



# Austin Scottish Rite

## General Information

Welcome to the Scottish Rite Valley of Austin. Joining a new masonic body can feel overwhelming with its different structure and many new names. Here is a list of some of the main ones to help you become acclimatized more quickly.

Name	Meaning
<b>Dress Code</b>	The Austin Scottish Rite recommends coat and tie for all meetings.
<b>Office Hours</b>	The General Secretary is available Mondays and Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
<b>Reunion</b>	A meeting at which the degrees of the Scottish Rite up to the 32° are conferred, friendships renewed and the teachings of the degrees are expanded upon.
<b>Communicated</b>	A degree where the lessons and teachings are explained but not performed.
<b>Exemplified</b>	A degree that is performed in full.
<b>Stated Meeting</b>	Monthly meetings during which the valley performs its essential business. Usually preceded by meetings of the Collegium Ecosaise, and a special dinner served by the Garde Manger.
<b>Collegium Ecosais</b>	Organized study group to the members knowledge of masonic history, philosophy and the Scottish Rite degrees.
<b>Sanhedrin</b>	Works behind the scenes to set up and manage the stage, wardrobe, sound and lighting for the Reunions and Stated Meetings.

<b>Garde Manger</b>	Prepares and serves food and refreshments during all Valley events. This includes Reunions and Stated Meetings. This is the equivalent of the Stewards in Blue Lodge Freemasonry.
<b>Knights of St Andrews – Thistle</b>	Invitational honors service organization. It serves the General Secretary to support all administrative, operational and other needs. They are recognized by a tartan sash.
<b>Festive Boards</b>	The Valley organizes several Festive Boards each year. A festive board is a banquet by which brethren enjoy fellowship. Participation is always appreciated in the preparation and organization of the event.
<b>SGIG</b>	Sovereign Grand Inspector General is the head of the Orient. He represents all the member Valleys to the Supreme Council.
<b>Personal Representative</b>	The head of the Valley of Austin. He represents the valley to the Orient of Texas and the Supreme Council. He is directly responsible for all events and activities of the Scottish Rite in Austin and Central Texas.
<b>General Secretary</b>	Responsible for the daily operation of the Valley. He processes petitions, dues payments, records the happenings of the lodge during stated meetings, and organizes all administrative operations of the Valley.
<b>Almoner</b>	The Almoner is an elected officer of the Scottish Rite Bodies whose duty is to dispense the charities of the Lodge. The identity of anyone requesting assistance from the Almoner is held in the strictest confidence and will never be made public.
<b>Prelate</b>	Is an the chaplain and an officer of the Lodge of Perfection. He is responsible for “sickness and distress” and organizes the Scottish Rite funeral team.
<b>Sovereign Grand Commander</b>	The highest ranking Scottish Rite mason and the active head of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction.
<b>KCCH</b>	Knights Commander of the Court of Honor is not a Degree but an Investiture bestowed upon members 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.
<b>Thirty-third Degree</b>	The Thirty-third Degree 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 Degrees.
<b>Cap Colors</b>	The hats that Scottish Rite masons wear are called prayer caps, or caps for short. They are worn instead of the traditional masonic aprons. These caps are available in different colors, to

represent different levels of membership. The basic cap is black with a double-headed eagle embroidery on the front. This is available to all 32° members. The red cap is worn by KCCH members. White caps are worn by 33° members. Light blue caps are worn by 50 year members. Purple caps are worn by the heads of the orient and the supreme council itself.

**Fourteenth Degree Ring**

This ring can be worn by any regular Scottish Rite Mason, and is often worn instead of the regular master mason ring. The Scottish Rite 14° degree ring is a flat, plain band of gold, and embossed thereon is a plate in the form of an equilateral triangle and within the triangle is the Hebrew letter yud (י).

**Thirty-third Degree Ring**

The 33° ring is a triple band of gold, either plain or with a triangular plate of gold enclosing the numerals 33. Engraved on the inside is the Latin motto: *Deus meumque jus* (God and my right).

**Patent**

New members will receive an English Patent inscribed on parchment with your name. These usually are mailed from the Supreme Council 30-45 days after your initiation and are suitable for framing.

**Albert Pike**

One of the greatest Scottish Rite scholars of his, or any, time. He became Sovereign Grand Commander of the Rite in 1859, a very few years after joining the Rite, and he revised the degrees. Some of his most famous literal works include "Morals and Dogma", "Esoterika" and "Magnum Opus".

**First line signer**

A special honor is bestowed upon all first line signers of new petitions. They are encouraged to help new members become fully accustomed and integrated into the Valley.

**Double-headed Eagle**

The symbol of the Scottish Rite. The wings of the eagle point downwards in the Southern Jurisdiction and upwards in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

**Valley**

The most local body of the Scottish Rite. This is the equivalent of a local lodge in regular freemasonry. It is headed by the Personal Representative.

**Orient**

The orient is a wider geographical area and combines multiple valleys into one body. This is the equivalent of a district in regular freemasonry. It is headed up by the SGIG (Sovereign Grand Inspector General).

**Supreme Council**

This is the largest organizational body of the Scottish Rite and includes all valleys under its jurisdiction. It is the equivalent of a Grand Lodge in regular freemasonry. It is headed up by the Sovereign Grand Commander.

**Southern Jurisdiction**

Its official full name is "The Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the

Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America." It was formed in 1801 as the first Scottish Rite body in North America.

**Northern Jurisdiction**

The NMJ (Northern Masonic Jurisdiction) was founded by the authority of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction between 1813 and 1815. It includes the fifteen states East of the Mississippi and North of the Mason Dixon Line.

**Bodies**

The Scottish Rite is divided into four Bodies, or Lodges. Each has its own officers, and each governs a portion of the degrees of the Rite.

The Lodge of Perfection conferring the Ineffable Degrees (4° to 14°), Chapter of Rose Croix conferring the Historical and Religious Degrees (15° to 18°), the Council of Kadosh conferring the Philosophical and Chivalric Degrees (19° to 30°), and the Consistory conferring the Ceremonial and Official Degrees (31° and 32°). Each Body is complete in itself and is self-governed, although the financial affairs of the entire group are vested in the Lodge of Perfection.

**VMAP**

Annual Valley Membership Achievement Project. This is the Scottish Rite equivalent of the Grand Lodge Vanguard Award.