

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – *The Ring of the Scottish Rite*¹

The gold band Scottish Rite Freemason's wear is the Ring of the Perfect Elu, the 14th Degree in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

The words "perfect" and "perfection" as used in this Degree do not denote being "perfect" in the sense of being "flawless," but rather in the antiquated use of the word meaning "complete." Elu is derived from the Old French word "esleu" meaning, "A person who has been chosen by God." The ring symbolizes that completion and is an ever present reminder of our Masonic journey.

The ring of the Perfect Elu is a plain band of gold with *Virtus junxit, mors non separabit*, Latin for "What virtue has united, death cannot separate" inscribed on the inside. On the outside, it includes an equilateral triangle with the Hebrew letter "Yod" in the middle of an equilateral triangle. The triangle is emblematical of the three essential attributes of the Great Architect of the Universe: Omnipresence, Omnipotence, and Omniscience.

The Hebrew letter "Yod" in the center of the triangle is the first letter of the ineffable Name of God and serves to remind us of what was lost in the Third Degree and is found in the Degrees of Perfection. In so doing, the ring reminds us that as Freemasons we are identified with and should demonstrate continued dedication to that highest and most universal human aspiration: Reverence for and service to God.

¹ Compiled from Arturo de Hoyos, *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide*, 3rd Ed., Corrected (Washington, DC: The Supreme Council, 33°, SJ, 2010).

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – *The University of Freemasonry*²

A "university" is typically a group of schools or "colleges" aligned to provide advanced studies in a particular field of study. These colleges are where students study to receive their degrees, such as a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science or a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. To achieve these degrees, students devote themselves to study in various academic pursuits. Thus it is with the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry – the University of Freemasonry – consists of four "colleges", the Lodge of Perfection, the Chapter of Rose Croix, the Council of Kadosh, and the Consistory of the Masters of the Royal Secret or simply Consistory. In each "college," you pursue degree work in a particular major. In the college of the Lodge of Perfection – the 4th through 14th Degrees – you continue your Masonic study majoring in the continuation of the story of Hiram Abiff and the search for the Lost Word. The 15th through 18th Degrees comprise the college of the Chapter of Rose Croix which presents Faith, Hope and Charity as sure guides to our actions, and as the safest paths through adversity. You are instructed to follow them in their highest form of human expression: as Compassion and the Law of Love.

You pursue a major in philosophy and chivalry through the 19th and 30th Degrees of the Council of Kadosh." This series of degrees present various concepts of Deity from the world's religions and man's search to discover the Great Architect of the Universe, also drawing from the various Orders of Knighthood and the lessons we should draw from their history and deeds. Finally, in the college of the Consistory comprising the 31st and 32nd Degrees, a Mason learns that by self-sacrifice and the application of philosophical truth he may become part of an empire of intellect, reason, philosophy and wise morality.

² Compiled from Arturo de Hoyos, *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide*, 3rd Ed., Corrected (Washington, DC: The Supreme Council, 33°, SJ, 2010).

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – *Caps of the Scottish Rite*

“In the Scottish Rite, the caps indicate the consecration of one’s physical and spiritual (material and intellectual) attributes to the betterment of humanity. On the one hand, the caps are an inheritance from our chivalric tradition, as similar ones were associated with European Orders of Knighthood, where they evolved from the Arming Bonnet, worn under the helmet. On the other hand, they are also worn as a type of prayer cap, a tradition which also survives in some religions. Thus, the caps are a constant reminder that the physical must be subject to the spiritual and that, like knights, we must valiantly endeavor to maintain honor and virtue by applying the Moral Sense and Reason.”³

You may wonder, when you see the different color caps being worn by various members, what they denote. The **BLACK** cap denotes a Master of the Royal Secret, the title of a 32° Mason of the Scottish Rite. The great majority of the members wear this cap.

RED caps are worn by those members who are 32° Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, or KCCH. It is not a degree but an investiture bestowed by the Supreme Council upon members of the Rite deserving recognition for faithful services to the Rite. It is one of the great honors in all Scottish Rite Freemasonry to be designated to receive this honor.

The **WHITE** caps are worn by those who have been honored with the 33° Inspector General Honorary. The 33° is conferred by the Supreme Council upon members of the Rite in recognition of outstanding service to the Rite, or in public life, to the principles taught in the Scottish Rite Degrees. The 33° cannot be asked for and if asked for must be refused.

BLUE caps are worn by those Masons who have held membership in the Rite for at least 50 years. It is a great honor and achievement to have served the Scottish Rite for 50 years.

