

GENERAL INFORMATION RITUAL CONTESTS

The Conclave will use a modified set of rules from the **Frank Marshall Championship Tournament (v122312)** that are unique to Texas DeMolay Association. Questions and concerns should be directed to:

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In addition to these sheets, there is one primary source, which may be utilized for preparing for competition at the Conclave. The primary source is the Ritual of Secret Work of the Order of DeMolay, Corrected 15th Edition, 2013.

A list of required and optional equipment is included in this mailing.

All required equipment for each contest will **NOT** be furnished by the Conclave. You must bring your own equipment. Optional equipment may be furnished or designated by the competitor.

Competitors will be judged on APPEARANCE – the aptness and correct interpretation of the part's grooming appearance, clothing and costume for the ceremony.

A First or Second Place Trophy requires that the competitors MUST have a positive score. (Minimum proficiency score is not set for any competition. However, a positive score must be earned for First and Second Place Trophy)

Please review the Summary of Required Parts, which lists the required parts for each contest. In some of these contests, they have been decreased and/or word changes have been made in the ceremony. It is the competitors' responsibility to know what these changes are. Also, please note that, "NO PERSON WHO HAS REACHED HIS 21st BIRTHDAY MAY COMPETE IN ANY CONTEST AT ANY COMPETITION." This rule does not apply to installed State Officers.

1. There are two divisions for competition in the Ceremony of Light, Flower Talk, and Fourth Section contests. These two divisions are novice and standard.
 - a. Novice division is restricted to those DeMolays who are entered in their first or second year of ritual competition. Any participation in a prior competition counts toward this experience. For example, suppose a contestant decides to enter "Ceremony of Light" for the first time at this Conclave. Last year he competed in Flower Talk for the first time and for the last two years, competed in the Individual Competition as Master Inquisitor. He cannot enter the novice division at this Conclave in any contest, even the "Ceremony of Light," in which he is competing for the first time.
 - b. Standard division is open to all DeMolays, regardless of experience. DeMolays who would qualify for the novice division but decide to enter the standard division are welcome to do so.
 - c. No individual may enter the novice and standard divisions of any contest. However, an individual who qualifies for the novice division may enter one or two contests as a novice but compete in the standard division in a third contest.
2. Contestants may only enter Individual Competition in parts in which they did not compete with their chapters as a team entry. For example, if a contestant performed the part of Master Inquisitor in his chapter's entry in the DeMolay Degree competition, he may not enter Individual Competition in Master Inquisitor. However, he may enter Individual Competition as Junior Inquisitor, Jacques DeMolay, or Orator. Similarly, if a contestant performed the part of Sixth Preceptor in his chapter's entry in the Initiatory Degree competition, he may not enter Individual Competition as Sixth Preceptor. However, he may enter as any other Preceptor, Master Councilor, Senior Deacon or Marshal.
3. Slots for Individual Competition will be assigned at the registration deadline. Once a time slot is taken, contestants who own them may trade slots with other contestants by coordinating the trade with the Director of Ritual.
4. In order to more accurately reflect the obligation of the competitor to prepare all aspects of the contest, the wording on most of the instructions for the specifics sheets has been altered to include "must be" rather than "is" or "are." We have had some confusion in the past about whether a certain requirement for a contest is a "given" for the competitor. These changes in wording should clarify the point that the competitor is responsible for handling all directions, instructions, and preparations for a contest.

Questions concerning scheduling should be reserved for the Competitor's Briefing, when all concerned may address these problems at one time.

SUMMARY OF REQUIRED PARTS

Chapter Proficiency (7): * Master, Senior and Junior Councilor; Senior and Junior Deacons; Marshal, Chaplain and Sentinel.

**The Senior Councilor will assume Senior Steward; Junior Councilor will assume Junior Steward; and Senior Deacon will assume Standard Bearer. Another officer can assume Marshal as needed.*

Initiatory Degree (8): * Master, Senior, and Junior Councilors; Marshal, Senior and Junior Deacons, and Senior and Junior Stewards.

**The Preceptors' and Scribe's Ritual may be delivered by any of the required parts.*

DeMolay Degree (8): * Master, Senior and Junior Inquisitors; Jacques DeMolay; Guy of Auvergne; Senior Guard; Marshal of the Commission and Lord Constable.

**The Orator's Ritual may be delivered by any of the required parts.*

Fourth Section (3): Master Councilor; Senior and Junior Deacons.

