

Step 7: Preparing the Candidate for Initiation 1 of 2



Taking the candidate from the successful conclusion of his interview through to his initiation. It represents the beginning of the mentoring process. Co-ordination of the Pathway passes from the Lodge Membership Officer to the Lodge Mentor.

GUIDANCE FOR ALL LODGE MEMBERS

- The Candidate / Initiate will form lasting impressions of Freemasonry based on his early experiences.
- Lodge members should understand and manage his expectations, deliver what has been promised and avoid creating unpleasant surprises.
- If the preparation for Initiation is rushed or progresses at a pace that is uncomfortable for the Candidate the consequence may be his early resignation.
- Plan the date of Initiation by balancing the Lodge's programme of work with the needs, circumstances and interests of the Candidate. Consider the suitability of multiple ceremonies.
- Where possible, ensure sufficient time before the planned date of Initiation for the Proposal, Ballot and Initiation to take place at different - preferably successive - meetings.
- When briefing the Candidate for his Initiation before the ceremony, strike a balance between telling him too much and not telling him enough.
- Too much prior information may damage the experience. Too little may leave the Candidate with unnecessary or uncomfortable apprehensions.

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AT THE INITIATION MEETING

- Arrange to collect the Candidate, take him to the meeting and return him home afterwards.
- Introduce him to the Master and Junior Deacon before placing him in the care of the Tyler.
- Arrange for him to be sat next to his Personal Mentor or a sponsor at the end of the ceremony, and next to or as near to as practicable one or both of them at the festive board.
- Have some cash for him so that he can contribute to the charity collection and a copy of the closing ode.
- Introduce him to other members of the Lodge after the ceremony.
- Explain the toasts and practices followed at the festive board.
- Discuss with him his initial reaction to the ceremony and respond to his questions.
- Provide him with copies of any local introductory booklet, such as the "Initiate's Guide", as well as a simple explanation of the Initiation ceremony. Explain that he can share these with his spouse or partner.
- Arrange to meet with him within two weeks of his Initiation, to answer additional questions and provide further explanation.

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