

LODGE ORIENTATION CEREMONY

LODGE PRESIDENT (*Gives one rap of the gavel*):

Everyone please be seated. I welcome you to our orientation ceremony.

This meeting is called for the express purpose of orienting new members and no other business will come before the Lodge.

LODGE PRESIDENT (*Gives two raps of the gavel*):

The Chaplain will open the Bible and deliver the opening prayer.

CHAPLAIN:

This is the Holy Bible, our inspiration and our guide.
(*PAUSE*) Let us fold our arms and bow our heads.

CHAPLAIN:

Almighty Father, we give thanks to you for our fraternity and the great precepts it embodies. Keep us diligent and mindful of our commitments to You, our children, our senior

members, our families, and our communities. Give us a spirit of peace, harmony, and progress as we carry on these precepts in our Lodge and in our lives. Remind us each day that the greatest good we can do is to serve You through service to our fellow man. Amen.

MEMBERS: Amen

LODGE PRESIDENT: (*U.S. Lodges*)

I present the flag of our country (*turns to face the flag*). Place your right hand over your heart and join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stand, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

LODGE PRESIDENT: (*Canadian Lodges*)

I present the flag of our country (*turns to face the flag*). Please salute the flag and join me in singing “O, Canada”.

LODGE PRESIDENT (*Gives one rap of the gavel*):

Everyone will be seated.

OFFICIAL VISIT (IF APPLICABLE)

LODGE PRESIDENT:

At this time, we are privileged to have _____
visiting with us. _____, welcome to _____
Lodge_____.

ORIENTATION CEREMONY

LODGE PRESIDENT (*Gives one rap of the gavel*):

Administrator _____, have the
members seated before me been properly enrolled into
membership in The Moose?

ADMINISTRATOR:

They have, President _____.

LODGE PRESIDENT:

Welcome to each of you! Before we start the orientation ceremony, I would like to give you a few instructions.

The gavel is the sign of the President's authority. One rap calls the Lodge to order or seats members when standing. Two raps indicate that members should stand.

During the orientation ceremony, I ask you to remain seated unless otherwise instructed, and please silence or turn off all electronic devices.

You will now learn more about the Moose Fraternity by hearing "The Story of The Moose". The Ritual Staff will now take their assigned positions.

ORIENTATION DIRECTOR (*Standing; after staff members have taken their chairs, the Orientation Director raps the gavel once*):

We are certainly glad you have made the decision to join The Moose. As you do so, you will leave your footprints in many ways and in many lives. This includes the members of your family, the members of your new Lodge, and many persons you will likely never meet. Since you have been properly enrolled into membership in our fraternity, I would like to invite you to join us in one of our most inspiring moments: the Orientation Ceremony of The Moose. The staff telling “The Story of The Moose” is from

_____ Lodge _____. Listen carefully to the message each member will bring to you.

You will now be given the opportunity to learn and – if you are so willing – to embrace the noble principles upon which this proud family fraternity is built. I ask you to ponder them in both mind and heart, for if you choose to join with us, these principles will bind us together forever in a life of service to others.

Listen as the Historian explains the origin of the Moose Fraternity and how it has grown since its inception.

HISTORIAN: The Loyal Order of Moose was founded in 1888 in Louisville, Kentucky by Dr. John Henry Wilson. Initially, the organization offered men the opportunity to gather socially and to assist fellow members in times of need.

Dr. Wilson selected the moose to represent the fraternity for the noblest of reasons: it is strong and majestic; it takes only what it needs and nothing more; and it unites with others in their prime to protect the youngest and oldest members of the herd within a defending circle. Each of these characteristics would take on greater meaning as the organization evolved.

During its first nearly two decades of existence, The Moose struggled to gain a foothold, but everything changed in 1906 thanks to the efforts of James J. Davis. It was Davis who offered the vision that would transform the fraternity from a struggling social club to a formidable philanthropic organization. As a result, The Moose established itself in multiple countries, created membership opportunities for men and women, and placed its focus on helping children in need, caring for senior members, bringing communities closer together, and celebrating life.

Throughout its emergence, The Moose remained true to the ideals upon which it was founded: Purity, Aid and Progress. You will now learn how each of these principles applies today. We will begin with Purity.

PURITY: A fraternity is defined as a group of people who share common interests. The Moose provides something even more meaningful – it is a family. Our members believe in a Supreme Being and are loyal to their countries. They devote their time, energy, and substance to further the causes we promote and support. And they recognize that being a Moose member comes with a great deal of responsibility that extends far beyond simply frequenting the social quarters.