**The Senior Councilor and Junior Councilor may be utilized if the Chapter desires.*

Chapter Room Setup Team: minimum of 3 participants, maximum of 5 participants. 2 tem entries per Chapter, maximum.

Priory Drill Team: minimum of 3 participants, maximum of 5 participants.

Ceremony of Light Team: minimum of 3 Speakers, maximum of 7 Speakers.

Ceremony of Light (1): Speaker.

Flower Talk (1): Speaker.

Shield Talk (1): Speaker.

Father's Talk (1): Speaker.

Individual Ritual Initiatory Degree: Master Councilor; Senior Deacon; Marshal; Seven Preceptors.

Individual Ritual DeMolay Degree: Master Inquisitor, Junior Inquisitor; Jacques DeMolay, Orator.

Magnificent Seven (1): Speaker.

SPECIFICS SHEETS

RULES

1. Prepare the room, complete, and clear the room within the time limit.
2. Prevent interruptions while competing.
3. Fully & correctly follow all SOURCE and SPECIFICS instructions.
4. Comply fully & correctly with all rules, specifics, procedures & Judges' rulings.
5. Fill in the required parts and other optional parts with qualified people.
6. Clothe all parts appropriately.
7. Present the complete, correct, required work.
8. Correctly and audibly say the words and make the sounds of the ceremony from memory; prompts are not allowed; cues are permissible only as set forth in the SPECIFICS of the contest.
9. Deliver the words with expressions appropriate to the ceremony and to the part.
10. Interpret and present the ceremony to achieve maximum good impression.

FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE SUBJECT TO PENALTY

QUALIFIED PERSONS

DeMolays eligible to participate in competition are those who hold a current membership card in the Order of DeMolay, issued by the one chapter he may represent at the Conclave, and in the contest. No person may fill more than one required part in a contest, except where specifically allowed in these sheets. No person may fill more than one speaking part in a contest, except where specifically allowed in these sheets. All parts in the contest must be qualified persons; any part not filled with a qualified person will disqualify the chapter. Singers, accompanists, musical directors, or technical personnel need not be qualified persons. No person who has reached his 21st birthday may compete in any contest.

CONTEST PROCEDURE

1. Rituals, Monitors of Public Ceremonies or judging sheets other than those provided to the judging panels are not allowed in the competition room.
2. Observers from other chapters during competitions are encouraged. Delegations may witness all competitions they desire, recalling that any misconduct or harassment of a competitor will subject their group to severe penalty and possible disqualification.
3. A Spokesperson should check the time and place of competitor's briefing which the spokesperson or representative thereof should attend. At this briefing:
 - a. The judging panels will be introduced.
 - b. Announcements and schedule adjustments will be made.
 - c. Questions of the judges may be asked.
 - d. Entry forms for each contest may be obtained. These entry forms should be completed legibly & accurately.
4. Parts, crew and doorkeepers should arrive at the place of competition at least 15 minutes early.
5. Disturbances and interruptions will be penalized.
6. Parts should arrive dressed appropriately for competition.
7. Near their scheduled time, the competitor(s) will be called to the door. Competitive room doors should never be opened from the outside. The judging panel will open the competitive area from the inside when they are prepared for the next competitor. The spokesperson will reply at once to the judge who called and inform the judge that the competitor(s) are present and ready.
8. Judge and spokesperson enter the room, followed by the crew with equipment. Doorkeepers may take their places.
9. Spokesperson will hand the Panel Chairman the entry form on entry whereby he certifies that all parts are filled with qualified persons. Any errors thereon which would affect the eligibility of any part will disqualify the competitor(s) in this contest. The Panel Chairman will inform the panel of the competitors name, chapter and category of competition. The Panel Chairman will call the room to order and proceed with the Panel Ritual. After "TIME ON" is called by the Panel Chairman, the spokesperson may ask any questions they may have.

10. Once "TIME ON" has been called, other than natural disaster, instructions from police, fire or building officials, no person may stop or delay the contest performance other than the competitor or Panel Chairman.
11. Parts and crew arrange the competitive area. When preparations are complete and the competitor(s) are ready to start, the spokesperson or designate will say "BEGIN" at which time judging commences.
12. Competitor(s) presents the required work for the ceremony from memory. Prompts and interruptions, unless specified, will be penalized. When the ceremony has been completed, the spokesperson or designate says "STOP" at which time the judging ceases.
13. Parts and crew clear the area of competitive equipment. When the area is clear, the Panel Chairman says, "TIME OFF", ending the official timing period.
14. After the results are announced, the spokesperson may obtain their judging sheets and may discuss them with the Judges. The spokesperson may ask the judges about their comments, suggestions, and penalty assessments.
15. Chapter may appeal the results of a contest by filing a verbal protest with Director of Ritual in Texas, within 24 hours of the release of the judging sheets. A full written statement detailing the nature of the protest must be mailed to the Director of Ritual in Texas within three days of the competition. The chapter will be notified of the ruling by the Ritual Director, within 30 days.