As the White Lambskin is the Badge of a Mason and the fez the badge of a Shriner, so is the regulation cap the Badge of a Scottish Rite Mason.

³ Compiled from Arturo de Hoyos, *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide*, 3rd Ed., Corrected (Washington, DC: The Supreme Council, 33°, SJ, 2010).

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – *Scottish Ain't Necessarily From Scotland!*⁴

Most outsiders—and even many Freemasons—assume that the fraternity's name, Scottish Rite, honors the roots of the group and that the fraternity originated in Scotland. Masonic historians throughout the world still seek the positive answer to this question. The use of the word "Scottish" has led many Masons to believe that the Rite originated in Scotland and that Scotland remains the fountainhead of its activity. Such is not the case.

The earliest documented records trace the actual beginnings of the Scottish Rite to Bordeaux, France, about the middle of the Eighteenth Century. Actually, the first reference to the Rite appears in old French records where the word "Ecosais" (pronounced a-ko-say) – meaning Scottish or tartan – and is found in the French titles of some of the degrees of the Rite of Perfection. During the latter part of the Seventeenth Century, when the British Isles were torn by strife, many Scots fled to France and resumed their Masonic interests in that country. One or two of the degrees are long supposed to have been devised by the Chevalier Andrew Michael Ramsay, a learned Scotsman, tutor to Prince Charles Edward, the Young Pretender. These degrees seem to have afforded a meeting place for those in exile in France, who were adherents of the Stuarts and who were plotting for the restoration of James II and his son to the throne of England.

From France, Scottish Rite Freemasonry was carried to French possessions in the West Indies and thence to the United States. The first Supreme Council was established in Charleston, South Carolina in 1801 and all other regular Supreme Councils throughout the world are descended from it. It is of interest to note that the Supreme Council for Scotland did not come into existence until 1846 and thus does not hold any priority which would call for the work of the Rite to be performed in that country.

⁴ Compiled from "Frequently Asked Questions," Valley of New York City, New York Council of Deliberation, Supreme Council, AASR, NMJ, USA, <http://www.aasrnyc.org/faqs> and "Scottish Rite History," Orient of Washington, Supreme Council 33^o, SJ, USA, <https://www.scottishritewa.org/scottish-rite-history>.

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – *What’s a Reunion?*⁵

The 4th through 32nd Degrees of the Scottish Rite are conferred during an event known as a Reunion. Two reunions are held each year – one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Candidates for the degrees in Scottish Rite Freemasonry who participate in a Reunion are collectively known as a “Class.”

The Scottish Rite is divided into four bodies – the Lodge of Perfection, Chapter of Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh, and Consistory – each conferring or communicating its own degrees. Conferral of a degree is done through elaborate one-act plays, staged with costume, scenery, music, and special effects. Communication of a degree is a short narrative of the degree and its important lessons which is read to the candidates. Not all Bodies of the Rite put on all the degrees in any one Reunion. Those which are omitted are communicated, and often those not “worked” in one Reunion are staged in the next. In any “class” the final degrees in each of the four bodies are invariably staged.

The 4th through 32nd Degrees of Scottish Rite Freemasonry trace the history of man's thought. They raise the great questions of ethics and morality. They ask us to consider just how those principles relate to our everyday life. More than one Mason has spent his life in the study of those questions. But a Reunion is much more than a convocation of scholars; these gatherings are termed 'Reunion' because they are a reuniting of the members after a period of separation to meet as friends, become reconnected, and share in fellowship.

⁵ Compiled from “Reunions,” Waco Scottish Rite, Waco, TX <https://wacoscottishrite.org/reunions/> and “Scottish Rite Reunion Classes,” Scottish Rite Freemasons of Denver, Denver, CO, <http://www.denverconsistory.org/reunions.html>.

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – *Who Is This Albert Pike Guy?*⁶

Born in Boston, Massachusetts on December 29, 1809, Albert Pike is asserted within the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction, USA as the man most responsible for the growth and success of the Scottish Rite from an obscure Masonic Rite in the mid-19th century to the international fraternity that it is today.

In 1855, the Supreme Council appointed a committee to prepare and compile rituals for the 4th through the 32nd Degrees. That committee was composed of Albert G. Mackey, John H. Honour, William S. Rockwell, Claude P. Samory, and Albert Pike. Of these five committee members, Pike did all the work of the committee. In 1857 Pike completed his first revision of the 4°-32° ritual, and printed 100 copies. This revision, which Mackey dubbed the "Magnum Opus", was never adopted by the Supreme Council but served as the basis for future ritual revisions. Pike also wrote lectures about all the degrees, which were published in 1871 under the title *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*. In 1884 his revision of the rituals was complete.

