

Recommendations for Selective Invitation

Section 34.01 (b) of the Ohio Masonic Code states: “It is Unmasonic Conduct to use mass media techniques to openly invite the general public to petition for Masonic membership; however there is no objection to selectively identifying a man whom you believe would make a good Mason and explain that you would be proud to sponsor him for membership in a symbolic lodge. After the procedure for obtaining membership in a Masonic Lodge is explained, the potential candidate should be left to make his own decision and come of his own free will.”

One of the core tenets of our Order is that people must come to the Fraternity of their own free will and accord. It is a path that every man must choose to take and choose to follow on his own. We cannot beg or beseech someone to take that path, but we can offer to help them find it.

The Key is Being Selective

- In the course of our daily lives, we encounter many good men; but would they be good Masons?
- When you became a Mason, you were taught values and tenets that are important to the Fraternity and your Lodge, be sure that you selectively invite someone who also finds these important.
- Don't recommend a man for Masonry until you know them and can truly vouch for their character and commitment.
- When it comes to membership numbers, ten of the “right” men can accomplish what a hundred of the “wrong” men could never start.

Be Able to Answer “Why”

- When you tell someone that you think he'd make a good Mason, expect that he will ask you why.
- Tell your Masonic Story: why did you join, why do you stay, what do you get out of it, why is it important to you?
- Most importantly, what do you see in him that makes you think it would be a good fit and that he would enjoy it, as well?

Be the Personal Connection

- Think about how you joined. Most Masons join because of a personal connection.
- Don't ask him to join, but offer to talk to him if he wants to know more.
- Don't pressure, but invite him to an upcoming open house, monthly pancake breakfast or annual fundraiser, so that he can meet other members, ask questions, and hear their stories.
- Some seeds take longer than others to grow

Be Ready for the Question

- Live your Masonic values every day; let him know by your words and actions what it means to be a Mason.
- If and when he asks, have a petition available and proudly be his top-line signer.
- Mentor him as he starts down this path.