

The Grand Master's Traveling Trowel Award

The Grand Master's Traveling Trowel Award is an award established by the Grand Master to promote interaction between the Brethren from different areas of the Commonwealth. Every Lodge can participate and should apply for this award. There are two objectives, which will be obtained by successful Lodges and the Brethren that participated throughout the year:

1. Participants will become better Freemasons, better citizens, better friends, better Lodge officers, and better men through involvement with new Masons;
2. The Traveling Trowel Award will:
 - a. Offer each Lodge that qualifies an award presented by the Grand Master during Grand Annual Communication.
 - b. Reward the Lodge with the most points, a large engraved obelisk presented by the Grand Master at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

ALL Virginia Lodges are eligible to receive this award.

Note: THIS PROGRAM IS NOT DESIGNED TO COMPETE WITH THE JAMES NOAH HILLMAN AWARD

To be eligible to receive this award, your Lodge must meet the minimum requirements as set forth below and submit this form to the DDGM no later than September 7th of each year. Details are as follow:

- This award runs from December 1st to September 1st of each year.
- At least five members from your Lodge **MUST** participate in each event to qualify.
- The award is divided into five categories, and you must earn a minimum of 100 points per category to be eligible to receive this award. The categories are:
 - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
 - CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAMS
 - OFFICER TRAINING PROGRAMS
 - LODGE VISITATION
 - LODGE MENTORSHIP ACTIVITIES.

PURPOSE OF THIS AWARD

The Grand Master's Traveling Trowel Award is a program designed with four goals in mind:

- To reward Lodges for venturing outside of their Masonic district to meet and interact with Brethren from Lodges not normally visited and thereby act as the fuel in spreading the cement of Brotherly Love and Affection.
- To encourage the Brethren of this Commonwealth to interact and share the ideas and experiences that they found successful within their own Lodge; thus allowing opportunities for every Lodge to profit from such exchanges.
- To motivate the Brethren to participate in multi-district Masonic events that encourage training and development amongst the leaders of each Lodge. Such events are more enjoyable when the participating Brethren meet as Brethren instead of strangers.
- To spread enthusiasm from one group to another, thereby promoting new friendships from such exchanges.

QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES DEFINED

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

- Examples of social activities are: Ladies nights, picnics or pot-luck dinners, a family movie night at the Lodge, attending a play together, etc. These social activities must be conducted with a Lodge in another Masonic district.
- The inclusion of the families, prospective candidates, youth groups, our Masonic orphans and our Masonic widows is encouraged.
- Participation with a Lodge in another recognized Grand Jurisdiction is encouraged.

Note: The Worshipful Master will contact the Worshipful Master of a Lodge in another district to set up a social activity between the two Lodges.

The Lodge being visited will receive 25 points.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAMS:

Participation in community service projects outside of your Masonic district.

Examples are: Adopt a Highway Program, official greeters at civic events, or to be official designated drivers at specific events, helping cook/serve at soup kitchens, help clean up the Bay or rivers. These are but a few examples, helping your community is what is expected. Any activity that benefits the local community and its citizens, not the Lodge, should qualify.

Note: You may wish to contact your local government officials, civic groups, religious organizations, etc., to find out in what activities you can participate. You may participate with a Lodge in another Masonic district.

** If you go outside your district you will receive BONUS points.

LODGE OFFICER PREPARATION:

Attending Lodge officer training and leadership courses with a Lodge in another district.

Note: The Worshipful Master may wish to contact his District Educational Officer (DEO) and the Worshipful Master of the Lodge in which the training is being conducted to make the necessary arrangements. It is preferable to include a meal, which would encourage fellowship.

Leadership courses – Engage in leadership courses, encourage members to attend the Reid James Simmons Academy of Masonic Leadership.

The Lodge being visited will receive 25 points.

LODGE VISITATION:

Visiting Lodges in other Masonic districts for fellowship, to present a program at a stated communication, or to participate in a degree conferral will qualify for this aspect of the program.

Note: The Worshipful Master will contact a Worshipful Master in another district to arrange to visit his Lodge and present a program at one of their stated communications or confer a degree as available.

The Lodge being visited will receive 25 points.

LODGE MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS:

Your Lodge MAY be the recipient of another Lodge's "Mentorship," OR your Lodge may be the one that is "Mentoring" to another Lodge. It is possible and likely that "Mentorship" will be in both directions, as no one Lodge is strong in every category of running a successful Lodge.

The Worshipful Master should contact the Lodge Services Committee for two lists:

1. A list of Lodges that advised that they need help in a given area.
2. A list of Lodges that have offered to help other Lodges in certain areas.

