

DeMolay Leaders of New Jersey



Information for Parents

How did you get my son's name for this mailing list?

In most cases involving a mailing to potential DeMolay members, New Jersey DeMolay purchases a mailing list of DeMolay-age young men in a geographical area from a professional company that specializes in such a service, and provides this list to a local Chapter. The local Chapter would then review the list with its current membership and make a promotional mailing. In areas where we are starting new Chapters, or assisting in the reactivation of an existing Chapter, a large scale mailing would be made to alert the community to the opportunities and potential of having a local DeMolay Chapter.

What is DeMolay?

DeMolay is a youth group for teenage boys that allow a young man to learn leadership skills through his own active involvement. DeMolay allows an opportunity for young men to develop their own management ability and public speaking skills. The DeMolay program offers athletics, social activities and charitable community involvement, by which efforts a young man learns teamwork, pride of accomplishment, dedication, ability to achieve and communication skills.

Who can join DeMolay?

DeMolay accepts applications from all young men between 12 and 21 years of age. It is required that applicants be of good character and believe in a supreme being.

Is religion taught in DeMolay?

DeMolay does not teach or require any particular religion. DeMolay does urge members to attend their own individual place of worship.

Who sponsors DeMolay?

DeMolay Chapters are sponsored by recognized groups of Masons. The sponsor provides the meeting facilities and an adult group of advisors. DeMolay Chapters, therefore meet in Masonic Lodge buildings.

Who are the adult advisors?

The adult advisors for each DeMolay Chapter are made up of men who volunteer their time for the youth. They could be Masons, Senior DeMolay (former DeMolay members over 21 years) or non-Masonic fathers. All advisors must submit an "Adult Worker Profile" to the State DeMolay Executive Officer prior to being accepted as an advisor and all advisors must complete an advisor-training program developed by DeMolay International. Advisors are recruited by the sponsoring body and serve at the discretion of the DeMolay Executive Officer for New Jersey.



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What types of activities could we expect?

DeMolay Chapters are run by the members themselves, with the adult guidance of the advisory board, so almost any type of activities are possible. An average, well rounded DeMolay Chapter's officers would plan a six or twelve month term plan, that would include social, athletic, fundraising and charitable projects, that would appeal to the members.

What is the initiation like?

DeMolay's two-part initiation, which is like no other, is a serious, deep meaning ceremony. The first section explains the virtues of DeMolay by which one should guide his life. The seven virtues, or precepts, of DeMolay are *Love of Parents, Reverence for Sacred Things* (or respect for one's religion), *Courtesy, Comradeship, Fidelity, Cleanness and Patriotism*. The second section is done in play form, telling the story of the organization's namesake, Jacques DeMolay, who gave up his life rather than betray his friends. The lesson taught in the second section is fidelity and toleration. The initiation contains no hazing or embarrassing acts, as they have no place in DeMolay. The initiation is performed by DeMolay members who take great pride in their memorization of the ceremonies. All parents are welcome, and encouraged, to attend the initiation ceremonies. The initiation is not open to others, such as sisters, non- DeMolay brothers, etc., in respect to the DeMolay members, as they have their own fraternal signs of recognition to be respected.

What will DeMolay membership cost?

Each DeMolay Chapter sets it's own life membership fee, averaging around \$35-\$50, as there are no annual dues. DeMolay Chapters run their own fundraising events to keep the Chapter solvent, and they may use those funds as they wish to offset the costs of various other activities. The Chapter treasury belongs to the members. There will be costs for attending various events as the young man's DeMolay career advances, at his choice, but there is no other "up front" money required.

When are the Chapter meetings?

Each Chapter meets twice monthly (such as 1st and 3rd Tuesdays). A regular business meeting of the Chapter would include a formal opening (with ceremony) and a full business agenda meeting, following *Roberts Rules of Order*. The dress for the regular business meeting of a DeMolay Chapter is jacket and tie. The officers of the Chapter run the meeting. Some Chapters meet once per month formally, as described, and once informally, where they dress casually, hold a quick business discussion and schedule some type of social activity (bowling, billiards, games, etc.). The meeting schedule is at the discretion of the Chapter officers, as approved by the advisory board.



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Who supervises the events?

Members of the advisory board supervise all events. It is not an official DeMolay event unless it is first approved by the advisory board and then supervised by at least two advisors. Volunteer parents are welcome to assist as chaperones and/or drivers for events, but advisors will always be present.

How can parents participate?

Each Chapter strives to have an active Parents Club who assists the advisors by volunteering to prepare meeting refreshments (a very important part of the meeting!), attend the Chapter activities and generally assist the advisors. All fathers are welcome to officially join the advisory board.

Does DeMolay have insurance?

Yes. New Jersey DeMolay is part of a national insurance policy secured at our national headquarters. It is a secondary policy, as the individual's insurance is the primary source.

Is DeMolay a "Junior Masons"?

Absolutely not. The Masonic Fraternity proudly sponsors the young men of DeMolay as a service to the community and to the youth, as part of Masonry's large-scale charitable efforts. DeMolay membership does not automatically make a young man a Mason at the age of twenty-one. A DeMolay member, upon attaining the age of twenty-one, may ask for an application for membership to join Masonry, just as any other applicant would make such a request.

What is Freemasonry?

While commonly called Masons, Freemasonry is centuries old and the largest fraternal organization in the world. The worldwide membership consists of more than six million men from every race, creed, color and political persuasion. Freemasonry is NOT a "secret society", as the only "secrets" are traditional signs and words used between members. The only real secret is that Masonry has no secrets. Any man, over 21 years of age and of good character, may seek membership. Freemasonry does not solicit members, and traditionally, waits for an interested person to ask for membership. Freemasonry is not a religion, is not "anti" any other group and favors no particular religion, but believes in a supreme being. Freemasonry's charitable efforts are second to none. The Masonic umbrella of organizations, including the Shriners, Scottish Rite, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, and others, donate over \$1.5 million per day to charity.



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What time will be required for my son?

That is strictly an individual's choice. Each young man decides his own level of involvement. Besides meetings, the young men may choose to run weekend activities such as dances, camping trips or trips to interesting places. The athletics are normally on Sunday afternoons. Your son will have the opportunity to accept more responsibility by striving for an office, or he could choose to sit back and enjoy more of the social aspects. A young man will tend to "find time" for what interests him. The organization fully realizes, and emphasizes the fact, that it is secondary to family, school, religion and the other priorities of life. DeMolay seeks to reinforce these important parts of a young man's life.

What will my son gain from DeMolay membership?

Every young man has the opportunity to excel in DeMolay in whatever part of DeMolay attracts him. The more involvement he has, the more of an opportunity exists. He can learn basic leadership skills, public speaking and general life skills. He will have the opportunity to meet many other young men and perhaps make the friendships of a lifetime. He will have the opportunity to learn teamwork while accomplishing goals with his peers. He will have the opportunity of having the satisfaction of working for charitable efforts or civic projects. He will have the opportunity of attending social and fun activities. He will have the opportunity to earn scholarships for his education. He will have the opportunity of attending special seminars and conferences focusing on leadership training. This could be, for your son, the experience of a lifetime. It certainly has been for many others.

Where can I find more information about DeMolay on the Internet?

www.demolay.org (DeMolay International)

www.njdemolay.org (DeMolay Leaders of New Jersey)

www.njfreemasonry.org (New Jersey Freemasonry)