CHAPTER PROFICIENCY

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) Initiatory Degree Opening Ceremony, the DeMolay Degree Opening Ceremony, Nine O'clock Ceremony and the Closing Ceremony appear in the SOURCE except as noted below.
- 2) Room to be set as in Diagram One.
- 3) The eleven required ritual parts may be filled with a minimum of 8 competitors with:
 - a. the Senior Councilor assuming the part of the Senior Steward.
 - b. the Junior Councilor assuming the part of the Junior Steward.
 - c. and the Senior Deacon assuming the part of the Standard Bearer.
 - d. Stations of assumed parts are considered those of the person assuming the part.
- 4) Parts are seated in respective stations at beginning of ceremony which **starts with the Master Councilor's gavel rap and first line, "Brother Marshal, you will see that all presents are members of the order of DeMolay or visitors"**.
- 5) Omit actions & lines raising, vouching for and/or welcoming Master Masons or Senior DeMolays; omit actions & lines concerning lost words; and omit the Opening Ode.
- 6) The "Word of the Day" is "RITUAL".
- 7) Words & grips are collected from the Chaplain, Marshal, Standard Bearer, Senior Steward & Junior Steward, only.
- 8) The salute to the flag is that as set forth in the SOURCE.
- 9) The official Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States is spoken by all parts except the Standard bearer.
- 10) Insert competing Chapter's name & sponsoring body in the appropriate blanks.
- 11) For the Nine O'clock Interpolation, the ringing of the gong is mandatory.
- 12) Closing Ceremony:
 - a. The Nine O'clock Interpolation prayer may not be used instead of the closing prayer.
 - b. **After the Junior Deacon advises the Sentinel that the Chapter is closed and then advises the Master Councilor that the Sentinel is informed, the Master Councilor raps once, ending the ceremony.**

B. REQUIRED PARTS:

Master Councilor, Senior Councilor, Junior Councilor, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Marshal, Chaplain and Sentinel.

Additional required **ritual & direction** are the parts of the Senior Steward, Junior Steward and Standard Bearer.

C. TIME LIMIT: 40 minutes

INITIATORY DEGREE

A. REQUIRED WORK.

- 1) The Initiatory Degree as it appears in the SOURCE except as noted below:
- 2) Room to be set as in Diagram One.
- 3) Omit instructions for handling large classes.
- 4) Senior Steward for each Candidate, if used, makes all the verbal responses for Candidates, including "I" and speaking name(s). The obligation is not repeated, and the Master Councilor may omit the pauses.
- 5) After the Master Councilor says, "Brother Senior Deacon, you will conduct the new brothers to seats", the Senior Deacon and the Stewards do so, then go to their respective stations. The Master Councilor raps once, and all sits down ending the ceremony.
- 6) Instructions for the Chaplain, Marshal, Preceptors and Standard Bearer will not be judged in the formation & execution of the shield position. The Marshal may take the Chaplain's place in the shield at the competitor's option.
- 7) The ritual of the Scribe & Preceptors is required but may be given by any qualified person at the competitor's option.
- 8) All **Direction** instructions for conducting Candidates on the symbolic journey, for Preceptors and for placing the jewels in the Crown of Youth are **omitted** from judging. Competitors are to devise their own presentation of the Preceptors' parts using qualified persons. Only the ritual & performance of the presentations will be judged.

B. REQUIRED PARTS:

Master Councilor, Senior Councilor, Junior Councilor, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward and Marshal. Additional required **ritual** are the parts of the Scribe & all 7 Preceptors. Candidates may be imaginary or real. If real, they must be qualified people. If imaginary, required parts must pantomime Candidates' existence whenever they are escorted, conducted, addressed, presented, or otherwise acknowledged.

C. TIME LIMIT: 60 minutes

DEMOLAY DEGREE

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) The DeMolay Degree, First Section & Orator's lines only of the Third Section, as they appear in the SOURCE.

