

# The *Fez Owner's* Manual

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A Concise Handbook for Every Shriner

# About The Fez Owner's Manual

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

The manual is meant to help you become a more informed and active Shriner, one who understands the mission of the fraternity and lives according to the Shriners' Creed. Both are included here for you. Inside, you will also find a dictionary of terms commonly used by Shriners, a brief overview of protocol, and some interesting facts about our great fraternity and our philanthropy, Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

While the manual provides only a glimpse into Shriners International, we hope it provides you with some insight that sparks your interest and encourages you to expand your knowledge as a noble.

# In this Manual:

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|                                            |    |
|--------------------------------------------|----|
| Mission Statement .....                    | 3  |
| Shriners' Creed .....                      | 4  |
| Shriners International Facts .....         | 6  |
| Shriners Hospitals for Children Facts .... | 4  |
| Shrine Pledge of Allegiance .....          | 8  |
| Prayer .....                               | 9  |
| Salutations .....                          | 9  |
| Shrine Clubs and Units .....               | 10 |
| Fezzes and Pins .....                      | 11 |
| Famous Shriners .....                      | 13 |
| A Shriner's Dictionary .....               | 14 |
| FAQs .....                                 | 18 |

# 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 social camaraderie
- » Fostering self-improvement through leadership, education, the perpetuation of moral values and community involvement
- » Serving mankind through the resources of its philanthropy, Shriners Hospitals for Children

# 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 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 Hospitals for Children to be the world's greatest philanthropy, and we support its "temples of mercy" with spirit, time, talent and means.



# Shriners International Facts

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- » Shriners International is an international fraternity based on fun, fellowship, and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, truth and relief.
- » Mecca Shriners in New York City was the first temple, formed in 1872.
- » There are nearly 200 Shriners temples and thousands of shrine clubs located worldwide.
- » The fraternity's official philanthropy is Shriners Hospitals for Children.

# Shriners Hospitals for Children Facts

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a health care system with 22 locations dedicated to providing pediatric specialty care, conducting innovative research, and offering outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals.

- » There are 20 Shriners Hospitals for Children locations in the U.S., and one each in Canada and Mexico.
- » Children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care.
- » All care and services at Shriners Hospitals for Children are provided regardless of the families' ability to pay.
- » The first Shriners Hospital opened in Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1922.
- » If you know a child who may benefit from the services provided by Shriners Hospitals for Children, please reference the back cover of this booklet, or contact your temple's office.

# Shrine Pledge Of Allegiance

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Shriners International is an international fraternity with members throughout the world, therefore, the Shrine Pledge of Allegiance recognizes and honors the flags of all countries.

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.

The pledge is as follows:

"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."

# 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," which is 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 the elected Divan members who are not Past Potentates, are addressed by the title of their office or "Noble."

The appropriate salutation among Shriners is "Es selamu aleikum" (pronounced AH sell-AHM uh-LAKE-um), which means "Peace be on you." The proper response is "Aleikum es selamu," (pronounced uh-LAKE-um AH sell-AHM-uh), which means "On you be the peace."

# Shrine Clubs & Units

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The best way to enjoy your membership in the Shriners fraternity is to get involved. A great way to participate is to join a club or unit.

Shrine clubs essentially serve as “mini-temples.” As each temple's geographic jurisdiction may be vast, far from the location of the home temple or office, clubs are created in the temple's outlying areas to keep nobles active and involved in Shriners activities. Shrine club membership is composed exclusively of nobles.

Units are made up of groups of nobles with similar interests and temples are encouraged to establish new units regularly, based on the interests of their new nobles. Service units benefit the nobility or the temple, providing (for example) maintenance, first aid or hospitality. Performing units primarily provide entertainment for Shriners or the general public. Examples include clown groups, marching bands and mini-car drivers. Units usually participate in

community parades, and many compete against similar units from other temples.

The main purposes of Shrine clubs and units are to:

- » Promote interest in Shrinedom among members by offering fellowship and fun activities for nobles and their families.
- » Foster camaraderie and brotherhood among nobility.
- » Connect members who have similar interests.
- » Raise awareness of the Shriners fraternity in local communities.
- » Educate the public about Shriners Hospitals for Children.
- » Conduct fundraisers to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children, and temple, club or unit operations.

# Fezzes & Pins

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Nobles should wear their fezzes at stated meetings, ceremonials, Shriners parades, special Shriners events and other Shriners-related activities.

