Welcome to the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Valley of Fayetteville
Orient of Arkansas
Rites of Masonry in the U.S.

• There are two rites or systems of Masonry in the United States.
  – The York Rite - first Lodge in America est. 1733, St. John’s in Boston.
Rites in Masonry in the U.S.

• and The Scottish Rite

• There are two Scottish Rite jurisdictions in the U.S.
  – the Northern Jurisdiction
  – the Southern Jurisdiction.
  – Conferring the 4° - 33°
The Southern Jurisdiction . . .

• To which you are about to become a member,

• is “the Mother Supreme Council of the World”.

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."
Now, a little history of the Rite

• **Note:** The Premier Grand Lodge of England was founded on 24 June 1717 (the York Rite Lodges).

• There’s evidence that by the early 1730’s in England, there were “Scotch Masons” or “Scots Master Masons,” a step after the Master Mason Degree.
Why is it called the Scottish Rite?

• Because it came from France!

• Seriously, an English Lodge (Loge L’ Anglaise) founded in Bordeaux, France in 1732 had a penchant for the so-called “high degrees”.

• Many of the degrees of that Lodge are believed to be of Scottish origin, including the degree of Scottish Master.

• **Bro. Stephen Morin** was a member of that Lodge and was authorized to establish Bodies of a 25 degree Rite in Kingston, Jamaica in 1763.
Morin meets Henry A. Francken

• He authorizes Francken to establish Masonic Bodies in the New World who begin to confer the degrees in New York in 1767.

• One of the new candidates, Bro. John Mitchell, would be named Deputy in Charleston, South Carolina.
These French high degrees,

• unlike the English York Rite, were spread by traveling Inspectors who conferred them for a fee.

• It wasn’t necessary to wait for enough Masons in a town to receive the high degrees somewhere else and for them to apply for a charter; the itinerant Inspector could take care of everything as soon as he arrived.
Eight bodies of the Royal Secret

- were formed in America before 1800, from New Orleans to Albany.
- The weakness of the Order proved to be the unchecked system of Inspectors General.
Each Inspector General

- could confer the degrees on Master Masons, establish local bodies, and create new Inspectors—all for an appropriate fee.
- There were no guidelines on cost, no limitation on numbers, and no restriction on how many more Inspectors an Inspector could create.
- By 1800 there were over 80 Inspectors General, and the system was moving toward chaos.
Then on May 31, 1801

- the first Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree, the Mother Council of the World, declared its existence with a motto of “Ordo ab Chao” (Order from Chaos).
- Established in Charleston, South Carolina with John Mitchell as the 1st Sovereign Grand Commander.
It announced a new 33-degree system of high degrees that incorporated all 25 of the Order of the Royal Secret, and added eight more, including that of 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General.

- This new organization declared control of high-degree Masonry in America.
This Body is often referred to

- as the Supreme Council at Charleston and exists today as the Supreme Council, 33° - Southern Jurisdiction.
- This becomes the creation of a Supreme Council to govern the rite in America.
In 1813,

- a member of the Supreme Council established in New York a Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

- In 1823, the Supreme Council granted jurisdiction of the fifteen states east of the Mississippi River and north of the Ohio River to the Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction.
A new home in D.C.

• In 1911 the Mother Supreme Council began construction of a national headquarters of the Supreme Council in the District of Columbia, called the House of the Temple.

• Finished in 1915, the House of the Temple remains their headquarters to this day. It is located at 1733 Sixteenth Street, NW
The Scottish Rite Bodies

- The Scottish Consists of 4 separate bodies that confer 30 degrees:
  - The Lodge of Perfection (4° - 14°)
  - The Chapter of Knights Rose Croix - (15° - 18°)
  - The Council of Knights Kadosh - (19° - 30°)
  - The Consistory of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret (31° - 32°)
  - 33°

(See handout)
The Fourth through the Fourteenth Scottish Rite Degrees are known as the

• “Ineffable Degrees” because these Degrees treat the rediscovery of the ineffable name of God. By “ineffable” we mean “incapable of being expressed in ordinary language.”

• The Degrees contained in the Lodge of Perfection, are so named because they bring to conclusion the story commenced in the Blue Lodge, teach the quest for light, and inspire the awakening of one’s moral and intellectual nature.
The Fifteenth through Eighteenth Degrees are conferred in a Chapter Rose Croix.

