

SCRIPT FOR YORK RITE PRESENTATIONS TO SYMBOLIC LODGES

Companions and Sir Knights, please read from this script when giving your York Rite presentation. The parts in italics are for your benefit, not to be read aloud. Read over the script before your presentation, so you will be familiar with it. Read from the script, not from the slides. Give the Brothers time to read each slide before moving on to the next one. If you can, try to make the presentation with one or two other Companions. If you have it, wear a red or purple coat or a Commandery uniform. You can wear an apron with the Commandery uniform, but, as a courtesy to the Master, don't wear the chapeau or sword in Lodge. Be confident. Good Luck!

SLIDE 1: *Introduce yourselves, tell the Craft that you represent the Grand York Rite of Kentucky and the Local York Rite, and thank the Master and the Lodge for inviting you to give this presentation.*

SLIDE 2: Masonry is a search for more light, or knowledge. We will now show you the Masonic light available to you in the York Rite of Freemasonry.

SLIDE 3: The York Rite and Scottish Rite work together to foster Masonic unity to our mutual benefit. The Kentucky Scottish Rite website tells us the following: “The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is commonly known as the Scottish Rite. It is one of several appendant groups of the worldwide fraternity known as Freemasonry. Each Valley has up to four Scottish Rite bodies, and each body confers a set of degrees...The Scottish Rite is one of the two branches of Freemasonry in which a Master Mason may proceed after he has completed the three degrees of Symbolic or Blue Lodge Masonry. The other branch is known as the York Rite, consisting of Royal Arch Masons, Royal and Select Masters and the Knights Templar.”

SLIDE 4: Master Masons are eligible to join several Masonic Appendant Bodies, and here are just a few. Wikipedia tells us, “the third Masonic degree, that of a Master Mason, represents the attainment of the highest rank in all of Masonry. Additional degrees are sometimes referred to as appendant degrees, even where the degree numbering might imply a hierarchy. They represent a lateral movement in Masonic education rather than an upward movement, and are degrees of instruction rather than rank.

SLIDE 5: “In the beginning, God said, “Let there be light and there was light!” Let there be Masonic light in the York Rite.

SLIDE 6: When you were raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, you received, on the Five Points of Fellowship, the Grand Masonic Substitute Word. Have you ever wondered about the True Word of a Master Mason?

SLIDE 7: Master Masons in good standing with their Symbolic Lodges are eligible to become York Rite Masons.

SLIDE 8: If you believe any of the following apply to you, and you want to advance in Masonic knowledge, then the York Rite is for you: (*Refer to the list on the slide*)

SLIDE 9: The York Rite is composed of the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Commandery of Knights Templar, a collection of degrees and orders designed to exemplify and explain the teachings that were not addressed in the Symbolic Lodge degrees. These teachings include the historical backgrounds and Ancient Craft Customs of the Symbolic degrees. The degrees and orders of the York Rite are rich in pageantry and color, and are dramatically presented in full regalia and costumes. We have no memory work or proficiency lectures in the York Rite.

SLIDE 10: As Masons meet in Lodges at Stated or Called Communications, Royal Arch Masons meet in Chapters at Stated or Called Convocations, and as Lodges confer Symbolic degrees, Chapters confer Capitular degrees, and refer to their meeting room as the Tabernacle. The four degrees of Royal Arch Masonry are:

The Mark Master degree, in which we see the Senior Warden “pay the Craft their wages if any be due, and see that none go away dissatisfied.”

The Virtual Past Master degree, which accords the holder no rights in a Symbolic Lodge, but does qualify him to receive the Royal Arch Degree.

The Most Excellent Master degree, where we see King Solomon's Temple completed.

The Royal Arch degree, in which we see King Solomon's Temple destroyed, and the long lost True Word of a Master Mason is discovered in ruins.

SLIDE 11: Royal Arch Masonry came to Kentucky when Chapter No. 1 was formed in Lexington on November 22, 1814. The Grand Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons, was formed on January 2, 1818.

SLIDE 12: Royal and Select Masters meet in Councils, at Stated or Called Assemblies, refer to their meeting room as The Secret Vault, and confer the following Cryptic degrees:

The Royal Master and Select Master degrees portray the events of the Second Section of the Master Mason degree, but from the perspective of our three Ancient Grand Masters.