Decorum is an important aspect of Moose membership. It fosters a welcoming environment in the Lodge home for fellow members and qualified guests. It leads to thoughtful discussions and encourages sharing of new ideas. Moose members understand the importance of conducting themselves properly both inside and outside the Lodge to prevent negative attention from being placed on the organization.

As with any family dynamic, there will be times that members do not agree on what they believe to be the best course of action. There is nothing wrong with disagreement; it's a part of life. Different viewpoints are healthy, and respectful debates in the proper venue will lead to productive decisions, as opposed to animosity that will hinder our efforts.

Now you will hear the role that Aid plays within The Moose.

AID: There are two sides to the Moose story: the receiving and the giving. While the receiving is good, the giving is even better.

Throughout its long-honored history, the Moose Fraternity has always focused on giving something back. It is altogether proper that you should know that service is an important part of this story. That means members giving of their time and effort to make their communities better places in which to live.

Is it a neighborhood in need...a family in crisis...a threat to health...or an educational opportunity for those without means? Wherever and whenever the need, The Moose is there to enrich the circle of life.

As you step forward, you step into a noble family fraternity where “commitment and service” stand on a par with “fun and fellowship”. This is what helps make The Moose so unique, and the path your footprints take so important.

Thanks to our beliefs and our actions directed toward helping others, The Moose has greatly increased its role in society and become “The Heart of the Community” in hundreds of towns throughout North America.

Hear now some of the Progress that we have made.

PROGRESS: A Moose membership card is just over two inches high, but the value it carries is limitless if you take advantage of the privileges and opportunities that come with being a member of this organization.

First and foremost are the privileges you will have in your Lodge. Your active membership card will allow you access to the Lodge home and social quarters. You can enjoy meals, activities, special events, and fellowship with your fellow members. At times, your family members and qualified guests can attend with you and experience what your Lodge has to offer. You will also be able to invite your associates to join the Fraternity.

Moose membership gives you the opportunity to actively participate in the decision-making and leadership in your Lodge. You will be able to attend Lodge meetings and vote on matters approved by the Board of Officers and brought before the membership. You can also consider serving your Lodge as an officer or committee chairman.

Outside of the Lodge, there will be many opportunities for you to participate in regional, state or provincial, and national programs such as sports tournaments, training sessions, and conventions and conferences. Whatever you choose, always carry and show your membership card proudly.

The most recent example of progress in The Moose is unified membership for men and women. Everyone must hold membership in a Lodge, and all Lodge members have an equal voice and equal opportunities for service and leadership. Those members wishing to increase their level of activity and be eligible for fraternal advancement can also join one of two units that are vital to The Moose – the Women of the Moose for female members and the Moose Legion for male members.

Our commitment to the principles we have described has led to the realization of two of the most significant achievements in our history, both of which have been making a positive difference in the lives of others for more than a century. Listen now as we share our commitment to children in need and to senior members.

ACHIEVEMENT: There is nothing in the world as sweet as youth, and nothing in our fraternity as caring as the child city we call Mooseheart. Located 40 miles west of Chicago, our campus has stood like a beacon of hope since its founding in 1913. Our Mooseheart students reside in family-style residence homes, receive educational and vocational training in our own school system, and worship in our House of God in the faith into which they were born. Our Family Teachers and staff members create a model community, where they stand strong along every step of a developing child’s pathway.

If youth is to be cherished, then age is to be honored. Moosehaven, located in Orange Park Florida, is a complete community for our senior members who are in need of a helping hand. Since opening its doors in 1922, Moosehaven has offered safety, comfort, and convenience to its residents. Our City of Contentment, through its positive environment, exceptional health care offerings, and consistent schedule of activities, has added years to our residents’ lives and life to their years.

Moose members provide for both campuses in a variety of ways, but the most prominent method of support has been giving to the Mooseheart/Moosehaven Endowment Fund. This fund was created in 1913 as a "Penny Fund" to support Mooseheart, and has now expanded to address needs at Mooseheart and Moosehaven. Thanks to incredible generosity over the years, we have provided a home for children in need, and we have freed senior members from the cares and burdens age sometimes imposes.

Our Nine O'clock Ceremony provides an opportunity, whenever Moose members are gathered, to reflect on those entrusted to our care and to support the Endowment Fund. Please rise (PAUSE) and join me in the Nine O'clock Ceremony.

At the hour of nine o'clock, the children at Mooseheart kneel at their beds to say their evening prayers. Let us face toward Mooseheart, fold our arms, bow our heads, and join them in silent prayer.

(When possible, lights should be dimmed and chimes sounded slowly nine times. After the ninth stroke, Achievement continues.)