- The first two in this series focus on the legend of rebuilding Solomon’s Temple.
- The last two relate the story of the imminent coming of the Christian Savior.
- In the Eighteenth Degree, Jesus of Nazareth is portrayed as an example of the messiah or savior described in many of the world’s faiths.
The Nineteenth through Thirtieth Degrees comprise the Council of Kadosh.

- Kadosh is a Hebrew word meaning “holy” and/or “consecrated.”
- These Degrees are philosophical, mystical, and chivalric.
- They are designed to further explore the moral and ethical lessons taught in the Lodge of Perfection and Chapter Degrees.
The Consistory - 31\textsuperscript{st} and 32\textsuperscript{nd} degrees

- The last two Degrees are presented by a Consistory of Masters of the Royal Secret.
- The Thirty-First Degree reminds us of the ultimate task of man’s self-examination. The Thirty-Second Degree teaches us that the search for perfection is ongoing.
The Chivalric Degrees: 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>.

- The chivalric Degrees lead us to a metaphor often misunderstood by both Masons and non-Masons alike.
- As the knights of the crusades sought the liberation of the Holy Land, we seek to liberate ourselves from the bonds of intolerance, prejudice, and ignorance.
- Thus, in some Degrees, we are styled “Knights.” We believe that when man is unfettered from these chains, he will naturally seek to work with his fellowmen in the great causes of humanity.
The Great Masonic Camp

- The pinnacle of chivalric symbolism in Scottish Rite Masonry is the Great Masonic Camp. We present it here as a hint of the symbolism of the 32nd Degree.
- It is composed of nested polygons whose significance will be unfolded to you.
- Superimposed upon these nested polygons are symbolic camps representing the Degrees of Craft Masonry and those of the Scottish Rite.
- The banners shown contain symbols that will be explained after you have been properly prepared to receive them.
Salix nonis tengu
Lux inens nos agit
Over the course of today, we will

• Discuss each body between the various degrees.
• Discuss the organization of the Rite in Arkansas.
• Talk about regalia and titles.
• The Honors of the Rite.
Before you begin your journey

• No one can understand or appreciate the depth and complexity of the Scottish Rite without reading and studying after today.
• This Rite was never intended for the mundane and those unwilling to study.
• It will take years of involvement and participation to fully understand and appreciate Scottish Rite Freemasonry.
What an exciting time in your Masonic Career!

- Be attentive today!
- Don’t be concerned if you are overwhelmed. We all were at one time!
- Pledge to yourself that you will become active in the Scottish Rite.
- The time you invest will be well worth it.
Monthly Communications

• You are urged to attend our monthly stated communications.

• **Vital educational programs** about Masonry and the Scottish Rite takes place at each meeting.

• We meet on the 4\textsuperscript{th} Wednesday, each month here at the temple

• Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

• We have two reunions each year: April and October - usually the first Saturday of the month.
The one day Reunion

- During a one day reunion, we can only confer the mandatory degrees.
- They are: the 4\textsuperscript{th}, 14\textsuperscript{th}, 18\textsuperscript{th}, 30\textsuperscript{th}, and the 32\textsuperscript{nd}.
- These are referred to as the opening degree and the terminal degrees in each body.
- Needless to say, much will be missing.
Western Arkansas Lodge of Perfection

• Conferring the 4\textsuperscript{th} - 14\textsuperscript{th} degrees.

• Continues the Hiramic Legend of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} degree.

• Let’s get started.

• What about the first three Scottish Rite degrees?
Western Arkansas Lodge of Perfection

• The 4th - 14th degrees are called the Ineffable Degrees because their principal purpose is the investigation and contemplation of the ineffable name of Deity.
Western Arkansas Lodge of Perfection

• Before we begin, three topics of utmost importance must be reviewed.
  – The legend of Hiram
  – Concepts of Deity
  – The Lost Word.
The Hiramic Legend

- Factual History vs. Masonic Tradition
- The legends are further merged with an older one dealing with Enoch.
- It is discovered that Solomon’s Temple was built near the ruins of an ancient Temple erected by Enoch with a secret vault.
The Hiramic Legend

- The legend of the Ineffable Degrees ends in triumph and disaster.
- The Temple is finished, the sacred name of Deity is discovered.
- And the Perfect Elus are created.
- However, Solomon and the Kings that follow depart from the ways of the Lord and Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah and the Temple is destroyed.
Concepts of Deity - Kabbalah

• The goal is to understand God’s thoughts and how the Universe was created.
• The Cabbalists conclude that the act of creation was accomplished by using the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet.
• “And God said, Let there be Light and there was Light”. (Genesis 1: 3)
• God’s speech and the Hebrew language was the instrument of creation.
The Lost Word

• It refers to the belief of ancient Judaism that the name of God was not to be spoken.

