

Ill. : Bro. : George Washington's Mother Lodge

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M.

P.O. BOX 702

FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22404-0702



Dear Interested Individual:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Freemason. Freemasonry is a system of symbolic instruction contained in certain ancient rituals known as degrees.

Although the most eminent men have devoted themselves to Freemasonry, Freemasonry does not concern itself with the external qualifications of men. Rather, our ancient and honorable order is a spiritual and philosophical Brotherhood, in which each member advances in self-control, self-knowledge, and self-mastery as a means of greater insight into the world around him and ultimate reality. When you gain admission among us, you should expect to find men of the noblest character participating in impressive rituals, seeking to improve themselves and ever assisting you and each other in advancing towards enlightenment.

In order to be considered for membership, you must contact the Lodge directly, of your own free will and accord. While we do require the recommendation of two brother Masons, it is requested that we first communicate with you, directly. You must then submit a Petition and Background Authorization Form, which you will find attached to this document. Once you have completed the forms, mail or delivery it to the Secretary at the Lodge or at the address above.

If everything with the Petition is in order it will be read in Lodge, and once read, will lay over for a statutory period of one lunar month. While it lays over, the Lodge will verify the good standing of your vouchers (whether they are from within the Grand Lodge of Virginia or from some other jurisdiction), and form an Investigating Committee to meet with you in your home. The Investigating Committee will discuss your interest in Freemasonry with you, as well as your background and character. Once the petition has laid over for the statutory period, your vouchers have been verified as in good standing, and you have met with the Investigating Committee, the Lodge will vote on your Petition for membership. The vote must be unanimous in order for you to gain admission. If the Lodge's vote is favorable, the Lodge Secretary will contact you to let you know the date of your initiation.

The threshold requirements to begin your journey in Freemasonry in Virginia are that you be a man over the age of 18, of good character, who believes in God. You must have resided in Virginia for at least a year before petitioning, and you must submit your petition of your own free will and accord. You must be vouched for by two Master Masons in good standing in a Lodge holden under a jurisdiction that is recognized by the Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The process of becoming a Mason is by initiation in three Degrees and extensive instruction. After each of the Degrees is conferred upon you, you will work with a coach on the Catechism that accompanies each of the Degrees before you can progress to the next.

The fees for becoming a Mason in our Lodge are \$375, as follows: \$75 to be submitted with the Petition, \$100.00 to be paid with each of the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. Thereafter, you will be required to pay annual dues and Grand Lodge Assessments which are prorated for your first (partial) year of membership.

Please feel free to contact us at fxbgldodge4sec@gmail.com if you have any further questions about Freemasonry.

PETITION FOR THE DEGREES IN FREEMASONRY

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and members of

*Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 A.F. & A.M.
Fredericksburg, Va.*

Please print or type. Use reverse side, if needed, to fully answer questions.

1. (a) Name in full _____
First Middle Last
 (b) Preferred Name (not a nickname) _____
2. Residence _____
Address City State Zip + 4
3. (a) Social Security No. _____ (b) E-mail _____
 (c) Telephone No. (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____
4. Have you ever petitioned this or any other Masonic Lodge? _____ If so, state name of Lodge, location, date and result of every petition:
(Use back of Petition for additional space.)
5. (a) Where born? _____ (b) Date of Birth _____
City/County State Month Day Year
6. (a) Name of Father _____ (b) Mother's Full Maiden Name _____
7. What is your occupation? _____
8. List names and addresses of your employers, beginning with your current employment, for the past ten years. (Use back of Petition for additional space.)

Name of Employer	Address	City, State, Zip	Your Occupation	Length of Employment
9. Where have you resided for the past ten years? (Use back of Petition for additional space.)

Address	Year From	Year To
10. (a) Single, Married, Widower, or Divorced? *(circle one)* (b) Wife's Maiden Name _____
First Middle Last
 List names, age and relationship of each of your dependents:

Name	Age	Relationship
11. Describe your physical defects and deformities, if any: _____
12. Have you ever been charged in a court of law with a criminal offense? YES NO *(circle one)* Explain circumstances on reverse.
13. (a) Have you answered all the questions above? _____ (b) Upon your honor, are the statements and answers true? _____

Having resided during the past twelve months within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia, I hereby state that I believe and trust in God as the Supreme Architect and Governor of the Universe and that having been born as a male, as a child of God, and continued as a man, I am unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives. I hereby freely and voluntarily offer myself as a candidate for the degrees of Masonry, being prompted to solicit this privilege by a favorable opinion conceived of the Institution, a desire for knowledge and a sincere wish of being of service to my fellow creatures. Should this petition be granted, I will cheerfully conform to all the established usages and customs of the Fraternity and abide by its laws, rules and regulations. I have read and acknowledge the information for the applicant noted at the top of the reverse side of this petition. Also, I certify all information contained on this application to be accurate as of the date of my signature and acknowledge that any inaccuracies may void this application.

