

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE PROGRAM 2025-2026

*An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.  
Bro. Benjamin Franklin*

*The first requisite of a good citizen in this Republic of ours  
is that he shall be able and willing to pull his weight.  
Bro. Theodore Roosevelt*

- A. District Committeemen should maintain regular, direct contact with Worshipful Masters in their District and visit each Lodge on a regular basis.
- B. District Committeemen should place into the hands of each Worshipful Master and Secretary in their District a hard copy of the program and the Annual Report Form and maintain regular communication with them, provide assistance and guidance, and encourage the submission of the Annual Report.
- C. District Committeemen should conduct Public Education and Citizenship Workshops in their District to inform all Brethren of the scope of the program and encourage participation and assist with annual reports.
- D. District Committeemen should establish and maintain contact with each high school in their District and inform them of The Grand Lodge of Florida Scholarship Program as well as provide application forms and guidelines.
- E. Zone Chairmen should maintain regular, direct contact with each District Committeeman and visit Lodges in their Zone.
- F. The State Chairman will, from time to time, communicate with Zone Chairmen and District Committeemen to provide guidance with the program, to answer questions posed, and to encourage Zone, District, and Lodge participation.
- G. **The Annual Report required of each Worshipful Master** (form included in the Program Book) **will be submitted to the State Chairman no later than midnight, February 1, 2026, as an attachment in an email message sent to R.:W.: Oscar Patterson, III, P.D.D.G.M., at [opatters@comcast.net](mailto:opatters@comcast.net). A copy should be sent to the Zone Chairman**
- H. **The success of the Public Education and Citizenship Program depends on the dedication and hard work of the Committeemen who have direct, personal contact with each Lodge in their District both during the D.D.G.M. Official Visit and through regular communication with sitting Masters.**
- I. District Committeemen and Zone Chairmen should mark their calendars to indicate the Annual Report due date, scholarship application due date, and keep the Masters of all Lodges informed of deadlines and reporting methods.

### Public Education

Public education in our state and nation has but one intent; the preparation of the next generation of citizens and leaders. To accomplish this task, we have established twelve aspects to a successful educational program which are based soundly on the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences promulgated by our great Fraternity.

- a. To ask questions and to be creative in the utilization of the answers received;
- b. To be able to read, write, and speak with some level of distinction;
- c. To be able to understand and utilize numerical data;
- d. To understand history and its consequences;
- e. To understand the scientific method and its application in our world;
- f. To make ethical choices and assume responsibility for those choices;
- g. To hear and see more through the artistic experience;
- h. To understand the world beyond our own senses and borders;
- i. To develop sequential learning and the imagination that generates great discoveries;
- j. To develop a grasp of technological developments and their applications;
- k. To be able to see the world and to understand what we see without bias or prejudice;
- l. To understand that changes come through innovation and through new ways of seeing.

To accomplish those goals in Florida, “the Grand Master may appoint a Committee on Public Education and Citizenship. This Committee shall make such studies, prepare such material, and conduct such programs of instruction and dissemination of information in regard to public education and citizenship as shall be authorized and directed by the Grand Master.” (R. 13.20)

Early in our history, when illiteracy was the norm and the people were mostly agrarian laborers, there were no public institutions dedicated to improving the lot of the people and providing a solid future for coming generations. Freemasonry led the way during those ages in developing a competent working class capable of independent thought and action. Masons of previous generations established schools – Brother Benjamin Franklin and the University of Pennsylvania come readily to mind – or otherwise worked to enhance educational opportunities.

However, we elect to assist those engaged in this process, we, as Masons, can still make a significant impact on future generations by supporting public education and championing the cause of our public school systems at this point in our history.

### **Citizenship**

The basic principles of American Citizenship are simple:

- a. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are privileges that people are born with and that cannot be taken away.
- b. Equality under the law requires that all people be treated equally without regard to any external factor.

To further these principles, it is essential that our citizens, especially our students, undertake the study of the following:

1. The basic principles of American Citizenship to include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;
2. Equality under the law;
3. Recognize that citizens have worked and still work to defend American principles;
4. Understand that being an American is defined by the shared basic principles of the Republican Form of Government;
5. Know what the term “Republican Form of Government” means and how we are a constitutional republic with a representative democracy;
6. Understand that the American people come from different ethnic origins and different countries but are united as Americans by our basic principles.