• This concept forms a metaphor teaching that all of the essential qualities of Deity are incapable of description in language.
The Tetragrammaton

is four Hebrew letters (Yod, He, Waw and He) called the "Tetragrammaton". The four characters are the four Hebrew letters that correspond to YHWH and are transliterated or Yahweh. Sometimes people pronounce the tetragrammaton as "Jehovah". But Jehovah could never be the right pronunciation.
SECRET MASTER
FOURTH DEGREE

C.
M.
a.
4th Degree - Secret Master

- Your first steps into our sanctuary are duty, reflection and study.
- They teach us to honor those relationships to God, family, country, Masonry.
- The apron is white and black, with a letter "Z" and all-seeing eye.
- The jewel is an ivory key with the letter "Z" on the wards.
- The lessons of the 4° are secrecy, obedience, and fidelity.
4th Degree - Secret Master

• The Lodge of Secret Masters represents the gathering of the Princes of Israel upon Hiram’s death.

• To remind us of this sad event, the altar covering is black with strewn silver tears.

• The area behind the fence and gate (the balustrade) represents the Holy of Holies (Sanctum Sanctorum).

• Prominent are three pillars representing wisdom, strength, and beauty.
Perfect Master
5th Degree
5th - Perfect Master

- The Fifth Degree commemorates and recounts the funereal ceremonies of our Grand Master Hiram Abif, and in so doing, it teaches the sobering lessons of Death.
- The apron is white and green, with a cubic stone and a Hebrew YOD.
- The jewel is a compass open on a segment of a circle, to an angle of sixty degrees. The lessons of the 5° are Honesty, Industry, Sincerity, and good Faith.
SIXTH DEGREE

Confidential Secretary
6th Degree

• In the Sixth Degree we discover Solomon and Hiram of Tyre in a private discussion.

• In the course of the discussion, Solomon’s friend Zabud is thought to be eavesdropping and threatened with punishment.

• In the drama that follows you will be taught the excellence of disinterestedness and generosity; that it is the duty of every true Mason to heal dissensions and differences, and to restore Peace, Concord and Harmony among men.
In the Seventh Degree King Solomon’s Temple is under construction.

A dispute among workers arises that requires arbitration from Zabud, Judge and Provost.

The degree teaches you to be Just, without which no man is fit to be free.

Above all else, the degree teaches Reverence and Administration of the Law with Justice, Equity and Impartiality.
EIGHTH DEGREE

Intendant of the Building
8th Degree - Intendant of the Building

• After the murder of the Master Hiram, no one among the workmen was competent to take his place.

• As the work comes near halt, K.S. and H.T. discuss the situation when Ahishar suggests a solution - five favorite students of H.A. to carry on the work!

• The reward of diligent work is advancement. Dignity and importance are attached to work, and those who perform it.

• You are taught the rights of the laboring classes, and your duties toward them.

• It is especially impressed upon you that every laboring man is your Brother, entitled to your regard and assistance.
Elu of the Nine – 9th Degree

Elu of the Fifteen - 10th degree
Elu of the Nine and Elu of the Fifteen

• The ensuing three degrees continue the tale of the Hiramic legend of the Third Degree.

• Based on old French rituals they portray the discovery and punishment of the three ruffians, which are seen as symbols of vice.
ELEVENTH DEGREE

Elu of the Twelve
Elu of the Twelve

- Continuing the tale of the Ninth and Tenth Degrees, the Eleventh dramatizes the capture, trials and fates of the three assassins of Hiram the Builder.

- Zabud, Judge of Israel, hears the case and pronounces judgment.

- The names of the ruffians are given as: Jubela Guibs, Jubelo Gravelot, Jubelum Akirop.

