



To: All Chapter Advisors and Chapter Councilors

From: John P. Jacobson, State Senior Councilor

Subject: Official Visit /GNO Survival Guide

Date: May 15, 2014

Official Visit /Guy's Night Out **Survival Guide**

Your Official Visit is coming up soon! This year State Master Councilor Thomas Rasar has asked to change up the Official Visit structure. Accordingly, each chapter will have two official visitations where one will be a traditional Official Visit held during a regular Chapter meeting and the other will be a Guy's Night Out (GNO) Event. The Official Visit dates are assigned to the chapters and were published at Convention 2014. The GNO Event is on a date agreed upon by the Chapter and State Master Councilor however must be determined at least 60 days prior to the event date. These nights should not be just a simple meeting. They should be something that sets your Chapter apart from the rest and makes it unique, awesome and FUN!

OFFICIAL VISIT

This is a night when the State Master Councilor along with other officers, parents, and the community should all try to come out and support you. This night is for you the Members of the Chapter.

Official Visits typically follow a standard format. You will open your Chapter per the ritual including introductions following the Introduction Protocol Guide. Please ask the State Corps Officers if you need a copy of this guide. If you have a speaker or some short entertainment then you would call the Chapter to recess for the purpose of the entertainment. Following the adjournment you would call the chapter back to order and conduct the business of your Chapter. During Good of the Order, it is appropriate to call upon the State Master Councilor last – providing him with an opportunity to provide the final remarks / key note address. When it is time to close, it is also polite to offer the State Master Councilor the honor of closing the Chapter which he may or may not elect to do. Following closing, light refreshments are highly encouraged but not mandatory.

In the past, Chapters have included the following in their Official Visit. Under no circumstances should you try to incorporate all of the below, however something unique to make the evening more magical is encouraged.

- Guest Speaker
 - Masonic Leader
 - Local Leader
 - Teacher

- Initiation
 - This could be regular or have a theme to it
- Formal Dinner
- Celebrate an Obligatory Day
- A Public Ceremony
 - Only one ceremony should be preformed
 - Must be done by the members in the chapter
- Shadow Night
 - This is where the Masons shadow the DeMolays in their respected office

Note: Official Visits are as the title states official. This is a night that should be taken seriously and is a night for people to come and visit your chapter. Please encourage family members local lodges and other chapters to come to this event and witness your chapter.

GUY'S NIGHT OUT (GNO)

The GNO is primarily a prospect event, but also it is a special night for the Chapter and the State Chapter Officers to become much closer as brothers.

The following is a list of ideas for potential things you could do...

- Game Night
- Walk in the Town
- Going to get Ice Cream
- Open House
- Bowling
- Anything that you find fun and enjoyable

Note: The original intent of a GNO was to get the members out of the four walls of the lodge building and to give an opportunity to increase their brotherhood. This should not be a movie night. You cannot talk and get to know each other when you are in a dark theater focused on watching a movie. Pick an activity that you can do to as a group and participate in while enjoying each other's company. Also do something out of the ordinary. Be creative and inventive. It need not be expensive, but should focus on the fun!