### **The Link**

The link between education and citizenship is clear. It is through our system of public education that current and new citizens develop their ideas about our republic, our way of life, our concept of plain dealing, and truth, and above all, our ability to imagine and then realize our plans.

To enhance the relationship between public education and citizenship your Grand Lodge has created this program, and, through the Public Education and Citizenship Committee, we will realize our goal: an educated, literate citizenry prepared to participate fully in American life.

The program detailed below has five parts: Scholarships, Adopt-A-School/Teacher, Good Citizenship, I Love America, and JROTC. All Lodges in the State of Florida are encouraged to participate in one or more of these activities. Complete details are provided in the program and additional information may be obtained from the State Chairman for Public Education and Citizenship.

Each Lodge that engages in one or more of these activities **is strongly encouraged to utilize various media to publicize their activities.** Florida Masonry must make the public aware of our contributions to our educational system and to the development and maintenance of Good Citizenship.

## **The Program**

The **Public Education and Citizenship Program** encourages local Lodges to establish or renew connections with high school advisors and teachers to keep them informed of the scholarship program and other educational opportunities. Local Lodges are also encouraged to establish and maintain regular contact with Scout and other youth leaders in the community to include JROTC instructors, 4-H leaders, PAL coaches, Explorer counselors, and other youth advocates. When a scholarship is presented, an award made, or youth recognized for Good Citizenship, we strongly encourage the Lodge to send a representative to the school's awards night or to the organization sponsoring the activity to make the presentation on behalf of the local Lodge and The Grand Lodge of Florida. The impact of personal contact with teachers, administrators, students, the students' parents, and the public cannot be overemphasized.

1. Public education has, in Florida and most other states, seen a steady erosion of financial and community support for its programs while experiencing new, complicated requirements for student achievement and accountability. To offset this reduction in funding the **Adopt-A-School/Teacher Program** is in place and will continue.
2. **The Good Citizenship Program** for middle school students dovetails with Florida's public education requirement that 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies classes include the "Bill of Rights" in the curriculum.
3. **The I Love America Program** for public schools involves the presentation of a U.S. Flag that has flown over our nation's capital as well as a patriotic speaker and an award to the author of the best essay.
4. **Outstanding JROTC Cadet** enables Lodges that participate in this program to establish contact with all JROTC senior military instructors and NCOs at the high schools in their jurisdiction and to recognize outstanding JROTC cadets by requesting that military instructors select an "Outstanding" cadet. The Lodge will present the selected cadet with an appropriate certificate recognizing his/her accomplishments and, if desired, a \$100 award. The certificate and award should be presented during the JROTC unit's Annual Award Ceremony.

**If a Lodge desires to make a monetary award, it is best done in the form of a check. Lodges participating in the Public Education and Good Citizenship Program should include these items in their annual budget.**

As we make these presentations; as we support our local schools and teachers; as we recognize students for their accomplishments; and as we work to instill in the next generation the ideals of good citizenship, we serve the Craft. **These events present us with an exceptional opportunity to further public knowledge through the media of our Fraternity, its foundation, its goals, and the reasons that it has existed since time immemorial.**

The program outlined above is in the hands of the local Lodges and Brethren. Your Grand Lodge can provide assistance and materials, but only you can provide the motivation and implement the plans. Only you can make contact with local teachers, present scholarships to deserving students, and further the cause of Freemasonry in your community.

Fraternally submitted,

R.: W.: Oscar Patterson, III, P.D.D.G.M., State Chairman 2025-2026  
Public Education and Citizenship Committee  
248 Patrick Mill Circle; Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082  
Cell: (904) 955-9175; Email: opatters@comcast.net

