the middle is the head of a sphinx. The crescent hangs from a scimitar, while a five-pointed star is beneath the sphinx.

## **Fez-iquette**

Let's start with the Shriner fez — a rhombus-shaped, black-tasseled red hat. Named after the town of its origin, Fez, Morocco, the fez was adopted as



*The fez, crescent and scimitar are unmistakable symbols of the Shriners fraternity.*

the official headgear of the Shriners in 1872 because it matched the mystic Near-eastern theme favored by the fraternity's founders.

The fez is an unmistakable expression of brotherhood and camaraderie among Shriners — somewhat like wearing a baseball cap with your favorite sports team's logo. When worn at parades and other public venues, the fez promotes awareness of the fraternity and its community service work, especially in conjunction with Shriners Children's™ (more on page 17).

## **The Chain of Command**

To better understand the Shriners organizational structure, it helps to begin at the local level. The elected and appointed officers who run each temple are called the Divan, and many of these serve as the Board of Directors for each temple.

The elected leader of the Divan is known as the Illustrious Potentate. The elected line of officers consists of the Chief Rabban, Assistant Rabban, High Priest and Prophet, Oriental Guide, Treasurer and Recorder.

## **Clubs and Units**

Within each temple, there can be any number of Shriners “clubs” or “units,” formed for fun and service in a specific geographic area. The best-known examples are the units of clowns and motor patrols (the “little-car” guys), but those are by no means all. From outdoor recreation to homebrew (taproom) clubs, there is truly something for everyone – and new types of groups are constantly being formed to meet changing interests.

## **Can My Family Participate?**

Temples are broadening their appeal by developing more opportunities for family participation in Shriner activities. With Potentate approval, nobles, their ladies and children may participate in civic parades as well as Shriner events away from the temple.

Ladies and youth have several other avenues of involvement as well:

» **Ladies' organizations** include

Daughters of the Nile, Ladies' Oriental Shrine of North America, Shrine Guilds of America Inc. and the Order of the Eastern Star.

» **Youth organizations** include 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 the local temple office or the membership office at Shriners International Headquarters by emailing [membership@shrinenet.org](mailto:membership@shrinenet.org) or calling **813-281-0300**.

# 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.

# Shriners International Locations

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## **U.S.A**

### **Alabama**

Abba (Mobile)  
Alcazar (Montgomery)  
Cahaba (Huntsville)  
Zamora (Irondale)

### **Alaska**

Al Aska (Anchorage)

### **Arizona**

El Zaribah (Phoenix)  
Sabbar (Tucson)

### **Arkansas**

Sahara (Pine Bluff)  
Scimitar (Little Rock)

### **California**

Aahmes (Livermore)  
Al Bahr (San Diego)  
Al Malaikah (Los Angeles)  
Asiya (San Mateo)  
Ben Ali (Sacramento)  
El Bekal (Anaheim)  
Tehran (Fresno)

### **Colorado**

Al Kaly (Pueblo)  
El Jebel (Denver)

### **Connecticut**

Pyramid (Stratford)  
Sphinx (Newington)

### **Delaware**

Nur (Wilmington)

### **District of Columbia**

Almas (Washington)

### **Florida**

Amara (Palm Beach Gardens)  
Araba (Fort Myers)  
Azan (Melbourne)  
Bahia (Apopka)  
Egypt (Tampa)  
Hadji (Pensacola)  
Mahi (Miami)  
Marzuq (Tallahassee)  
Morocco (Jacksonville)  
Sahib (Sarasota)  
Shaddai (Panama City)

### **Georgia**

Al Sihah (Macon)  
Alee (Savannah)  
Hasan (Albany)  
Yaarab (Atlanta)

### **Hawaii**

Aloha (Honolulu)

### **Idaho**

Calam (Lewiston)  
El Korah (Boise)

### **Illinois**

Ainad (East St. Louis)  
Ansar (Springfield)  
Medinah (Addison)  
Mohammed (Bartonville)  
Tebala (Rockford)



# SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL

## **Indiana**

Hadi (Evansville)  
Mizpah (Fort Wayne)  
Murat (Indianapolis)  
Orak (Michigan City)  
Zorah (Terre Haute)