Repeat after me: Let the little children come to me...*(repeat)*. Do not keep them away...*(repeat)*. For they are like the kingdom of Heaven...*(repeat)*. God bless Mooseheart...*(repeat)*. Amen...*(repeat)*.

Everyone will please face the Altar. *(Lights are turned up.)* Please be seated.

Now, with some added thoughts, here again is the Orientation Director.

ORIENTATION DIRECTOR: Earlier, we spoke of some of the privileges of membership. It is essential to remember that the Moose is, and always has been, a private organization whose privileges belong only to its members. Private organizations can only retain their protected and tax-free status if their members adhere to the Private Policy. You are asked to faithfully abide by this policy, and display your membership card when entering any Moose Lodge. Family and qualified guests are welcome, but only when they are accompanied by a member with an active membership card.

Now I ask if each of you believe in the purposes of The Moose that we have been describing, and if you sincerely desire to join with us in furthering our mission. If so, please answer "I do". (PAUSE)

Give your full attention to the obligation you are about to receive. Once taken, it shall bind you to us, and us to you, in a life of service to others:

In the presence of a Supreme Being and those gathered here, I pledge that I will obey the General Laws of The Moose and the by-laws of my Lodge.

I will propose for membership in The Moose only those of high personal character, and never oppose a qualified applicant without just cause.

I will bring my concerns to the leadership of The Moose, as provided by our laws, before appealing to any civil authority.

I will cherish and support, with my energy and substance, our children at Mooseheart and our seniors at Moosehaven.

Always remember, there is strength in unity, for a burden heavy to one is borne lightly by many.

All members desiring to reaffirm their faith in our fraternity, will please rise (PAUSE). Place your left hand over your heart, raise your right hand, and repeat after me, using your name where I use mine.

I _____ - freely and without reservation – accept the honor – and obligation of membership – in The Moose. – I pledge my service – to my fellow members – and to those in need – whom we support. – This obligation – will bind me for all time.

You may lower your hands. (PAUSE) It is my privilege to welcome you to our fraternity. We are honored that you have chosen to join with us.

Everyone will please rise. (PAUSE) Purity will now lead us in prayer.

PURITY: Let us fold our arms and bow our heads. (PAUSE) Almighty Father, who knows the hearts and minds of all His people, help each of us to accept – and continue – the oath of Moose allegiance. We ask You to hold us together in Your arms as we commit our lives to fraternity, fellowship, and service. We also ask you to bless Mooseheart and Moosehaven, so they will always be there for those in need. Amen.

ORIENTATION DIRECTOR: Everyone please be seated. (PAUSE) Congratulations! With this ceremony, we have become as one: one in spirit, one in purpose, and one in commitment.

As new members of The Moose, you are charged with two essential obligations. The first is to protect your fellow members, your families, and your fraternity itself, which includes the work of Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

Secondly, there is the obligation to strengthen our membership. This calls for your best efforts to encourage those qualified friends, relatives, and associates to join with us. By sponsoring them into The Moose, you will not only help us grow, but you will be sharing all the benefits and privileges of membership with others.

We wish to thank you for your participation and your attention. This ceremony will conclude as the Ritual Staff vacates their positions.

LODGE PRESIDENT: Our sincere thanks to the members of the Ritual Staff for relaying “The Story of The Moose” to you. I call on our Orientation Chairman to introduce the staff members.

(Orientation Chairman introduces himself and the other members of the staff.)

The Lodge President proceeds as follows:

- 1. Introduces the Lodge officers and other visitors or dignitaries in attendance.*
- 2. If the Lodge has an affiliated Chapter, the Lodge President calls on the Senior Regent to introduce the Chapter officers.*
- 3. If there is an Official Visitor, the Lodge President introduces the individual for his/her remarks.*
- 4. Calls on the Administrator for any final instructions for the new members.*
- 5. After all of these items, the Lodge President delivers any final remarks.*

LODGE PRESIDENT: Sergeant-at-Arms _____, please close the Bible and place the Endowment Fund cradle upon the altar.

LODGE PRESIDENT *(Gives two raps of the gavel):* Everyone will please rise. The Endowment Fund is vital to the daily operation of both Mooseheart and Moosehaven. Anyone desiring to contribute

to this fund is asked to approach the altar in an orderly manner, make your contribution, then return to your place and remain standing.

(After all have returned to their places, the Lodge President delivers the final charge from his station.)

LODGE PRESIDENT: Our ceremony having concluded, let us go forth with good thoughts, good words, and good deeds for all mankind. I fraternally bid you “Good night” (*or “Good afternoon” or “Good morning”, whichever is appropriate*).