## Public Education and Citizenship Program Suggested Activities

- Lodges in Florida should consider establishing contact with local funding agencies and non-profits that support public education and citizenship and inquire about financial support for Lodge activities. There are numerous such agencies and businesses in Florida, many local in nature, that make grants to not-for-profit organizations for the purpose of public service and education. **The Public Education and Citizenship Committee therefore encourages all Lodges in Florida to investigate funding opportunities for Lodge Scholarships and other worthy activities.**
- District Committeemen shall encourage Lodges to qualify for the Public Education and Citizenship Award. This encouragement should be given during the D.D.G.M. visits. The award is presented by the Grand Master at the Grand Lodge Communication.
- District Committeemen should endeavor to conduct a Public Education and Citizenship Workshop in their District. The Zone Chairman will assist the District Committeemen upon request and the State Chairman is available for advice and guidance.
- A list of special speakers should be maintained by each District Chairman to assist his Lodges in planning and carrying out Public Education and Citizenship focused programs and events.
- A list of films or videos which may be used in public presentations is available upon request.
- Local Lodges may hold special meetings to honor community leaders, educators, police, fire fighters, emergency responders (EMT), Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts. Certificates of Appreciation, Eagle Scout, and Gold and Silver Girl Scout awards are available through Grand Lodge. **Submit requests for these Grand Lodge Certificates to the State Chairman at least one month prior to presentation (form in program book).**
- Local Lodges should establish a strong connection with the senior military instructor at high schools' Junior Reserve Officers Training Course (JROTC). Sometimes, when it proves difficult to gain admission to a school, working through the senior military instructor can solve the problem. As part of this connection, the Lodge may recognize an outstanding JROTC cadet each year by presenting them a certificate and a \$100.00 check funded by the local Lodge. **JROTC Certificates should be requested from the State Chairman at least one month prior to presentation (form in program book).**
- Local Lodges should have Masonic Youth Groups bring programs to Stated Communications. It is preferable to do this during an Open Meeting where non-Masonic guests such as parents are welcome. DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, and Job's Daughters have impressive programs.
- Local Lodges should, as part of Masonic Education as well as Public Education and Citizenship, consider including issues of community interest such as crime prevention, healthcare, and the responsibilities of citizenship. Almost all public agencies—Sheriff's Offices, Fire Departments, Social Services, Senior Centers, Health Departments, and so forth, have individuals ready and prepared to make presentations upon invitation.

- Local Lodges desiring to present Grand Lodge Certificates should contact the State Chairman one month prior to the presentation to obtain the certificate properly signed and affixed with the Grand Lodge Seal.

Masonry also has a long tradition of contributing directly to the public welfare. To this end, we can promote Citizenship through the local Lodge by:

- Volunteering time to participate in community projects such as removing graffiti, clean up and beautification projects, neighborhood watch programs, and assisting with senior citizen groups or youth activities;
- Attending and/or participating in various public activities such as Memorial Day, Veterans' Day, Presidents' Day, Flag Day, Independence Day (July 4<sup>th</sup>), Constitution Day, and other such observances. Many of our Brothers are veterans and the presence of a Lodge at a "Massing of the Colors" can be impressive;
- Conducting an Open Meeting during Americanism month and feature The Traitor Play or a special speaker;
- Consider offering the Lodge Building for community activities such as voting, blood drives, and other related activities. Those in your community who supervise these activities will be able to determine if your Lodge meets their requirements.

**When a Lodge participates in a Public Education and/or Citizenship activity, it is worth the effort to submit a brief newspaper article and accompanying photograph to your local media and other media outlets. Let the public know what we, as Masons, are doing in our communities. Please send a copy of all news releases and published articles to the State Chairman.**

The Public Relations and Publicity Committee is ready to assist with publicizing information about Lodge events if provided the opportunity and given sufficient notification.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TEN (10) \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS**

Each Lodge in the State of Florida is hereby encouraged to establish a strong connection with local public schools and inform them of the **Public Education and Citizenship Scholarship Program**. This may be done by establishing contact with the local superintendent and, through that office, the principals. Individual Lodges may also establish contact directly with high school principals in their community and, through them, school guidance counselors. The guidance counselor is the individual who coordinates information about scholarship opportunities. Lodges are further encouraged to **submit brief news items to local media to promote this scholarship program**. A sample of a recently published article is available from the State Chairman.

