



Membership Application



Independent
Order
of
Odd Fellows
and
Rebekahs

WHAT IS ODD FELLOWSHIP?

A simple explanation would be: Odd Fellowship is a Fraternal Organization, based on the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. It does charitable work on various projects in the community. Through its teachings and ceremonies, it seeks to elevate the character of man, and thereby make this world a better place in which to live. It should be clear that Odd Fellowship is not a religion. Odd Fellowship only requires that no man or woman may become an Odd Fellow or Rebekah unless he or she believes in a Supreme Being, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe, and is loyal to their country.

HISTORY OF ODD FELLOWSHIP

In 17th century England, it was odd to find a group of members organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need and of pursuing projects for the benefit of all mankind. Those who belonged to such an organization were called "Odd Fellows."

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was founded on the North American continent in Baltimore, Maryland at the Seven Stars Tavern on April 26, 1819 by Thomas Wilkey and four members of the Order in England. Washington Lodge No. 1 received its charter from the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows in England.

The beautiful Rebekah Degree was written by Schuyler Colfax and was adopted on September 20, 1851. The Degree of Rebekah was originally written and is still based on the teachings found in the Holy Bible. The Honorable Schuyler Colfax was Vice President of the United States during the period 1868-1873.

A FAMILY FRATERNITY

We in Odd Fellowship encompass the whole family. We all believe in the same principles, but separate our members for meetings. The men meet as Odd Fellow Lodges. The women's lodge is known as the Rebekahs. The Rebekahs hold their own meetings and work with the Odd Fellows in all of their projects. A very important phase of Odd Fellowship is the Junior Lodge (for boys between 8-21 years of age) and Theta Rho Clubs (for girls 8-21 years of age). Our young members are offered interesting, enjoyable and educational opportunities that will assist them during the growing stage. We feel Odd Fellowship is truly a family oriented Fraternity, finding an interest for all members of the family.

FRATERNAL VISITATIONS

Being an Odd Fellow or Rebekah entitles you to visit any lodge in any city or community in the United States, Canada or the seventeen other nations where our lodges regularly meet. The influence of Odd Fellowship is spreading throughout the world as new lodges are established in additional countries.

WHO MAY BECOME A MEMBER?

A man or woman of good character, whose life and acts have been worthy and honorable is eligible for membership. It is required that a member, in good standing, recommend the candidate as worthy of sharing the duties and enjoying the privileges of Odd Fellowship.

Odd Fellowship strictly forbids any interference with one's religious beliefs or political opinions, either directly or indirectly. It requires acknowledgement of God and complete obedience of civil laws.

ODD FELLOW VALEDICTION

I AM AN ODD FELLOW:

I believe in the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man;

I believe in Friendship, Love and Truth as basic guides to the ultimate destiny of all mankind;

I believe my home, my church or temple, my lodge, and my community deserve my best work, my modest pride, my earnest faith, and my deepest loyalty, as I perform my duty "to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan" and as I work with others to build a better world, because, in spirit and in truth, I am and must always be, grateful to my Creator, faithful to my country and fraternal to my fellow-man;

I AM AN ODD FELLOW!

REBEKAH CREED

I AM A REBEKAH:

I believe in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of man, and the Sisterhood of woman.

I believe in the watch-words of our Order — Friendship, Love and Truth.

Friendship — is like a golden chain that ties our hearts together. Love — is one of our most precious gifts, the more you give, the more you receive. Truth — is the standard by which we value people. It is the foundation of our society.

I believe that my main concern should be my God, my family and my friends. Then I should reach out to my community and the World, for in God's eyes, we are all brothers and sisters.

I AM A REBEKAH.

An Invitation

You have received this Membership Application because you appear to have the qualifications necessary to make a good member of the Three Link Fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs.



The Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs

Striving to make this world a better place in which to live.

MOTTO

"Friendship, Love and Truth"

OBJECTIVE

"To Improve and Elevate the Character of Man"

OUR BASIC CREED

Genuine **Friendship**, which hears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, is the first step toward progress and personal enrichment, and the teachings of Temperance, Prudence and Justice.

Love is the basis for all life's ambitions, service to humanity, and more family oriented.

Truth, the imperial virtue, promotes economic stability, equality under law, freedom of enterprise, the highest of ethical standards, and lasting peace, the ultimate goal of fraternity.

Universal **Brotherhood of Man** under the **Fatherhood of God** is imperative to the survival of the world, and can be accomplished only through the practice of fellowship and understanding among all peoples and nations.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS AND REBEKAHS

To the OFFICERS and MEMBERS of _____ No. _____ working under the Jurisdiction of the _____ OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS of _____

I respectfully request admission by _____ "If Applicable" from _____ Lodge No. _____

and in consideration of such admission, I promise and agree that, if elected, I will conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of your Unit, and those of the governing Grand Body of _____, and that I will seek my remedy for all rights on account of said membership, or connection therewith in the tribunal of the Order only, without resorting to their enforcement in any event, or any purpose, to the civil courts.

I believe in a Supreme Being, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe and I am loyal to my country.

I was born at _____ on the _____ day of _____, 19 _____. My occupation is _____ My residence is _____

SPONSOR

Being personally acquainted with this applicant, I hereby propose him (her) for admission to:

Sponsor _____ No. _____

APPLICANT

Print Name _____
Signature _____
Mail Address _____
City, State or Province _____
and Zip Code _____
Telephone _____

INTERVIEWING COMMITTEE

We certify that this applicant meets all membership requirements of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of this Jurisdiction.

I certify that _____ is a member of the _____ Degree in good standing in _____ No. _____

ATTEST: _____ Secretary/Scribe

(SEAL)