

## CORNERSTONE PROJECT

Grand Lodge, in conjunction with the Grand Master's theme of "raising the bar", has instituted a programme called the Cornerstone Project. Its primary purpose is to encourage and recognize lodges that plan, implement and manage a well-rounded yearly lodge programme that promotes lodge activities, brotherhood, charitable work, and involvement in the community. It is based on the concept that the cornerstone is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation and is important because all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position and strength of the entire edifice. The true purpose of this initiative is to challenge lodges to rise above their current standard, or raise the bar, and set new standards by which they are judged by their members and others.

The programme is not a one-time event. It is an award that is presented on a yearly basis after the lodge has met the requirements: one of three mandatory standards, five of eleven major standards and six of twelve basic standards. Successful lodges will be designated Cornerstone Lodges at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge with certificates presented at in the fall.

Mandatory Standard (choose 1)

Friend-to-Friend, Mentor or Officer Progression Programme

Major Standards (choose 5)

1. Officers attend Annual Communication of Grand Lodge
2. Establish an operating budget
3. Utilize officers' mentorship programme
4. Conduct 2 of the 3 degrees
5. Members visit another lodge
6. Conduct Masonic education programme
7. Participate in a district workshop
8. Conduct a lodge survey
9. Distribute 3 written lodge communications
10. Participate in travelling gavel or other visitation programme
11. Blood Donor

Basic Standards (choose 6)

1. Special Event to recognize PM's, 50 year pins, etc.
2. Invite/host another lodge
3. Host social for ladies/widows
4. Hold banquet to honour new members
5. Masons and families attend religious service
6. Hold lodge of discussion
7. Visit youth programme or hold meeting with them
8. Conduct Rusty Mason or similar event
9. Assist shut-ins/widows with chores
10. Implement banquet programme with proper P & E
11. Participate in a Community Event
12. Hold an Open House