## THE PROCESS

### PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP STATEWIDE ESSAY PROGRAM

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- Eligibility:** Graduating High School Seniors in the State of Florida who will **receive their high school diploma in spring 2026** and **who will be attending a STATE OF FLORIDA SUPPORTED INSTITUTION (college, university, community college, technical college, or other such institution of higher education governed by the Florida State Board of Regents or the Florida Department of Education)** during the following term (semester or quarter). The applicant must enter the school within one semester/quarter (excluding summer sessions) after having been awarded the scholarship.
- Requirements:** **An essay of no less than 1,000 words or more than 1,250 words on the topic “Why Education is Important” and a completed Scholarship Application Form.** All work must be original and the essay becomes the property of The Grand Lodge of Florida.
- Deadline:** **January 20, 2026**. The application and essay must be received by the State Chairman no later than midnight on January 20, 2026. Any applications and essays received after that date will be returned.
- Submission:** **Send essay and application as a Word file or PDF file attached to an email message. Send to Dr. Oscar Patterson, III, at [opatters@comcast.net](mailto:opatters@comcast.net). In the subject line enter “Grand Lodge Scholarship Application”**
- Purpose:** To continue Freemasonry’s support of the youth in our society and to reinforce our belief in the Public School Systems in our nation.
- Information:** Scholarship checks will be made payable to the institution designated by the recipient and placed into an account for the sole purpose of the recipient’s use. If not utilized within one semester/quarter (excluding summer sessions), the scholarship will be withdrawn and added to the following year’s program.
- Essay Format:** The essay submitted should conform to the **Format Guide**. Please refer to the following pages for the application and guidelines on essay preparation. It is critical that all essays submitted contain the proper content—the topic is **“Why Education is Important”**. Essays will be judged based upon **adherence to format, content, grammar, spelling, syntax, punctuation, and other such aspects.**

**PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP  
2025-2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

(Please type)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Last                                      First                                      Middle Initial

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Number and Street                                      City and State Zip

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
                    Area Code Phone Number                                      DD MM YYYY

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

College Student ID Number (If available): \_\_\_\_\_

Present School or Last School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Number and Street                                      City and State Zip

Estimated Date of High School Graduation: (Month and Year): \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend (give full name of college or university). [Must be a State-supported institution within the State of Florida]

Name of college or university:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Course of Study or Major: \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED MUST BE PROVIDED TO QUALIFY.**

Send completed application and essay to: Dr. Oscar Patterson, III, at [opatters@comcast.net](mailto:opatters@comcast.net).

Application and essay must be submitted as a Word document or .PDF file attached to an email message. In the subject line enter "Grand Lodge Scholarship Application."

**APPLICATIONS AND ESSAYS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT, JANUARY 20, 2026**

**PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP  
STATEWIDE ESSAY PROGRAM  
FORMAT GUIDE**

1. The essay should be typed using Times New Roman type case.
2. Type size should be 12 pt.
3. The essay, including the cover page, should be double spaced with no additional spaces between paragraphs.
4. The essay should be typed using standard indentation at the beginning of each paragraph.
5. The standard margin should be one inch (1 in.) top, bottom, left, and right.
6. The essay should have a cover page. Centered on the cover page, top to bottom and between the margins should be the following: title of essay, author's full name, name of school at which currently enrolled.
7. Pages should be numbered beginning with the title page as page 1. Page numbers should be in the upper right corner of each page.
8. Each page should contain a header, also in the upper right, which contains the author's last name. Should the title page be separated from the essay, this will provide for immediate identification. If MS Word is used to prepare the essay, the inclusion of a header and page number may be preset. Refer to MS Word Help for instructions on the use of headers.
9. **The exact word count should be included at the end of the essay. The essay should be no less than 1,000 words nor more than 1,250 words in length.** If the author utilizes MS Word, the word count may be printed automatically. Refer to MS Word Help for directions.
10. The essay will be judged based on content, grammar, spelling, syntax, punctuation, and other such aspects of proper language usage and essay construction as well as adherence to format.
11. It is strongly recommended that the author ask a member of the school's English faculty to review the essay for format, style, content, and construction prior to submission.



## THE MALCOLM ARCHIE MCDOUGALL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our Corporate Board has instituted a new scholarship program in memory of Bro. Malcolm Archie McDougall.

**The Malcolm Archie McDougall Scholarship** is intended to provide young men and women familiar with our Masonic family with opportunities to expand their educational pursuits. Scholarships can be used for vocational, certificate, licensure, and post-secondary programs, such as bachelor's or associate degrees, and may also include graduate degree scholarship opportunities for qualifying applicants. A maximum of three \$5,000.00 scholarships are awarded annually.