## **Iowa**

Abu Bekr (Sioux City)  
El Kahir (Hiawatha)  
Kaaba (Davenport)  
Za-Ga-Zig (Altoona)

## **Kansas**

Abdallah (Overland Park)  
Arab (Topeka)  
Isis (Salina)  
Midian (Wichita)  
Mirza (Pittsburg)

## **Kentucky**

El Hasa (Ashland)  
Kosair (Louisville)  
Oleika (Lexington)  
Rizpah (Madisonville)

## **Louisiana**

Acacia (Baton Rouge)  
Barak (Monroe)  
El Karubah (Shreveport)  
Habibi (Lake Charles)  
Jerusalem (Destrehan)

## **Maine**

Anah (Bangor)  
Kora (Lewiston)

## **Maryland**

Ali Ghan (Cumberland)  
Boumi (Baltimore)

## **Massachusetts**

Aleppo (Wilmington)  
Melha (Springfield)

## **Michigan**

Ahmed (Marquette)  
Elf Khurafeh (Clio)  
Moslem (Southfield)  
Saladin (Grand Rapids)

## **Minnesota**

Aad (Duluth)  
Osman (St. Paul)  
Zuhrah (Minnetonka)

## **Mississippi**

Hamasa (Meridian)  
Joppa (Biloxi)  
Wahabi (Jackson)

## **Missouri**

Abou Ben Adhem  
(Springfield)  
Ararat (Kansas City)  
Moila (St. Joseph)  
Moolah (St. Louis)

## **Montana**

Al Bedoo (Billings)  
Algeria (Helena)  
Bagdad (Butte)

## **Nebraska**

Sesostris (Roca)  
Tangier (Omaha)  
Tehama (Hastings)

## **Nevada**

Kerak (Reno)  
Zelzah (Las Vegas)

**New Hampshire**

Bektash (Concord)

**New Jersey**

Crescent (Westampton)  
Salaam (Fairfield)

**New Mexico**

Ballut Abyad  
(Albuquerque)

**New York**

Cyprus (Glenmont)  
Damascus (Webster)  
Ismailia (Buffalo)  
Kalurah (Binghamton)  
Kismet (Hicksville)  
Mecca (New York)  
Media (Watertown)  
Oriental (Troy)  
Tigris (Syracuse)  
Ziyara (Whitesboro)

**North Carolina**

Amran (Raleigh)  
Oasis (Charlotte)  
Sudan (New Bern)

**North Dakota**

El Zagal (Fargo)  
Kem (Grand Forks)

**Ohio**

Al Koran (Brecksville)  
Aladdin (Grove City)  
Antioch (Dayton)  
Syrian (Cincinnati)  
Tadmor (Akron)  
Zenobia (Perrysburg)

**Oklahoma**

Akdar (Tulsa)  
Bedouin (Muskogee)  
India (Oklahoma City)

**Oregon**

Al Kader (Wilsonville)  
Hillah (Medford)

**Pennsylvania**

Irem (Dallas)  
Jaffa (Altoona)  
Lu Lu (Plymouth Meeting)  
Rajah (Reading)  
Syria (Pittsburgh)  
Zem Zem (Erie)  
Zembo (Harrisburg)

**Rhode Island**

Rhode Island (Cranston)

**South Carolina**

Hejaz (Greenville)  
Jamil (Columbia)  
Omar (Mt. Pleasant)

**South Dakota**

El Riad (Sioux Falls)  
Naja (Deadwood)  
Yelduz (Aberdeen)

**Tennessee**

Al Chymia (Memphis)  
Al Menah (Nashville)  
Alhambra (Chattanooga)  
Jericho (Kingsport)  
Kerbela (Knoxville)

**Texas**

Al Amin (Corpus Christi)  
Alzafar (San Antonio)  
Arabia (Houston)  
Ben Hur (Austin)  
El Maida (El Paso)  
El Mina (Galveston)  
Hella (Garland)  
Karem (Waco)  
Khiva (Amarillo)  
Maskat (Wichita Falls)  
Moslah (Fort Worth)  
Sharon (Tyler)  
Suez (San Angelo)

**Utah**

El Kalah (Salt Lake City)