The fez is not a bulletin board or advertising space. The only pin permitted on the fez is one to hold the tassel in place. The fez shall be worn in its proper shape, without crushing, creasing or alteration.

As a Shriner, you are asked to not wear your fez in any company or place where you would decline to introduce your mother, wife, sister or daughter.

A Shriners lapel pin may be worn on the left lapel of a suit coat or jacket, and is appropriate to be worn anytime a noble wishes to represent his fraternity.

# Famous Shriners

A number of past and present heads of government, business leaders, entertainers and sports legends have been Shriners. They include:



*Buzz Aldrin*  
Astronaut



*Arnold Palmer*  
Golfer



*David Ragan*  
Race Car Driver



*Gerald Ford*  
Former President



*Brad Paisley*  
Country Singer



*John Wayne*  
Actor

Help Interest Others  
in our Great Fraternity

Should you know of 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), or call **813-281-0300**.

# A Shriner's Dictionary

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Many unique terms are used by nobles. Here is a list of some of the most commonly used words and phrases.

*Aide* – A noble appointed by a Potentate or Imperial Potentate to assist him 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.

*Appointed Divan* – Six nobles appointed by the Potentate to assist him during his term. They include the First Ceremonial Master, Second Ceremonial Master, Director, Marshal, Captain of the Guard and Outer Guard.

*Black Camel* – A term used to refer to the death of a member of the Shriners fraternity.

*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 initiation ceremony.

*Editorial Without Words* – The image of a Shriner carrying a little girl and her crutches. This image originated from a photograph and has been reflected in statues, graphics and other media as a symbol of the Shriners fraternity and Shriners Hospitals for Children. It is the most recognized element in the visual identity of Shriners Hospitals for Children.

*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.

*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 Divan* – The corps of officers elected by Shriners International to lead the Shriners fraternity.

*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, generally held during the month of July, where the business of both the fraternity and Shriners Hospitals for Children is conducted. Also, there are parades, unit competitions and social events during the session.

*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 it 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.

**PCM** – Stands for “permanent contributing member.” The purchase of a \$150 PCM certificate, which is tax deductible as a charitable donation, relieves the noble from paying the annual hospital assessment.

**Stated Meeting** – Held by a temple to conduct official business.

**Shrinedom** – The realm of the Shrine fraternity, including its members, governance, programs, activities, organizational atmosphere, etc.

**Shriners International** – The body of representatives from each of the temples that determines the direction of the fraternity.

**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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## How did the Fraternity Adopt its Theme?

Similar to many college fraternities following 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.

## What is the prerequisite for membership?

All Shriners must first be a Master Mason in good standing in a lodge recognized by or in amity with the Grand Masters Conference in North America, the Interamerican Masonic Confederation and/or the World Conference of Grand Lodges. All Shriners must maintain their Masonic membership and are encouraged to actively participate in Lodge activities.

### How are my annual renewal fees divided?

Each temple's 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 Hospitals for Children. The balance is used for temple operations. Lifetime prepayment membership options may be available for each portion of your annual renewal fees.

### 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 by helping children who may benefit from the expert medical care provided by Shriners Hospitals for Children.

### How can I support Shriners Hospitals for Children?

There are many ways to support the philanthropy, including volunteering at a Shriners Hospital, transporting patients to the hospital for care or visiting the

kids in the hospital. You can also support the hospitals by hosting fundraisers to benefit the philanthropy or by making donations to Shriners Hospitals for Children. For more information about the many giving opportunities available, please visit **donate2shc.org** or call **844-739-0849**.

### *Can my Family Participate?*

Temples are broadening their base by providing unique opportunities for families. With Potentate approval, nobles, their ladies and children may participate in civic parades.

Ladies and youth also have several ways to be involved:

- » 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.
- » 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 office of membership development.

If you know a child who could benefit from services offered by Shriners Hospitals for Children, please have their parents or guardian call toll free:

800-237-5055 in the U.S.

800-361-7256 in Canada

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## Local Shriners Contact:



**Shriners International**

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



[facebook.com/shrinersinternational](https://facebook.com/shrinersinternational)



[twitter.com/shriners](https://twitter.com/shriners)



[youtube.com/ShrinersTV](https://youtube.com/ShrinersTV)



[instagram.com/shrinersinternational](https://instagram.com/shrinersinternational)

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## **Office of Membership Development Shriners International**

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Tampa, FL 33607

Tel: 813-281-0300

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

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