**Scholarship Cycle:** TBD Summer/Fall 2025

**Scholarship Application:** All applicants complete a 500-word essay outlining their life and educational goals and how the scholarship can directly help them achieve their goals.

**Scholarship Eligibility:** Applicants must have a GPA between 2.00 and 3.00. Most recent transcripts are required for high school senior and college-age applicants.

**Awards:** The Grand Lodge of Florida Corporate Board does not read or review applications. Scholarships are reviewed and scored by an outside review committee. Scholarship awards are for a total of \$5,000.00 to be disbursed over 3 years at \$2,000.00 in year one and \$1,500.00 in years 2 and 3. Years 2 and 3 funding are dependent on outlined vocational or educational minimums. Awards are non-transferable to other applicants or family members. Any unused funds are returned to the Grand Lodge of Florida's Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc., Fund.

**Scholarship Award Use:** Scholarships can be used toward current academic-related expenses directly through institutions. Scholarship awards cannot be reimbursed for prior academic expenses, professional licensure renewals, student loans, or childcare. **MAMS** makes award payments to educational institutions, not individuals. Scholarship checks are mailed to the recipient's home address for them to forward to the school/institution.

**History:** Malcom Archie McDougal grew up poor during the Great Depression but would go on to become a Master Mason, a Shriner, and a retired World War II veteran. He retired as a distinguished Chief Petty Officer from the U.S. Navy having served all over the world from Saipan to the Pentagon. Later in life he would establish McDougall's Auction Company in Jacksonville, Florida, which he ran successfully for 40 years before finally retiring with his wife Margaret Siebold. Malcolm Archie McDougall died in 1998 and was buried with full military honors in Jacksonville Memory Gardens.

Having been what some might say an average student growing up, Mr. McDougall never forgot the impact that having the opportunity to continue his education had on the success in his life. One of his wishes was to afford other young men and women with the same opportunities. This is why the Malcom Archie McDougall Scholarship was established.

## **APPLYING FOR A MALCOLM ARCHIE MCDOUGALL SCHOLARSHIP**

**ELIGIBILITY**            **High School Seniors and college-age applicants in the State of Florida**

**SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATION  
AND ESSAY**

**Each applicant must submit a 500-word essay outlining their life and educational goals and explain how this scholarship will help them attain those goals. It is preferable that essays be a WORD document.**

**Each applicant must submit a recent transcript and have a GPA between 2.00 and 3.00.**

**Each applicant must complete and submit the application form attached.**

**Application deadline is FEBRUARY 1, 2026.**

**Applications and essays should be sent via e-mail to Dr. Oscar Patterson, III, at [opatters@comcast.net](mailto:opatters@comcast.net).**

**Transcripts should be mailed to Dr. Oscar Patterson, III, 248 Patrick Mill Circle, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.**

**MALCOLM ARCHIE MCDOUGALL SCHOLARSHIP  
GRAND LODGE OF FLORIDA  
APPLICATION FORM**

**PLEASE TYPE**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
                                    **LAST**                                    **FIRST**                                    **MIDDLE INITIAL**

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
                                    **NUMBR AND STREET**                                    **CITY, STATE AND ZIP**

**PHONE NUMBER:**(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I PLAN TO ATTEND:**

**NAME OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Program of Study:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL INFORMATION, ESSAY AND APPLICATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AS NOTED  
BY THE DEADLINE STATED.**

## ADOPT-A-TEACHER/ADOPT-A-SCHOOL

The **Adopt-A-Teacher or Adopt-A-School** activity enables Lodges to directly support public education in their community. There are more schools than Lodges, so Lodges are encouraged to rotate this program among the various schools in their District. The program is most effective at the elementary school level though middle schools and high schools should not be excluded.

Once the Lodge selects a teacher at a particular school or a particular school, the Lodge should meet with the school's principal (for either aspect of the program) and explain the Adopt-A-Teacher and Adopt-A-School Program. The Brothers who attend this meeting should be prepared to answer questions about Freemasonry as well as the Public Education and Citizenship Program.

An **Adopt-A-Teacher or Adopt-A-School Certificate** with the appropriate seals and signatures of the Grand Lodge noting that the said Lodge has adopted a particular school or teacher for the purpose of volunteering their help, aid, and assistance in the education process will be presented to the school by the Lodge. This certificate should be presented at a school function or in an Open Lodge Meeting. It should be appropriately framed for display in the school's office.