Date _____ The fee of \$ _____ accompanies this petition.

(Sign full, legal name, IN OWN HANDWRITING) _____
I usually sign my name thus.

As the exact nature of the Institution of Freemasonry is unknown to you, it is deemed advisable that before signing the attached petition you should be informed on certain phases of that Institution which may affect your decision to apply for membership therein.

Freemasonry has in all ages required that men should come to its door entirely of their own free will; not as the result of importunity nor from feelings of curiosity; but from a favorable opinion of the Institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to be serviceable to their fellow creatures.

Masonry is a system of morality based on the belief in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the brotherhood of men; therefore no atheist can be made a Mason. It strives to teach a man the duty he owes to God, to his country, to his family, to his neighbor, and to himself. It inculcates the practice of every virtue and makes an extensive use of symbolism in its teachings. It interferes with neither religion nor politics, but strives only after light and truth, endeavoring always to bring out the highest and noblest qualities of men.

The Masonic Fraternity is in no sense an insurance society; neither does it pay benefits in case of sickness or death. In a correct and broad sense, it is both educational and charitable. It extends such assistance only as it is willing and able to grant. It knowingly admits none to membership except those who are able to provide for themselves and those dependent upon them.

FOR LODGE USE ONLY

PETITION FOR DEGREES of _____
Name in full

Dates of Lodge actions:

Received at stated meeting of Lodge held on _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Rejected _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Elected _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Initiated _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Passed _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Raised _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Fees:

E.A. _____ F.C. _____ M.M. _____ Annual Dues: _____ Member No. _____ - _____

NOTE—This petition must be filed and preserved in the archives of the Lodge for reference.

(Show Question Number)

Additional Space For Information

RECOMMENDERS (VOUCHERS) PLEASE FILL IN BELOW

We hereby certify that the petitioner has resided for the one year last past or has Masonic residence in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, that we are well acquainted with the petitioner, that we have read the answers to the questions contained in the petition and believe them to be true and that each of us believes the petitioner to be morally and physically qualified, of good character, and under the tongue of good repute. We cheerfully recommend him as a proper candidate for the degrees of Masonry.

NAME (please print) _____ (signature) _____

Present address _____
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Telephone No. (Home) _____ (Work) _____ E-mail _____

NAME OF LODGE _____ NUMBER _____ LOCATION _____

NAME (please print) _____ (signature) _____

Present address _____
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Telephone No. (Home) _____ (Work) _____ E-mail _____

NAME OF LODGE _____ NUMBER _____ LOCATION _____

**DISCLOSURE AND AUTHORIZATION
FOR CONSUMER REPORTS**

In connection with my petition with the Grand Lodge of Virginia and Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 (collectively referred to herein as “The Lodge”), I understand a consumer report will be requested by The Lodge. I understand that such reports may contain public record information such as: criminal records from federal, state, and other local agencies that maintain such records.

Authorization

I hereby authorize procurement of consumer report(s) and investigative consumer report(s) by the Lodge. I authorize without reservation, any person, business or agency contacted by the consumer reporting agency to furnish the above-mentioned information.

This authorization is conditioned upon the following representations of my rights:

I understand that I have the right to make a request to the consumer reporting agency: OneSource (“Agency”), 12 N. Braddock St., Winchester, VA 22601, 888-285-3545, upon proper identification, to obtain copies of any reports furnished to The Lodge by the Agency and to request the nature and substance of **all information** in its files on me at the time of my request, including the sources of information, and the Agency, on The Lodge’s behalf, will provide a complete and accurate disclosure of the nature and scope of the investigation covered by any investigative consumer report(s). The Agency will also disclose the recipients of any such reports on me which the Agency has previously furnished within the two year period for employment requests, and one year for other purposes preceding my request. I hereby consent to The Lodge obtaining the above information from the Agency. I understand that I can dispute, at any time, any information that is inaccurate in any type of report with the Agency. I may view the Agency’s privacy policy at their website: www.OneSourceScreening.com.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For identification purposes:

Social Security No.: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Current Address: _____

NOTE: Documents with sensitive personally identifiable information such as Social Security numbers and birth date must be stored securely, electronic versions shall be password protected, and must be encrypted when electronically (e-mailed) transmitted.