- 12 of the 15 elus are made Governors in Israel.
TWELFTH DEGREE

Master Architect
12th Degree - Master Architect

• The legend of this Degree is brief, as its ceremonies are simple. After the murderers of the Master Hiram had been discovered, apprehended, tried, and punished, it is said in the old rituals, his monument and mausoleum were completed by the Intendants of the Building.

• The matters that concerned the revenue of the realm needed to be provided for by King Solomon. Also to assure uniformity in the work and to reward the superior skill of Adoniram, the son of Abada, Solomon appointed him to be Chief Architect of the Temple, with the title of Master Architect.

• Adoniram was invested with that office as sole successor and representative of the deceased Master Hiram.
THIRTEENTH DEGREE

Royal Arch of Solomon
Royal Arch of Solomon

• This Degree, together with the Fourteenth, represents the capstone of the Lodge of Perfection, and culminates with your descent to the floor of the Ninth Vault where you saw without knowing it, the Lost Word, the Great Symbol of Freemasonry.

• In this Degree you will witness a symbolic descent into the earth, where the remains of a temple are discovered.

• The descent may represent many things. It may be emblematic of the difficulties encountered by those who endeavor to discover the truth about God and the world around us.
Royal Arch of Solomon

- It is revealed to be the Tetragrammaton of the Hebrews.
- The letters Yud He Vau He - rendered as “Jehovah " in the King James Bible. It is called Ineffable because its true pronunciation has been lost.
There are nine names of God used in this degree as synonyms of the Ineffable Name, one of them appropriated to each of the nine arches in the vault.

1st Arch: YUD
2d “ HEH
3d “ VUV
4th “ EHIEH (I AM)
5th “ ELOHI (I am your God)
6th “ ELION (Book of Daniel)
7th “ ADONAI (Lord)
8th “ EL-KHANAN (God the Merciful)
9th “ YABUL-OM
The cubical stone of the 13°

The Tetragrammaton
Yod, He Waw He
Corresponds to JHVH
FOURTEENTH DEGREE

Perfect Elu
14th Degree - Perfect Elu

• In the Fourteenth Degree the most profound philosophical Truths are presented as axioms,
• without being discussed, inciting you to pursue studies into their meaning on your own.
• You will be put in possession of the Lost Word, and pointed in the direction towards the application of this new-found knowledge.
14th Degree - Perfect Elu

- The Degree of Perfection is both a celebration of the revelation received in the Thirteenth Degree, as well as an examination of your worthiness to possess it.
- Knowledge without its application is of little or no value.
- With knowledge comes responsibility, and one must prove oneself worthy to possess it.
Chapter of Knights Rose Croix

- The Fifteenth through Eighteenth Degrees comprise the Chapter of Rose Croix.
- It commences with the trials of those who have acquired Knowledge, and who wish to climb to yet higher truths.
- The Chapter of Rose Croix presents Faith, Hope and Charity as sure guides to our actions, and as the safest paths through adversity.
15th Degree
Knight of the East
Knight of the East

• This Degree opens upon the ruins of the Temple of Perfection that you believed so secure in the previous Degree. It is in ruin, and must be built again.
• Similar to the York Rite Degree - Order of the Red Cross
• Zerubbabel, Prince of the House of Judah and captive in Babylon makes request of Cyrus, King of Persia to allow the Hebrews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the House of the Lord.
PRINCE OF JERUSALEM
SIXTEENTH DEGREE
Prince of Jerusalem

• This Degree continues of the lessons of the Fifteenth Degree with a particular emphasis on the belief that God aids those who pursue a good work, are faithful and can practice the virtue of Wisdom.

• Again, similar to the Order of the Red Cross

• Zerubbabel and his worker encounter problems in Jerusalem. The original Proclamation of Cyrus has been lost and work ceases.
17th Degree
Knight of the East and West
Knight of the East and the West

• In the first section of this Degree you will witness a confrontation between King Herod II and John the Baptist, which results in shameful murder of the latter.

• Herod, II, succumbs to weaknesses of the basest character, ultimately, to his own condemnation.

• For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but loses his soul?
The second section borrows symbolism from St. John’s apocalyptic vision of the end of time.