This is a Masonic “Big Brother Program,” where Lodges can share ideas, encourage each other, and learn what has been successful for each Lodge related to membership, programs, civic activities, Lodge administration, Lodge budgeting and finance, membership, enthusiasm, education, leadership, programs, presenters, phone trees, websites, education, officer training, Masonic widows, Masonic orphans, Bring-A-Friend nights, newsletters, mentoring, etc.

** Both Lodges will receive points based on the program.

HELPFUL NOTES AND HINTS

Note: Some Masonic districts are located within the same city. Points for activities outside of your Masonic district, but within the same local area, i.e. the same city or county may only be counted once per category. You are however strongly encouraged to TRAVEL outside of your home area, as this is the primary goal of this program.

The Grand Master’s Traveling Trowel Award is not a difficult award to obtain. It does take some planning and dedication by the Worshipful Master and Officers of each Lodge interested. Any Lodge that participates will reap the reward of long lasting Friendship and Brotherly Love.

This program is similar to the "traveling gavel" program, but all visits and most activities are held outside of the district in which your Lodge is located. It is more in depth and covers more areas of our fraternal obligations toward each other and mankind in general.

APPLICATION FOR GRAND MASTER'S TRAVELING TROWEL AWARD

Your District Deputy Grand Master must receive this application NO LATER THAN September 7th. District Deputy Grand Masters must return this form to the Grand Lodge Office NO LATER THAN September 15th.

LODGE NAME _____ LODGE NO _____ DISTRICT _____

On our honor as Master Masons we certify that the following points have been earned in each category as follows:

1) SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: _____

2) CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAMS: _____

3) LODGE OFFICER PREPERATION: _____

4) LODGE VISITATION: _____

5) LODGE MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS: _____

TOTAL POINTS = _____

_____/_____/_____, _____/_____/_____,
Worshipful Master Date Secretary Date

_____/_____/_____,
District Deputy Grand Master Date

I certify that the above Lodge has qualified for the award with a total of _____ points for the year _____.

_____/_____/_____,
Chairman, Lodge Services Committee Date

POINTS

The point scoring is the same for all categories and is assigned as follows:

<u>Number of members involved</u>	<u>Points Assigned</u>
AT LEAST 5 members present	25
Each member over first 5 present	1
<u>BONUS POINTS</u> <i>(added to above points)</i>	
Worshipful Master present	10
DDGM or GRAND LODGE Officer present	15
Visiting or participation with a Masonic youth organization in a social event outside of your Masonic district.	30
Fraternal Visit or activity to a recognized Prince Hall Lodge (Worshipful Master and at least 4 members present)	25
If your Lodge provides the speaker during a Lodge visitation	25
If your Lodge has 3 or more members participate in a Degree Conferral during a Lodge visitation.	25
The Lodge being visited will receive	25
All elected officers are in attendance.	50

For each Activity 150 miles ROUND TRIP or more away from your Lodge, the points are doubled for that activity.

WORK SHEET

This work sheet MAY be used by your Lodge to assist you in keeping track of your qualifying points. You may make as many copies as you need. These sheets do not need to be turned in with your application.

QUALIFYING POINTS INFORMATION

QUALIFYING ACTIVITY _____

ACTIVITY CATEGORY _____ ACTIVITY DATE ____ / ____ / ____

LOCATION OF THE ACTIVITY _____

NAME OF PARTICIPATING LODGES _____ NO. _____

NAME OF PARTICIPATING LODGES _____ NO. _____

AT LEAST 5 MEMBERS PRESENT YES / NO (25 POINTS) = _____
(IF NOT, EVENT DOES NOT QUALIFY)

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS PRESENT _____ @ 1 POINT EACH = _____

WM PRESENT? YES / NO (IF YES, 10 BONUS POINTS) = _____

DDGM/GRAND LODGE OFFICER PRESENT YES / NO
(IF YES, 15 BONUS POINTS) = _____

YOUTH ORGANIZATION INVOLVED (IF YES, 30 BONUS POINTS) = _____

PRINCE HALL LODGE (IF YES, 25 BONUS POINTS) = _____

YOUR LODGE PROVIDES SPEAKER (25 BONUS POINTS) = _____

3 OR MORE OF YOUR MEMBERS HELP CONFER DEGREE (25 PTS.) = _____

The LODGE BEING VISITED WILL RECEIVE (25 POINTS) = _____

ALL OF YOUR ELECTED OFFICERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE (50 PTS.) = _____

SUB-TOTAL POINTS = _____

IF THE DISTANCE TO THE EVENT WAS OVER 150 MILES **ROUND TRIP**,
DOUBLE THE ABOVE SUB-TOTALLED POINTS

TOTAL POINTS = _____

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