



Shining the Light on York Rite Masonry

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons has a unique opportunity for you to increase your knowledge and understanding of Freemasonry in 2023. I am offering all Master Masons in Arkansas a chance to take the first two degrees of the Chapter, Mark Master and Past Master, at **NO COST** on a Saturday afternoon.

The degree of Mark Master explains how a Fellow Craft can receive his wages for work on the Temple. You will learn the origin of the “Mason’s Mark” and you will select for yourself your own personal “mark”. As with all Masonic degrees, other valuable and important lessons will be given to you.

The degree of Past Master consists of those instructions given to the incoming Worshipful Master of a Symbolic Lodge. Even if you have served as Worshipful Master there are important lessons to be learned in this degree. The degree also reminds us of the duties we all owe to our Symbolic Lodge. This degree is sometimes called the “Virtual Past Master’s Degree” because it does NOT grant any of the privileges bestowed on a Past Master of a Lodge.

Dates and location of these two degrees:

¥ June 10, 2023 – Hot Springs Lodge Hall, Hot Springs; 9:00 a.m.

¥ June 17, 2023 – Jonesboro Lodge Hall, Jonesboro; 1:00 p.m.

¥ June 24, 2023 – Washington Lodge Hall, Fayetteville; 1:00 p.m.

I am doing this program to introduce my Masonic Brothers to some of the wonderful lessons the Royal Arch Chapter teaches...but not all! I hope that after taking these two degree you will want to continue your journey in the York Rite of Freemasonry by completing the Chapter degrees in a special Festival on July 15, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Scottish Rite Temple’s York Rite area (north end of the building) in Little Rock. This is a very special Festival because it will be dedicated to Most Excellent Companion Steven G. Tiner, of North Little Rock, who is currently serving a three-year term as the General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International. He is the world-wide head of this important Masonic Body.

There are two additional York Rite Bodies, the Council of Royal & Select Masters and the Knights Templar, which not only expand your knowledge but will also inspire you, as it has me, to “learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry”. More information about these bodies will be provided at the degrees.

Now is the time to begin your journey. Complete the special petition and return it to the Grand York Rite office, by either mail or email. I know you will not be disappointed.

Fraternally,

Troy W. Cole, PM
Grand High Priest
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Arkansas