**Vermont**  
Cairo (Rutland)  
Mount Sinai (Montpelier)

**Virginia**  
Acca (Richmond)  
Kazim (Roanoke)  
Kena (Manassas)  
Khedive (Chesapeake)

**Washington**  
Afifi (Tacoma)  
El Katif (Spokane)  
Masada (Yakima)  
Nile (Mountlake Terrace)

**West Virginia**  
Beni Kedem (Charleston)  
Nemesis (Parkersburg)  
Osiris (Wheeling)

**Wisconsin**  
Beja (Green Bay)  
Tripoli (Milwaukee)  
Zor (Madison)

**Wyoming**  
Kalif (Sheridan)  
Korein (Rawlins)

**CANADA**  
**Alberta**  
Al Azhar (Calgary)  
Al Shamal (Edmonton)

**British Columbia**  
Gizeh (Vancouver)

**Manitoba**  
Khartum (Winnipeg)

**New Brunswick**  
Luxor (Saint John)

**Newfoundland**  
Mazol (St. John's)

**Nova Scotia**  
Philae (Halifax)

**Ontario**  
Mocha (London)  
Rameses (Toronto)  
Tunis (Ottawa)

**Quebec**  
Karnak (Dollard des  
Ormeaux)

**Saskatchewan**  
Wa Wa (Regina)

**LEBANON**  
Lubnan (Elissar)

**MEXICO**  
Al Atfal (Culiacán)  
Anezech (Mexico City)

**PANAMA**  
Abou Saad (Panama City)

**PUERTO RICO**  
Al Rai'e Saleh (San Juan)

**PHILIPPINES**  
Agila (Davao City)  
Mabuhay (Manila)

**GERMANY**  
Emirat (Heidelberg)

**BOLIVIA**  
Bolivia (Santa Cruz)

**BRAZIL**  
Hikmat (Cuiabá)  
Amal (São Paulo)  
Salah (Florianópolis)



# Shriners Children's

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As membership and interest in the Shriners fraternity grew in the early 1900s, so did interest in establishing an official charity. In 1919, during a polio epidemic, the Imperial Potentate-elect pitched the idea of establishing a hospital to provide free care for children with orthopedic conditions. A committee was established to explore the idea. This committee concluded there should be more than just one hospital: There should be a healthcare system throughout North America to provide specialized pediatric medical care regardless of the families' ability to pay. It was an idea that appealed to Shriners, who, as we know, like to do things in a big way. The first hospital opened in Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1922.

## **Specialized Pediatric Medical Care**

Today, there are Shriners Children's locations throughout the U.S., and in Canada and Mexico. In addition to providing care at the primary locations, the healthcare system conducts outreach clinics, which provides opportunities to reach more children in more places. Since 1922, Shriners Children's has improved the lives of more than 1.5 million children. All care offered at Shriners Children's is family-centered and interdisciplinary, providing each patient with a complete, easily accessible care program, regardless of the families' ability to pay or insurance status.

While there are many elements to Shriners Children's, there is only one purpose: to improve the lives of children.

## **Treating Orthopedic Conditions**

The majority of our locations specialize in providing orthopedic care. With a large staff of experienced pediatric orthopedic surgeons, as well as a comprehensive team of physical, occupational, speech and other therapists, we are able to provide each child with a customized care plan. Our orthopedic specialists are able to address a wide range of conditions, including hip problems, foot deformities, limb deficiencies and discrepancies, spinal deformities, and the orthopedic difficulties associated with neuromuscular disorders such as cerebral palsy.



At many of our locations, the orthopedic physicians and clinical staff have access to high-tech tools such as motion analysis centers, imaging systems that are faster and use less radiation than traditional methods, and more. In addition, our healthcare system is a leader in providing customized orthotic and prosthetic devices.

## **Burn Care**

Shriners Children's is noted worldwide as a leader in pediatric burn care. Since entering the pediatric burn care field in the 1960s, our healthcare system has been at the forefront of innovative programs and treatment techniques that have both dramatically improved the survival rate for children with severe burns and enhanced their quality of life. Our interdisciplinary approach ensures each patient receives complete, individualized care, including treatment and rehabilitation.

## **Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation**

In the mid-1980s, recognizing the unique needs of children who have spinal cord injuries, Shriners Children's established the nation's first spinal cord injury rehabilitation and management programs specifically designed for children and teenagers. Our patients receive a complete range of services needed in order to become as independent as possible. Treatment teams include a variety of surgeons and other physicians, nurses, therapists, therapeutic recreation specialists, psychologists, social workers and dieticians.

