

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEMBERS' PATHWAY

The Members' Pathway is a planned approach to attracting, introducing and retaining new members.

It is a series of Steps that a Lodge can follow to take a man who is interested in Freemasonry, but not yet a member, all the way through a journey to become a committed Master Mason.

The Pathway draws on the experiences of and the techniques used by many strong and healthy Lodges across our constitution. The evidence from these Lodges indicates that there is good reason to be optimistic about our future. In addition, [research from outside of the Craft](#) indicates there are many suitable men who would be attracted to Freemasonry if they knew a little more about it.

The evidence also demonstrates that lasting and committed membership is most likely to be achieved when:

- applicants and candidates are carefully screened to be sure they meet the qualifications for membership;
- both the Lodge and the candidate make their expectations clear to each other;
- there is a good match between the Lodge and the candidate; and
- both parties work at meeting each other's expectations.

Each Step in the Pathway is available in a variety of formats, including a mobile app and web based documents. Each format includes links through to more detailed information that includes associated tools, techniques and templates. All have been tried and tested and found to help, although each Lodge may select those that best suit their needs and circumstances. There is also a skills training programme available from Provinces.

A [positive public image](#) and good local reputation is a necessary foundation upon which the Pathway is built but is not part of it. Other work is underway to help Freemasonry develop its public image.

THE PATHWAY IN OVERVIEW



- Step 1. The Lodge prepares a plan comprising a review of its current practices, a Lodge profile, if appropriate a profile of its “ideal candidate”, how it will increase its visibility in its local community and the assignment of specific responsibilities related to the introduction of new members.
- Step 2. From a collated ‘long list’ of Family members, Work colleagues, Social club members, Friends, Fellow worshipers, etc, and using the profiles compiled in Step 1, Lodge members prepare a ‘short list’ of people who might be approached with a view to joining the Lodge.
- Step 3. A member or members approach a prospective candidate to find out whether he might be interested in Freemasonry and to help him learn enough about us to decide whether he wishes to pursue membership. *Note: this is not an invitation to join; the candidate must still ask to become a Freemason and acceptance will depend upon suitability.*
- Step 4. Alternatively a “potential candidate” approaches the Lodge, or is referred to the Lodge, with an expression of interest. Such approaches need to be validated and sponsors found.
- Step 5. Sponsors discuss Freemasonry and membership in detail, to screen the prospective candidate, to determine whether he meets the qualifications for membership.
- Step 6. If sponsors and candidate both wish to proceed, the prospective candidate is now an “applicant”. He completes a Grand Lodge Registration Form and goes to formal interview. A small permanent interview panel conducts the interview on behalf of the Lodge Committee.
- Step 7. If the Interview Panel recommends him as a suitable candidate then he is proposed, balloted for and prepared for initiation.
- Step 8. The Personal Mentor, whether he be a sponsor or another experienced Freemason, provides the new member with support tailored to his individual needs, as he goes through the ceremonies and experiences aspects of Freemasonry for the first time.
- Step 9. At an appropriate point after the new member has taken his Third Degree and has some understanding of the Craft, he is introduced to the Royal Arch and encouraged to consider membership.
- Step 10. Retention involves a series of positive activities a Lodge can undertake to help the new member gain enjoyment and satisfaction and to grow in his commitment, and preventive activities to respond to any signs of dissatisfaction.
- Step 11. In the regrettable event that a member submits his resignation, there are activities to retrieve his membership. This Step is co-ordinated by Metropolitan / Provincial / District Grand Lodges.

As soon as a candidate has taken his obligation he is a Freemason and a “member”, no longer a “Candidate” but a “Brother”. The Members’ Pathway refers to “new” or “newer”, not “young” or “junior”, members.

Note: For ease of reading, throughout the Members’ Pathway we refer to Provinces. All references to Provinces should be taken to apply equally to Metropolitan and District Grand Lodges / Chapters.

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