The candidate views the Book of the Seven Seals and views what happens as each seal is opened.
KNIGHT ROSE CROIX
EIGHTEENTH DEGREE
18th degree - Knight Rose Croix

- Often considered one of the most powerful and moving degrees of the Scottish Rite.
- In the Fourteenth Degree the Lost Word was revealed to you, and in this Degree the True Word of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite will be revealed to you.
- As a symbol, it is a key that may unlock the gates of the temple of philosophy and explain the mighty enigma of existence.
18th degree - Knight Rose Croix

- Knights of the Rose Croix are to select for themselves a Knightly virtue, such as faith, charity, prudence, fidelity, honor, etc.
- The virtue becomes part of the new Knight’s name.
- The new Knight has a new way of signing his name from this day forward.
The Council of the Kadosh comprises the Nineteenth through the Thirtieth Degrees.

The word Kadosh is Hebrew, and means “consecrated or dedicated.”

It members are dedicated to the discovery of philosophic truths and the chivalric virtues.

This series of degrees present various concepts of Deity and man’s search to discover Him.
Council of Kadosh

• The Council degrees exemplify various philosophical and religious traditions, as well as Orders of Knighthood, as embodying principles and ideas promulgated by our Rite.
• Their precepts, teachings and ideas illustrate what must be encountered, understood and employed on the path to greater Truth and Knowledge.
30 Knight Kadosh
29 Knight of Saint Andrew
28 Knight Commander of the Temple
27 Knight of the Sun
26 Prince of Mercy
25 Knight of the Brazen Serpent
24 Prince of the Tabernacle
23 Chief of the Tabernacle
22 Knight of the Royal Axe
21 Noachite or Prussian Knight
20 Master of the Symbolic Lodge
19 Grand Pontiff
The Consistory — a meeting of 32° Masons
31st Degree - Inspector Inquisitor

• This Degree presents an allegorical representation of the final judgment common to many world religions.

• It is portrayed within the context of ancient Egyptian mythology, which shared many similarities with the Judeo-Christian religions. As in other degrees of Masonry, you are instructed to look beyond the mere symbol and discover for yourselves what you can learn from the lesson presented.
32° - Master of the Royal Secret

• You will assume five final vows, marking you as a Soldier of Light, Liberty, Freedom;
• of Religion; the People; and of Scottish Rite Masonry.
• In the Fourteenth Degree you received the Lost Word; in the Eighteenth Degree you received the True Word, and soon,
• in this Degree, you will be put in possession of the Sacred Word of the Scottish Rite.
32° - Master of the Royal Secret

• DO NOT BE CONFUSED!!
• You will also be instructed in the means of recognition of this degree which also contains sacred words that relate to those letters on the encampment tracing.
32° - Master of the Royal Secret

• You are about to given the Royal Secret and put in possession of the Holy Doctrine.

• It therefore becomes necessary that you take responsibility for this knowledge, and devote your lives to being fit examples of our Rite.
32° - Master of the Royal Secret

• The degrees of the Lodge of Perfection and the Chapter of Rose Croix as well as their lessons will be recapitulated to you as you visit each of the nine tents of the camp along the nonagon from the 4th degree.
32° - Master of the Royal Secret

- There are neither camps nor Standards on the heptagon (from the 14th degree)
32° - Master of the Royal Secret

- On the external angles of the pentagon, are five standards wherein are camped the Knights Kadosh.
32° - Master of the Royal Secret

- Within the pentagon, is an equilateral triangle as shown to you in the 30th degree. Here are encamped the Inspector Inquisitor and Masters of the Royal Secret.
32° - Master of the Royal Secret

• Within the circle, are camped the Inspectors General of the 33rd degree.
The Scottish Rite in Arkansas

- There are three Scottish Rite Bodies in Arkansas
  - Little Rock
  - Jonesboro
  - Fayetteville (Formerly Fort Smith)
- The entire rite is overseen by the Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Arkansas, Dr. James Graham, 33°
The Scottish Rite Regalia

32° Mason

Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (K.C.C.H.)

33° Mason

50 yr. Scottish Rite Mason

The S.G.I.G.
Pins and Insignias

- 32°

- 32° KCCH

- Knight of St. Andrew

- 33°

- Masons
Signatures

32°  
M:.R:.S:.  

18°  
Eques á ______________ R:.C:.  

32°  

Kevin Hatfield
Lux Ines nos agit