



Broad Ripple Lodge No. 643, F. & A. M.

**1716 Broad Ripple Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220-2338**

Instructions for Petitions for the Degrees of Masonry

What to do:

You (the petitioner) fill out the Petition for the Degrees of Masonry, and return it to your sponsors, who will present them to the Lodge. Your petition must be accompanied by your check or money order for the amount of the petitioning fee (see below).

Before your petition can be voted on, the results of a background check must also be completed. You are responsible for the Background Verification fee. (**\$14.95**) Which is paid to the Verification Company. A Video walkthrough is available at brlodge.org/bgcheck

Submit the background check authorization at:

<https://www.indianafreemasons.com/verification-background-check>

1. Scroll down to the link that says Background Verification Site
2. Click Apply Now
3. Select MEMBERSHIP (\$14.95) and click Continue
4. Fill out the form, agree, and click Continue
5. Finish page 2 of the form, and for Location - specify **Broad Ripple**

The verification process will NOT work properly on a cell phone or tablet for security reasons. Please use a computer when filling out your information.

What happens next?

Your sponsors will bring your petition to the next Stated Meeting (business meeting) of the Lodge, where it will be read aloud to the members present. If it is decided to receive your petition, a committee on character consisting of three Master Masons, members of this Lodge, will be appointed to meet with you. While they will undoubtedly have questions to ask of you, you may also feel free to ask questions of them, which they will endeavor to answer so far as they may do so. (For instance, they will not answer specific questions about the three degrees.)

In the meantime, your petition will lay over for one month until the next Stated Meeting of the Lodge. It will again be read aloud to the members present, and the committee on character will give their individual reports. Your petition will then be voted on in a secret ballot by the members present, who will each cast a

white ball (yes) or a black cube (no) on the question. Your petition must receive a unanimous white ball vote in order for you to be elected.

Once you are elected by the Lodge to receive the Degrees of Masonry, you will receive a formal notice from the Secretary of the Lodge along with a pamphlet called "Welcome to Freemasonry: General Information About Freemasonry For the Candidate and his Family." As suggested by its title, this pamphlet is for your entire family to read (should they so choose), and explains many of the basic premises of Freemasonry. (You will probably also receive a phone call almost immediately from your sponsor when you are elected. In this Lodge we take such things very seriously.) At this time we will also schedule your First, or Entered Apprentice, Degree.

The Petitioning Fee

The Lodge's petitioning fee, which covers the cost of conferral of the three Masonic Craft Degrees, is **\$150**. This fee includes a \$10 donation to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, which is mandated by the Grand Lodge of Indiana. *Your check or money order will not be cashed unless and until you are elected.* If your petitioning fee is not received with your petition, your petition will be held up until the fee is received.

Please note -- the petitioning fee does not include Lodge Dues!

In addition to the petitioning fee, you will have to pay Lodge dues -- but not until after you have taken the third degree and become a full voting member of the Lodge. In Indiana, all Master Masons are liable for dues as of the date they are raised to that degree. Therefore, please note that, *upon being raised to the degree of Master Mason*, you will be billed for pro-rata dues for the current year based on the month in which you are raised. Broad Ripple Lodge's annual dues as of January 1, 2023, are \$155. Pro-rata dues are calculated starting on the first day of the month after you are raised:

Broad Ripple Lodge Pro-Rata Dues Schedule as of 2023					
Elected in	Dues are	Elected in	Dues are	Elected in	Dues are
January	\$155	May	\$99	September	\$43
February	\$141	June	\$85	October	\$29
March	\$127	July	\$71	November	\$15
April	\$113	August	\$57	December	\$0

However -- keep in mind that dues for the next year are due on January 1. So if you are raised in December, don't let the zero dues fool you, because you will owe a full year's dues on January 1.

Thank you for your interest in Broad Ripple Lodge. We hope to read your petition soon!

PETITION FOR THE DEGREES of FREEMASONRY

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of

Lodge No. F. & A.M., Indiana

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

- 1. (a) Name in full (b) Preferred Name (not a nickname) (c) Have you ever changed your name or used an alias?

2. Residence Address City State Zip + 4

3. (a) E-mail (b) 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 if necessary)

5. (a) Where born? (b) Date of Birth City/County State Month Day Year

6. (a) Fathers Full Name (b) Mother's Full Name

7. What is your occupation? If retired, what was your job previous to retirement?

8. List names and addresses of your employers, beginning with your current employment, for the past ten years. (Use back of Petition if necessary)

Table with 5 columns: 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 if necessary.) Address Year From Year To

Table with 3 columns: Address, Year From, Year To

10. (a) Single, Married, Widower, or Divorced? (circle one) (b) Spouse's Full Name (c) Date Married

11. Is or was your Father a Mason? If so, give full name, address, Lodge and Lodge location?

12. Have you ever served in the Armed Forces? Branch of Service

13. Describe your physical defects and deformities, if any:

14. Have you ever been charged in a court of law with a felony or crime of moral turpitude? Explain circumstances on separate paper.

15. I understand I must have a Background Check for this petition to be fully processed. Yes or I will not submit to a Background Check

16. (a) Have you answered all the questions above? (b) Upon your honor, are the statements and answers true?

Having resided during the past six months within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, F. & A.M., of Indiana, I hereby state that I am an adult male, believe in the Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul. 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.

SEE REVERSE SIDE

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 a Supreme Being, 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 his 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.

References (Name, Contact Information)

FOR LODGE USE ONLY

PETITION FOR DEGREES for _____
Name in full

Dates of Lodge actions: _____ Received at stated meeting of Lodge held on _____
Month Day Year

Rejected _____
Month Day Year

Investigating Committee Assigned

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Elected _____ Initiated _____ Passed _____ Raised _____
Month Day Year Month Day Year Month Day Year 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.

RECOMMENDERS (VOUCHERS) FROM PETITIONED LODGE, PLEASE FILL IN BELOW

We hereby certify that the petitioner has resided for the six months last past or has Masonic residence in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, that we are 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 report. 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 _____

Having known the petitioner for a period of _____ Day(s) _____ Month(s) _____ Year(s)

NAME (please print) _____ (signature) _____

Present address _____
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE ZIP

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

Having known the petitioner for a period of _____ Day(s) _____ Month(s) _____ Year(s)

Additional Recommenders (Vouchers) From Other Recognized Lodges (Additional comments on separate sheet) (Not a substitute for Petitioned Lodge Recommenders)

NAME (please print) _____ (signature) _____ LODGE NAME, NO. and LOCATION _____

Having known the petitioner for a period of _____ Day(s) _____ Month(s) _____ Year(s)

NAME (please print) _____ (signature) _____ LODGE NAME, NO. and LOCATION _____

Having known the petitioner for a period of _____ Day(s) _____ Month(s) _____ Year(s)