

Additional Facts

- ◆ The Order of the Eastern Star is not a “secret society”. The members do enjoy a distinctive means of identifying each other, and only members are allowed in a closed meeting.
- ◆ Your financial position is not considered in the Order. Members come from all economic stations of life.
- ◆ Members of all religions may belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. We only require a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.
- ◆ There is no mandatory memory work, except on the means of making yourself known if you wish to visit a Chapter or if you become an officer. A short proficiency examination may be required.
- ◆ Members are patriotic. We strongly support the government of the United States of America.

Contact Information

Grand Chapter of South Dakota

www.sdoes.org

c/o Sandy Vanneman PGM

Grand Secretary

9412 W Broek Dr

Sioux Falls SD 57506

sdoesgs@hotmail.com

Printed in 2022

SD Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star

This brochure is based upon “What is the Order of the Eastern Star?” published by the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star of California. SD OES has borrowed liberally from the California and Delaware publications in creating this brochure.

The Order of the Eastern Star

The Order of the Eastern Star is one of the largest fraternal organizations which both women and men with high moral character, a desire to work for the betterment of others and a drive to make the world a better place can contribute their time, energy, and wisdom for the good of all mankind.

Who Can Join Eastern Star?

- ◆ Women 18 years and older with Masonic Affiliation
- ◆ Women 18 or older who have been members for three years in Job’s Daughters International or the International Order of Rainbow for Girls
- ◆ Men who are Master Masons from a recognized Masonic Lodge by the Grand Lodge of South Dakota AF&AM
- ◆ Believe in a Supreme Being
- ◆ Are of good moral character
- ◆ Have resided in South Dakota for at least one year
- ◆ Have not been convicted of a felony under the law of any state or of the United States

The Formation of the Order of the Eastern Star

Doctor Rob Morris, the “Poet Laureate of Masonry” conceived the Order of the Eastern Star in 1850. Doctor Morris created the degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star around the lives of five Biblical women: Jephtha’s daughter, who he called Adah; Ruth; Esther; Martha; and from the Second Epistle of John, the Elect Lady, whom he named Electa. The lives of these five women exemplified the sublime virtues, the tenets of the Order: Fidelity Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, and Love.

A Way of Life in Eastern Star

In these days of moral uncertainty in our communities, members in the Order of the Eastern Star provide an avenue to express our compassion and concern, not only for our Sisters and Brothers in the Order of the Eastern Star, but also for others who benefit from our efforts as well.

Each of us has an inner need to do something for others. Sometimes it is difficult to determine just how to begin.

A Way of Life in Eastern Star (Cont.)

The women and men who join our Order make friends and enjoy the fellowship of fraternal Sisters and Brothers who share similar goals, while being afforded the opportunity to utilize their charitable nature to benefit others. In addition, the Order provides structure, resources, and support for accomplishing benevolent objectives.

Most importantly, the Order of the Eastern Star takes good citizens and makes them even better. We strive to remain in the forefront in the development of the American promise of human opportunity and personal fulfillment.

Eastern Star Charity Projects

Some of the charitable endeavors the Grand Chapter of South Dakota and its Subordinate Chapters support are:

- ◆ Education Scholarships
- ◆ ESTARL (Eastern Star Training Awards in Religious Leadership)
- ◆ ACTS (Assisting Children to Smile) dental assistance program

Eastern Star Charity Projects (Cont.)

- ◆ Service Dogs
- ◆ Charitable activities within the local community.

Becoming A Member

- ◆ Contact the Grand Secretary of South Dakota for contact information for a Subordinate Chapter in your area.
- ◆ Obtain a petition to intent to join. Fill it out completely and submit it to the Subordinate Chapter.
- ◆ An Investigating Committee will contact you to ask a few simple questions provide you an opportunity to meet some Subordinate Chapter members; and verify your Masonic affiliation.
- ◆ The petition is voted upon and if the vote is favorable you will be notified to appear to receive the Degrees of the Order.