**Please submit requests for certificates to the State Chairman one month prior to the presentation. The required application is included in the program book.**

Lodge involvement in the **Adopt-A-Teacher/Adopt-A-School** Program may include but is not limited to:

- Partnership programs
- Volunteer time as a chaperon for field trips (may require a background check)
- Assist with sporting events (ticket taker, score keeper, etc.)
- Donate and plant trees and/or shrubs on school property and/or assist with maintenance
- Sponsor student participation in The Special Olympics or other such activities
- Provide a list of Lodge members who will participate in Career Days, speak on patriotic topics, or present a program
- Be a reader for elementary students (may require a background check)
- Be a tutor or mentor for a student (may require a background check)

For the **Adopt-A-Teacher/Adopt-A-School** Program, there are several ways to identify and select the school or teacher to adopt. A Brother may nominate a teacher or a school; nominations may be solicited from principals or other school administrators as well as from teachers; or a careful perusal of local media stories about education may suggest an adoptee.

When a Lodge participates in the **Adopt-A-Teacher/Adopt-A-School** Program, that Lodge should utilize local media outlets and *The Florida Mason* to properly publicize this community activity.

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. It is our responsibility as Freemasons to assist with their intellectual and moral development. The **Adopt-A-Teacher/Adopt-A-School** Program serves to reduce the "mysterious" aspect of Masonry. As students, teachers, and administrators see that our members are their neighbors and colleagues, the reputation of Freemasonry will only be enhanced.

**Submit this form at least one month prior to presentation. Send as an attachment to an email message to:**  
**R.:W.: Oscar Patterson, III, P.D.D.G.M., at [opatters@comcast.net](mailto:opatters@comcast.net). In the Subject line please put “Adopt-A-Teacher/Adopt-A-School Program”**

## Good Citizenship Program for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

The state agency responsible for public education requires that 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies classes include a study of The Bill of Rights as part of the standard curriculum. Reports from throughout the State of Florida indicate that the approved textbooks barely cover the subject and do not provide our students with a full understanding of and appreciation for this most important document.

A Lodge may participate in this program by establishing contact with principals and teachers at schools that include the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. When contact is established and the program is explained, the Lodge provides to the school a copy of a poster that covers The Bill of Rights. The Lodges may copy the poster or that may be done by the school. It should be printed front-to-back and given to each student in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies class. During the classroom discussion of this important document, the students could take notes on their copy of the poster and the teacher is able to use it as a graphic instructional tool. The students keep the poster with their notes for future reference. **A COPY OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS SUITABLE FOR PRINTING IS AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE CHAIRMAN UPON REQUEST.**

Lodges may elect to partner this program with the **Adopt-A-Teacher/Adopt-A-School** Program and offer the services of a Brother who is well versed on The Bill of Rights as a guest speaker to explain one of the most important documents in United States history.

## I LOVE AMERICA PROGRAM

- Obtain a U.S. Flag that has flown over the U.S. Capitol. This can be done through your local U.S. Senator's Office.
- Establish contact with school officials at the system or school level and explain the **I LOVE AMERICA PROGRAM** and the impact it can have.
- Explain the essay part of the program and encourage teachers and principals to distribute information about the program to all students in the Fall.
- Identify the guest speaker for the event.
- Meet with local school officials and set a date and time for the program during the month of October. Contact may be made with a senior Military Instructor since his/her program tends to focus on this theme and these individuals have more flexibility in allowing guests to attend their classes and make presentations.
- Publish information about the **I Love America Essay**. **Each Lodge may establish its own rules and deadlines for submission of the essays. These rules MUST be published so that all students in the school selected can participate.**

**NOTE: Should the Lodge elect to focus this program on one specific grade, it is best to include all sections of that grade in that school. It is strongly recommended that essays be submitted at least two (2) weeks prior to the presentation and that at least three (3) Brothers serve on the committee to select the winner.**

- Confirm the speaker, date, time, and location of the event.
- Work with Brothers in the Lodge to organize the event.
- Conduct the program.
- Recommended program format:
  1. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance;
  2. Comments from school representatives/teacher;
  3. Master of Ceremonies introduces member of the sponsoring Lodge and the Guest Speaker. He also thanks the for school for participating in the project;
  4. Master of Ceremonies presents the U.S. Flag and announces the winner of the essay part of the program. Lodges may present a check for \$100 to the winner.