## **Cleft Lip and Palate Care**

Shriners Children's established a cleft lip and palate program in 2005. Our patients are cared for by a multidisciplinary team of professionals, who work together to solve the many issues associated with this complex condition. Each patient's unique treatment plan may include surgery, orthodontics, hearing, speech and psychological therapies, along with specialized support.

## **Outstanding Research**

"Today's research is tomorrow's patient care" is a well-known saying at Shriners Children's. Our close affiliations with colleges and universities across the country allow us to enhance the quality and scope of our research. Conducting

contemporary, meticulous and innovative research to improve patient care and enhance medical knowledge of injury and disease is an important part of our mission.

## **Educational Opportunities**

Shriners Children's takes an active role in medical education. Most of our locations have residency or teaching affiliations with other hospitals or universities.

Shriners Children's also provides training in other medical areas, including nursing, physical and occupational therapy and orthotics and prosthetics.

## **Receiving Care**

Children up to age 18 may be eligible for care at Shriners Children's if there is a reasonable possibility they can benefit from the specialized services available. Acceptance is based solely on a child's medical needs.

Thanks to generous Shriners and other donors, Shriners Children's provides all care and services regardless of the families' ability to pay or insurance status.

## **How You Can Help**

Shriners Children's needs your help. Learn more about making a one-time gift, recurring gift or a planned gift by visiting [lovetotherescue.org](http://lovetotherescue.org) or by calling 844-739-0849.

# Shriners Children's Locations

<b>Boston, MA</b>	<b>Mexico City, Mexico</b>	<b>Salt Lake City, UT*</b>
Burn care	Orthopedics	Orthopedics
Cleft lip/palate	Burn care	
<b>Chicago, IL</b>	<b>Monterrey, Mexico*</b>	<b>Shreveport, LA*</b>
Orthopedics	Orthopedics	Orthopedics
Spinal cord injury		Cleft lip/palate
Cleft lip/palate		
<b>Culiacán, Mexico*</b>	<b>Montreal, Quebec, Canada</b>	<b>Spokane, WA</b>
Orthopedics	Orthopedics	Orthopedics
<b>Dayton, OH</b>	<b>Pasadena, CA*</b>	<b>Springfield, MA*</b>
Burn care	Orthopedics	Orthopedics
Cleft lip/palate	Burn care	Cleft lip/palate
	Cleft lip/palate	
<b>Erie, PA*</b>	<b>Philadelphia, PA</b>	<b>St. Louis, MO</b>
Orthopedics	Orthopedics	Orthopedics
<b>Galveston, TX</b>	Spinal cord injury	
Orthopedics		
Burn care		
Cleft lip/palate		
<b>Greenville, SC</b>	<b>Portland, OR</b>	<b>Tijuana, Mexico*</b>
Orthopedics	Orthopedics	Orthopedics
	Cleft lip/palate	Burn care
<b>Honolulu, HI</b>		Cleft lip/palate
Orthopedics		
<b>Lexington, KY*</b>	<b>Sacramento, CA</b>	<b>Twin Cities, MN*</b>
Orthopedics	Orthopedics	(Minneapolis)
	Burn care	Orthopedics
	Spinal cord injury	
	Cleft lip/palate	
	Pediatric surgery	

*\*Outpatient care only; necessary inpatient care provided at an affiliated facility.*



**Shriners**  
Children's™

# Is This Your Time to Shrine?

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Through their fellowship, Shriners strive to make the world a better place — and have a good time doing it! As a Shriner, you will become part of a brotherhood of men committed to family, engaged in ongoing personal growth, and dedicated to providing care for children and families.

If that sounds good to you, we want you to know that becoming a Shriner is easier than you think – and the rewards will be far greater than you expect!

For information about joining Shriners International, please:

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

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

**Call:** 813-281-0300



MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE  
TODAY



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](http://shrinerschildrens.org)

## **LOCAL SHRINERS CONTACT:**



**SHRINERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

### **Shriners International Membership Office**

2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607

Tel: 813-281-0300

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

[shrinersinternational.org](http://shrinersinternational.org)

[beashrinernow.com](http://beashrinernow.com)