The Super Excellent Master is an honorary degree, qualifications for which are fulfilled by virtue of being in good standing in a Council. This degree is the most dramatic and spectacular of all Masonic systems.

SLIDE 13: Without the Royal and Select Master degrees, neither the Master Mason degree nor the Royal Arch degree is complete. These two degrees account for the concealment and preservation of the treasures revealed in the Royal Arch degree. The Grand Council of Kentucky, Royal and Select Masters, was formed on December 10, 1827.

SLIDE 14: Knights Templar meet in Commanderies, at Stated or Called Conclaves, and refer to their meeting room as the Asylum. The Knights Templar confer Chivalric orders instead of degrees. The three orders are:

The Order of the Red Cross is founded upon Truth, a divine attribute, the foundation of every virtue.

The Order of Malta is where the teaching of the Christian applications of Masonic precepts begin.

Order of the Temple is the crowning glory of York Rite Masonry. It is widely regarded as the most solemn and impressive experience in Masonry. Here the aspirant progresses in the footsteps of Jesus of Nazareth. At the empty tomb grows a sprig of acacia, teaching that we shall dwell forever in the realms of life and light eternal.

SLIDE 15: Freemasonry demands only a belief in a monotheistic God, where Hindu, Muslim, Jew and Gentile may together worship around its alters. The Christian Freemason alone has at his disposal a branch of the fraternity where he is free to interpret the teachings of the Symbolic Lodge according to his religious belief. The Masonic Orders of Christian Knighthood are the logical outcome of the Christian Mason's belief in Christ as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. This Mason believes Christ's hand will raise the dead to life, and in His Holy Name the True Word is found and restored at last. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar!

SLIDE 16: As Masons care for our widows, orphans, sick and distressed, and support Masonry Matters, Masons Helping Masons, and our Masonic Homes, each York Rite Body has its own philanthropy.

Royal Arch Masons support Royal Arch Research Assistance Since its start in 1974, Royal Arch Research Assistance (R.A.R.A) has been the world's leading philanthropy dedicated to helping children with Central Auditory Processing Disorders. R.A.R.A., through the contributions of Royal Arch Masons, supports the Center for Central Auditory Research at the University of Arizona, where continuous efforts are being made to understand and treat individuals with Central Auditory Processing Disorders. Individuals with CAPD typically have normal hearing acuity but are unable to efficiently process or interpret speech when in a minimally-noisy environment.

Royal and Select Masters support the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, which in turn supports the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine, located at the Indiana University School of Medicine, and the Richard Roudebush Veteran's Administration Medical Center located at Indianapolis Indiana. Diabetes, stroke, poor circulation, heart failure, wound healing, and many other diseases share the common denominator of blood vessels, or vascular biology. Our contributions support an organization that addresses many different health concerns. Our motto is, "Together, we can!"

Knights Templar support The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, which participates in direct patient care through the Seniors Eye Care Program in partnership with EyeCare America and the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Our research dollars have helped develop new, nonsurgical, treatments for strabismus (crossed eyes). Since its inception, the Foundation has expended over \$140 million on research, patient care, and education. Research grants totaling in excess of \$23 million have been awarded to researchers working in the fields of pediatric ophthalmology and ophthalmic genetics. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation is among America's leading contributors to children's eye care research.

SLIDE 17: You Are Cordially Invited to Join!

We meet Once or twice monthly, usually in the Masonic Temple or Meeting Hall of a Symbolic Lodge, and are located all over the state.

Initiation Fees range from \$100.00 to \$200.00, and annual dues range from \$20.00 to \$150.00 inclusive.

The Degrees and Orders of the York Rite can be conferred at a One-Day York Rite Festival, or one or two degrees or orders per meeting at your local York Rite Bodies.

SLIDE 18: Learn the historical and Biblical origins of our Masonic degrees and customs, and continue on your journey from the West to the East, in search of more Masonic Light.

SLIDE 19: We encourage each of you to join us in this Great and Good Work. Continue your Masonic education. Experience Chivalry and Knighthood in the 21st Century. Why wait? You won't be disappointed!

SLIDE 20: *While this slide is displayed, ask for any questions.*

SLIDE 21: *Tell the Brothers about the local Chapter, Council, and Commandery, and when and where they meet.*

SLIDE 22: *Thank the Master and the Lodge for inviting you to give this*