(In previous years, it was recommended that a U.S. Savings Bond be presented. The process used to obtain such a bond has changed drastically so it is recommended that the Lodge consider presenting a check instead.)

- Lodges should present an appropriate memento or certificate to the essay winner and to the school, in addition to the U.S. Flag.

**Essay Evaluation:** Individual Lodges may establish their own criteria for judging essays. It is recommended that the essays be no less than 500 words or more than 750 words in length. The essays should be judged by at least three Brothers. Essays should focus on the topic **“Why I Love America.”**

## WHY I LOVE AMERICA ESSAY AWARD

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Award: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School

Address

City

Zip

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

Presented to: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Essay Winner

Flag Presented to: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School

Name of Principal

Lodge members who plan to attend:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address

City

State

Zip

**Submit the completed form at least one month prior to the presentation as an attachment to an email sent to: R. W. Oscar Patterson, III, P.D.D.G.M., at [opatters@comcast.net](mailto:opatters@comcast.net). In the subject line please place "Why I Love America."**



## **JROTC OUTSTANDING CADET AWARD**

This program recognizes outstanding high school students enrolled in Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine JROTC units in our public schools. The award is given on the recommendation of the military instructors at the respective high schools. The award recognizes a consistent high degree of merit and accomplishment in terms of leadership, education, and general excellence in the JROTC program, the academic program, and other activities.

### **The process:**

- Lodges should establish contact with the Senior Military Instructor at all high schools in their area that have a JROTC program. This should be done early in January. Explain the program to the Instructor and send him several copies of the nomination form.
- Provide the Senior Military Instructor with the name, address, email address, and phone number for the Brother responsible for this activity.
- Request that the Senior Military Instructor return the completed nomination form to the selected Brother no less than three (3) weeks prior to the JROTC unit's annual awards program.
- Coordinate with the Senior Military Instructor to have at least one Brother attend the annual awards program and make the presentation.
- Request JROTC Outstanding Cadet certificates from Grand Lodge by sending the completed form to the State Chairman one month prior to the presentation.
- Make the presentation.
- Submit press releases to local media, *The Florida Mason*, and the State Chairman.

**JROTC OUTSTANDING CADET NOMINATION**  
**(To be submitted to the Lodge by the Senior Military Instructor)**

**PLEASE TYPE**

Date of Submission: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month, Day, and Year

Sponsoring Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge Name Lodge Number

Name of Cadet Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

Cadet's Rank and Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: Sergeant, Squad Leader)

Cadet's Year in School (check one): 9<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 10<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 11<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 12<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Name of JROTC Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Number and Name City State Zip

Senior Military Instructor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Military Instructor's Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Signature and Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Day Month Year

**Lodges should submit the completed form to the State Chairman at least one month prior to presentation so that a proper certificate may be prepared. Send the form as an attachment to an email to [opatters@comcast.net](mailto:opatters@comcast.net).**

**In the subject line enter "JROTC Outstanding Cadet."**

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP AWARD 2025-2026

**EACH LODGE SHOULD COMPLETE THIS REPORT AND SUBMIT IT DIRECTLY TO THE STATE CHAIRMAN NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1, 2026.** Presentations will be made at the 2026 Grand Lodge Communication. **NOTE:** Every Lodge that accumulates at least **100 points** will receive a plaque or tab for outstanding service to PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP. **Multiply the point value of each event by the number of events to determine the total for each category.** Total all categories to determine the Grand Total. Ask your District Chairman, Zone Chairman, or District Deputy Grand Master for assistance.

