

## What do we do?



When a young man asks this question, we often answer, “What do you want to do?” Ultimately, the members of a local Chapter decide

which activities are most interesting and important to them, and then they make them happen. One of the unique aspects of the DeMolay experience is that it allows young men to learn leadership by doing, not just by seeing. Young men in DeMolay take offices and responsibilities in their Chapter; plan schedules and events; carry out fund raisers, social functions, and athletic events; and give back to the community in civic service and charitable work.

## Is this just a local thing?

Not at all. Although each local chapter plans and carries out its own activities, there are DeMolay chapters in all 50 states, and in a number of other countries as well. Area, state-wide and even international activities provide opportunities to make lasting friendships from all over. Pennsylvania DeMolay regularly holds conventions, athletic tournaments, and other fun activities. We’ve held trips to the last 4 presidential inaugurations in Washington, DC, and each summer we host DeMolays from all over the U.S. and Canada in what is widely acknowledged as one of the best leadership training conferences anywhere, called the Key Man Conference.

## I have more questions...

If you’d like more information about DeMolay, please visit Pennsylvania DeMolay on the internet at [www.pademolay.org](http://www.pademolay.org). Or, you can contact the Pennsylvania DeMolay office at the address below. The young man who gave your son this brochure, or the PA DeMolay office, will be able to put you in touch with his local Chapter advisor, who can also be of help to you.



### *Pennsylvania DeMolay*

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# Dear Parent...

*About your son's interest in DeMolay*

## About DeMolay



*Dear parent...* if you’re reading this brochure, it’s probably because your son has been invited by a friend to be a part of a local chapter of DeMolay, a

leadership-building and service-oriented group for young men from 12 to 21. As a parent, we thought you’d like to know a little more about our organization as you and your son consider whether the DeMolay experience is for him.

DeMolay began in Kansas City, MO, in 1919. Beginning with just 9 young men, DeMolay has grown to serve young men of all backgrounds, needs, and interests, and has had over 3 million members through its history. Among them are leaders in all fields of service: statesmen like the late Governor Mel Carnahan of Missouri, broadcasters like Dan Rather and Walter Cronkite, entertainers like the late Mel Blanc (the voice of Bugs Bunny) and John Wayne (the “Duke” himself), and cartooning giant Walt Disney. Throughout our 80 plus years, DeMolay has drawn young men of quality, and now, your son is invited to join in this same experience.

## Is DeMolay a religious organization?

No. Belief in God is a fundamental requirement for membership in DeMolay, and it is certainly fair to say that DeMolay is religious in character. But we have no religious creed of our own, and our religious emphasis is to encourage your son to be active and growing in your family's own religious tradition. Young men of all different religious traditions are welcome in DeMolay. Currently, Pennsylvania DeMolay involves young men of a wide variety of Christian traditions (both Protestant and Catholic), the Jewish tradition, and the Hindu tradition.

## Secrecy?



DeMolay and similar fraternal groups are often misunderstood as being “secret societies.” This really couldn't be further from the truth. As with any fraternal organization, we have certain traditional “secrets” which amount to “passwords,” “signs,” and “handshakes.” These are part of the “shared knowledge” of the organization that contribute to the unity and uniqueness of the fraternal experience. As to our purposes, teachings, and activities, we have no secrets from anyone. As a parent, you have an automatic place in the activity of your son's Chapter. Parents and other adult relatives are always invited to attend any Chapter function their son attends, and may be eligible for service on the Chapter's Advisory Council.

## Why are some meetings formal?



Many of our activities are accompanied by formalized ceremonies, and some meetings will even require your son to dress in coat and tie. These ceremonies are the format for teaching about the principles and values of DeMolay. They are an excellent opportunity for your son to learn public speaking and presentation skills. By taking part in these ceremonies, he will learn to master and deliver large amounts of information from memory, and to become comfortable in public presentations. Many former members of DeMolay will tell you of their experience in college and beyond, where peers say to them, “How did you ever get so comfortable speaking in front of a group?” Their answer is often, “I learned it in DeMolay!” We find our young men develop poise and professionalism through the more formal portions of our program.

## Life Membership

The fee that will accompany your son's request for membership is a life membership fee. There are no annual dues for membership in DeMolay. Local chapter activities are subsidized by fund-raisers, donations from local Masonic lodges, occasional activity fees, or endowment income. It is an old maxim of our organization, “Once a DeMolay, always a DeMolay.” At age 21, a mem-

ber becomes a “Senior DeMolay” and is no longer eligible to vote or hold office, but he remains a Life Member and an important part of our organization.

## Adult Leadership

Volunteer adult leadership is vital to the success of DeMolay. Each local Chapter is guided by an Advisory Council made up of qualified and trained adult volunteers. These adults provide guidance and support for Chapter activities, but do not run the Chapter for the young men. In order to help assure the quality of our adult leadership and the safety of our young men, all of our adult workers must complete an advisor-training seminar and submit an adult worker profile. An extensive background check is performed on every individual applying to work with our young men. If you'd like more information about the selection and screening of DeMolay advisors, we'll be happy to provide it for you.



## What now?

If your son is ready to join DeMolay, the young man who invited him can provide him with an application for membership. After submitting this application with the Life Membership fee (which varies slightly from Chapter to Chapter), local leaders will contact your son about scheduling a formal induction into the organization.