In March 1858, Pike was elected a member of the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, and in January 1859 he became its Grand Commander and remained so until his death in 1891 at the age of 82. His renown as a jurist, orator, philosopher, scholar, soldier, and poet extends throughout the world. The Albert Pike Museum at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC is a dedicated memorial to this highly regarded Masonic scholar, philosopher and historian. It prominently features Pike's personal Library, and also includes first editions and holograph copies of many of Pike's works; his original desk, lamp, clock, and chair; many personal items including Masonic regalia, and a representative sampling of his large collection of pipes.

⁶ Compiled from "Virtual Tour," Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, <https://scottishrite.org/our-museum/virtual-tour/> and "Scottish Rite," Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Rite.

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – “The Tyler’s Place” Podcast⁷

Freemasonry is more than just a fraternity. Freemasonry is a gathering of men from all walks of life, each with a unique story to tell and fantastic life lessons to share.

In days of old, those stories and lessons were handed down from brother to brother within the walls of the lodge. But today, it can be a challenge to stop and listen because of professional, personal, and family obligations, that can sometimes keep us from engaging and learning more about the men we call “Brethren.”

In an effort to bridge that gap, the Supreme Council, 33°, SJ, presents a monthly podcast series called The Tyler’s Place. The Tyler’s Place is a collection of stories, lessons and interviews by Masons, for Masons, and about Masons. Hosted by Bro. Maynard Edwards, KCCH, each episode offers a variety of topics on Freemasonry, such as: Interviews with interesting and inspiring people; historical facts and insights; and tips, tricks, and life-hacks for the modern Mason. And, The Tyler’s Place podcasts are short enough (~25 min.) to listen to while you’re driving to work, headed to a lodge meeting, or just relaxing at home.

New episodes generally air around the 15th of each month. But be on the lookout for special segments throughout the year. To learn more or to tune in, visit scottishrite.org and scroll down to The Tyler’s Place Podcast!

⁷ Compiled from “The Tyler’s Place Podcast,” Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, <https://scottishrite.org/media-publications/the-tylers-place-podcast/>.

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – *RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program*⁸

Most who are Masons, and many who are not, know that Shriners Hospitals “Help Kids Walk.” Let me introduce you to another Masonic charity perhaps not as well known, but equally important to children... the RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program – which “Helps Kids Talk.”

In the early 1950s in Colorado, the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States initiated a program to help children with speech and language disorders. The results obtained from this program led to the establishment of RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program (SRCLP) clinics to provide diagnostic evaluation and treatment of speech and language disorders, as well as learning disabilities.

Today, there are SRCLP clinics, centers, and special programs operating or planned for children and therapists located throughout the United States. The Old Dominion University Speech and Hearing Clinic in Norfolk, Virginia, is one of our SRCLP clinics, which provides diagnostic and speech therapy services for adults and children with speech, language, and hearing disorders. Since 1992, ODU’s clinic a part of the SRCLP and been supported by Tidewater Scottish Rite to provide services to children with speech and language disorders. With the support of the Tidewater Scottish Rite, the clinic also sponsors a Scottish Rite summer therapy program, therapy scholarships children in need of speech and language services, and academic scholarships for students pursuing degrees in speech pathology.

The value of this philanthropy has long been apparent. Tens of thousands of youngsters across the United States have been helped significantly. With the good work of dedicated clinicians and parents, the Scottish Rite has achieved successes that could only be imagined a few years back. Children who might have remained educationally behind for a lifetime can now talk, read, and lead productive lives.

⁸ Compiled from “RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program (SRCLP),” Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, <https://scottishrite.org/philanthropy/ritecare/ritecare-srclp/> and “ODU Speech & Hearing Clinic,” <https://www.odu.edu/partnerships/community/programs/health/speech-hearing>.

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – *Scottish Rite Research Society*⁹

The Scottish Rite Research Society® was formed on May 8, 1991, when fourteen Scottish Rite Freemasons were granted a charter by the Supreme Council, 33°, S.J. Activities and publications of the Society are governed by a Board of Directors, who are all Life Members of the Society, representing Scottish Rite valleys across the country.

Since its formation, the Society has become one of the most dynamic forces in contemporary Masonic research, pursuing a publication program that emphasizes quality—both in content and in physical form. *Heredom* is the flagship publication of the Society and has been delivered annually to members since 1992. It is a peerless collection of the finest and most thought-provoking essays on contemporary and historical Freemasonry, emphasizing the Scottish Rite. This annual hardback volume is delivered directly to members of the Society as a benefit of membership. Each volume contains multiple, in-depth manuscripts of Masonic research, reviewed by the SRRS editorial board.