**ALL LODGES SHOULD FILE A REPORT REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF POINTS ACCUMULATED.**

**THIS REPORT IS TWO (2) PAGES IN LENGTH. PLEASE SUBMIT BOTH PAGES WITH THE PROPER SIGNATURES BY THE DEADLINE NOTED.**

ACTIVITY	Points	Number Of Units	Total Points
1. Grand Lodge Certificates of Appreciation to deserving recipients for civic service, public education, and citizenship.	5		
2. Presentation of at least one \$100.00 cash scholarship/award to a deserving student or students.	5		
3. Assist municipality or county in non-partisan voter registration and promotions.	5		
4. Use of the Lodge by Scouting groups, senior citizen organizations, or non-Masonic groups.	5		
5. Conduct a family program in the Lodge with a public official as the guest speaker.	5		
6. Sponsor a party or visitation to a children's home, a home for the elderly, a VA nursing home, or other such facility.	5		
7. Donation of \$50.00 or more to the Public Education and Citizenship Plaque Fund or Special Project Fund.	5		
8. Donation of \$75.00 or more for a Grand Lodge billboard to support the Grand Lodge Publicity Committee or the erection of a Masonic roadside sign.	5		
9. Sponsor a youth group, Scout group, little league team, DeMolay, Rainbow, or Job's Daughters.	10		
10. Present the Flag Folding Ceremony at a meeting of an appropriate organization and present a U.S. Flag.	10		
11. Present a JROTC cadet with the Outstanding Cadet Certificate and monetary award.	10		
12. Submit appropriate articles and photographs to local media outlets and <i>The Florida Mason</i> for all activities.	10		
13. Participate in the <b>Adopt-A-School</b> project as described.	50		
14. Participate in the <b>Adopt-A-Teacher</b> project as described.	50		
15. Participate in <b>Good Citizenship Program</b> for 7 <sup>th</sup> grade, present posters, give a talk on The Bill of Rights.	25		
16. Participate in the <b>I Love America Essay</b> project and Flag Presentation.	25		
17. Participate in a District Public Education/Citizenship Workshop.	5 pts. per Brother attending		
18. Other community service projects or activities (describe on attached sheet).	5		
<b>GRAND TOTAL POINTS</b>			

Lodge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Worshipful Master: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type name and sign)

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type name and sign)

**Submit completed form to: R.: W.: Oscar Patterson, III, P.D.D.G.M., State Chairman, as a Word document or PDF file attachment to an email sent to [opatters@comcast.net](mailto:opatters@comcast.net).**

**Deadline: February 1, 2026. In the subject line please place “Public Education/Citizenship Annual Report.”**

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP AWARD SCORING GUIDE**

1. Grand Lodge Certificates presented – 5 points for each certificate **obtained from Grand Lodge** and presented for civic service, public education, and citizenship including JROTC, Adopt-Teacher/School.
2. Each Lodge scholarship funded in the amount of \$100 or more – 5 points per scholarship awarded.
3. Voter registration – 5 points if a Lodge participates on annual basis.
4. Use of Lodge for free by scouts, senior citizens, non-Masonic groups – 5 points for each group, not each meeting.
5. Family program with civic leader – 5 points for each program.
6. Visitation to Masonic Home, etc. – 5 points per visit, **not 5 points per member who visits.**
7. Donation – 5 points per donation.
8. Donation – 5 points per donation.
9. Sponsorship of youth group – 10 points per group. If a Lodge permits Rainbow/DeMolay/Job’s Daughters to use Lodge at no costs that is worth 10 points. If Lodge provides a sponsorship for other youth group in form of financial support or leadership – 10 points per group sponsored or supported not per meeting.
10. Flag folding ceremony – 10 points for each ceremony performed for an appropriate organization such as Scouts, JROTC, or a Masonic Association. This must be a Lodge activity performed by Lodge members.
11. JROTC certificates – 10 points for each **Grand Lodge JROTC Certificate** presented. Nomination form is in program book.
12. Articles for publication – 10 points for each article submitted to *The Florida Mason*, local media, or Grand Lodge of Florida Facebook page.
13. Adopt-A-School – 50 points for each school adopted. Guidelines and application form for adoptions are in the program book, certificates come from Grand Lodge.
14. Adopt-A-Teacher – 50 points for each teacher adopted. Guidelines and application form are in program book. **Certificates come from Grand Lodge.**
15. Good Citizenship Program – 25 points. See program book for guidelines.
16. I Love America Essay – 25 points for each presentation. Flag should be obtained through a Congressman or Senator and certified as having flown over the US Capitol.
17. District or Zone Workshop, Public Education/Citizenship – **5 points per Brother attending.**
18. Other community project – 5 points per project. Must include description of project with reporting form.