



*Austin Scottish Rite*



# Reunion - Frequently Asked Questions

Scottish Rite Masons are taught that there is no Masonic distinction or higher prestige than that of "Master Mason" and that the noblest and most significant emblem is the Apron of the Master Mason. The Scottish Rite is based on Blue Lodge Masonry. The conferring of the first three Degrees is recognized as the unquestioned prerogative of the Symbolic Lodges. The Scottish Rite confers the Fourth through the Thirty-Second, inclusive. At all times it acknowledges the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master as the supreme authority in Masonry. When a Mason for any cause loses his standing in the Blue Lodge he loses his membership in the Scottish Rite.

## **What is a Reunion?**

A Scottish Rite Reunion is a reunion of the membership after a period of separation. It is a homecoming get-together of the brethren in a continuing fellowship of the Fraternity. It is a time of renewing our interest and devotion to the program and purpose of the Scottish Rite.

## **How does Scottish Rite Masonry impart its teaching?**

The degrees of the Scottish Rite are grouped in four classifications. The Ineffable Degrees, including the Fourth to the Fourteenth, are conferred in the Lodge of Perfection and relate to the Temple at Jerusalem and to legends familiar to every Mason. The Historical and Religious Degrees, comprising the Fifteenth to the Eighteenth Degrees, are conferred in the Chapter of Rose Croix; while the Philosophic and Chivalric Degrees, consisting of the Nineteenth to the Thirtieth Degrees, expound the Chivalric teaching of Knighthood and the truths of philosophy, and are conferred in the Council of Kadosh. The glorious pageantry of Degrees reaches its climax in the Consistory Degrees, the Thirty-First and Thirty-Second, which are Ceremonial and Official. In splendid panorama, embellished by music and artistic settings and the effective use of lights, color and costumes, the Degrees of the Scottish Rite present the wisdom of the ages.

## **What are Supreme Council, Orients, and Valleys?**

The governing body of the Scottish Rite is the Supreme Council. It is composed of active and deputy members of the 35 states and several overseas jurisdictions that make up the Southern Jurisdiction. Each state or jurisdiction that belongs to the Southern Jurisdiction is called an Orient. The local Scottish Rite body is called a Valley. Each Valley has up to four Scottish Rite bodies, and each body confers a set of degrees. In the Southern Jurisdiction these are the:

- Lodge of Perfection (4° -- 14°)
- Chapter of Rose Croix (15° -- 18°)
- Council of Kadosh (19° -- 30°)
- Consistory (31° -- 32°)

#### **What are the Reunion Class Officers?**

At the final day of the reunion the members of the reunion class will elect their president and secretary who will represent the class. These officers will be responsible to organize the members of their class and ensure their continued involvement the following year. Generally, reunion classes take on a project of their choice. Such a project could be presenting a degree in the next reunion, hosting a festive board, or raising funds for costume and stage improvements.

#### **What are the 33° and K.C.C.H?**

The Thirty-Third is a Degree conferred by the Supreme Council. At its biennial session certain 32° Masons who have been 32° Masons at least four years, and who have rendered singular service to the Rite, are chosen to receive the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor.

#### **What is the symbolism of the Double-Headed Eagle?**

The double-headed eagle was probably first accepted by Masonry, as a symbol, in the year 1758. In that year, the body calling itself the Council of Emperors of the East and West was established in Paris. The double-headed eagle was likely to have been adopted by this Council, which claimed a double jurisdiction; one head inclined to the East to guard any and all who might approach from that direction, the other head guarding the West for a like purpose. The Council adopted a ritual of twenty-five Degrees, all of which now contained in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, to which eight more were added so as to make thirty-three Degrees of which our Rite is now composed.