The quarterly research journal is *The Plumblin*. The SRRS editorial board receives many manuscripts on Masonic history, philosophy, esoterica, customs, traditions, current interest commentary, and related subjects; *The Plumblin* focuses on research in such areas. Our mission is to provide our readership with scholarly, detailed writing about Freemasonry and the fraternal experience, as well as news and information about current events in the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry in general.

Anyone who is interested in deepening his or her understanding of Freemasonry would benefit from Society membership. One need not be a member of the Scottish Rite, or even be a Mason, to join the SRRS. To learn more, visit scottishriteresearch.com.

⁹ Compiled from “Scottish Rite Research Society,” Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, <http://scottishriteresearch.com/>.

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – *Scottish Rite Scholarships*¹⁰

Each year, the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, offers several scholarships and educational endowments for both undergraduate and graduate students.

The Sam and Millie Hilburn Scholarship is to pursue advanced education in the field of childhood language disorders and provides \$5,000 per year for tuition costs for a maximum of two years or upon earning a graduate degree in the field of Childhood Language Disorders, if that be sooner.

The Shepherd Scholarship is offered to individuals to pursue advanced education in fields associated with service to country and generally perceived as benefiting the human race and provides \$2,000 per year for tuition costs for a maximum of four years OR upon earning a degree.

The Public Schools Administration Scholarship makes available two scholarships for individuals who have completed master's degrees in some phase of education to assist the individuals in attaining a doctoral degree in public school administration. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$15,000 and is to be paid over a period of two years.

The Scottish Rite Endowment Graduate Fellowship at The George Washington University is awarded to full-time graduate students in the International Affairs, Business, Engineering and Applied Science, Education and Human Development, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Professional Studies, or the School of Public Health. And the Luther A. Smith Scottish Rite Scholarship at Vanderbilt University Law School provides financial aid for attendance at Vanderbilt University's School of Law in Nashville, TN.

To learn more about scholarships available from the Scottish Rite, please visit scottishrite.org.

¹⁰ Compiled from "Scottish Rite Scholarships and Educational Endowments," Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, <https://scottishrite.org/philanthropy/scholarships/>, The George Washington University <https://www2.gwu.edu/~fellows/fellowships/scottish.html>, and Vanderbilt University.

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – *Scottish Rite Foundation Natural Disaster Relief*¹¹

The Scottish Rite Foundation, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc. (Scottish Rite Foundation), is dedicated to helping victims of natural disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes. Through the Foundation, the Supreme Council provides direct relief to disaster victims and works with other Masonic groups to provide additional assistance.

One-hundred percent of all donations go to the relief of deserving families impacted by recent natural disasters. Contributions to the Scottish Rite Foundation, S.J., USA, Inc. are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. You do not have to be a member of the Scottish Rite in order to make a donation to the Foundation for natural disaster relief.

To donate, please visit <https://www.scottishritestore.org/disaster-relief-donation.html>

¹¹ Compiled from “Scottish Rite Disaster Relief,” Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Supreme Council 33^o, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, <https://scottishrite.org/philanthropy/disaster-relief/>.

SCOTTISH RITE BOILERPLATE – *The House of the Temple*¹²

The House of the Temple is the headquarters of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. Designed by John Russell Pope, it stands at 1733 16th Street, N.W., in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington, DC, about one mile directly north of the White House. It was modeled after the tomb of Mausolus at Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

The House of the Temple has been open to the public for guided tours since it opened in 1915. No tickets are required, and admission to the House of the Temple during regular hours is FREE for everyone. Free, guided tours are offered Monday–Thursday at 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, and 3:30 pm.

The House of the Temple Library is open Monday–Thursday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The main Library of the Supreme Council houses the Masonic Collection, where you will find any aspect of Freemasonry available – history, philosophy, symbolism, anti-masonry, poetry, lodge proceedings, periodicals, etc.

With more than 4,000 volumes from 68 countries, the International Collection varies widely and ranges from a single book for countries such as Zambia, Korea, and Malta to several bookshelves for countries such as Canada, England, and Germany. Topics cover a broad spectrum of Masonic interest and make this collection a unique source of information about the worldwide Masonic Fraternity.

The House of the Temple also contains a museum devoted to Albert Pike, who rewrote a number of the Scottish Rite rituals and headed its Supreme Council from 1859 until his death in 1891, and whose remains are buried in the House of the Temple.

¹² Compiled from “Our Museum,” Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, <https://scottishrite.org/our-museum/>.