- 2) **Spokesperson will inform the Panel Chairman whether the Chapter will follow a stage or lodge arrangement.** Instructions not peculiar to one arrangement apply, regardless of where they appear.
- 3) The First & Third Sections' speeches for the Orator may be given by one of the required parts or by another qualified person.
- 4) Stage directions in parentheses in the text are suggestions only and are not included on judging sheets.

B. REQUIRED PARTS:

Master Inquisitor, Senior Inquisitor, Junior Inquisitor, Senior Guard, Lord Constable, Marshal of the Commission, Jacques DeMolay & Guy of Auvergne. Additional required **ritual** is the part of the Orator. Non-speaking parts are at the competitor's discretion.

C. TIME LIMIT: 60 minutes

FOURTH SECTION

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) The Fourth Section of the DeMolay Degree, with only the actions & lines of the Master Councilor, Senior Deacon & Junior Deacon required.
- 2) Room to be set as in Diagram One.
- 3) Just prior to Obligation, Master Councilor goes to head candle on East side of altar & faces West. Junior deacon joins Senior Deacon on West side of Altar.
- 4) Senior Deacon makes all verbal responses for Candidates, including "I" and speaking name. The obligation is not repeated & the Master Councilor may omit the pauses.

B. REQUIRED PARTS:

Master Councilor, Senior Deacon & Junior Deacon.

Candidates may be imaginary or real. If real, they must be qualified persons. If imaginary, required parts must pantomime Candidates' existence whenever they are escorted, conducted, addressed, presented or otherwise acknowledged.

C. TIME LIMIT: 20 minutes

CHAPTER ROOM SETUP

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) Teams will set up a Chapter Room as accurately and quickly as possible according to Diagram One of the DeMolay Ritual.
- 2) Must be set up within 10 minutes Competition begins when team leader states "BEGIN" Competition ends when team leader states "STOP" Team will be stopped if they are not finished by the 10 minute time limit.
- 3) There will be NO verbal communication of any kind, physical gestures, and/or American Sign Language during competition. No communication between judges and team during competition time. Verbal communication includes any words/gestures during the competition between the words BEGIN AND STOP.
- 4) Judges will go over the contest rules with the team prior to when they start. The team can ask questions of the judge prior to saying "TIME ON". No verbal communication will be allowed once the team says "BEGIN." After the team leader says "STOP", no further adjustments may be done. Following the team leaders saying "TIME OFF" the team exits and judges begin scoring. After scoring is complete, the team re-enters the room and disassembles the chapter room. (Must be disassembled within 5 minutes)
- 5) Chairs, one table, and the Flag will be provided in the competition room. These may be used for officer stations, the Altar, etc. All other items are to be supplied by the team.
- 6) Paraphernalia List:
 1. 22 Officer Stations & Altar (provided in completion room)
 2. 2 gavels
 3. 7 candlesticks with candles
 4. Bible & Bible Marker
 5. School books
 6. American Flag and Flagpole
 7. Gong and gong stick
 8. Altar cloth
 9. Flowers
 10. Baton for Marshal
 11. Chapter banner (optional)

B. REQUIRED PARTS:

No officer parts are required. A Team must consist of at least 3 participants and no more than 5 participants.

C. TIME LIMIT: 10 minutes

PRIORITY DRILL

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) The altar, the East, the South, and the West. Chairs for the Master Councilor/Illustrious Knight Commander, Senior Councilor/Squire Commander, Junior Councilor/Page Commander, Scribe/Registrar and his desk, Junior Deacon, and Sentinel are already set up.
- 2) Must be completed within 15 minutes. Competition begins when the team leader states "BEGIN." Competition ends when the team leader states "END." Team will be stopped if they are not finished by the time limit.
- 3) There will be NO verbal and/or American Sign Language during competition aside from the commands given by the Commander. No communication between judges and team during competition time. Verbal communication includes any words/gestures during the competition between the words BEGIN AND STOP.
- 4) Judges will go over the contest rules with the team prior to when they start. The team can ask questions of the judge prior to saying "BEGIN". After the team leader says "STOP", the team exits and judges begin scoring.

B. REQUIRED PARTS:

Commandery, First Knight, and two Team Members for a total of 4 participants.

C. TIME LIMIT: 15 minutes

CEREMONY OF LIGHT (TEAM)

JUDGING CATEGORIES: Ritual, Direction and Performance

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) The Ceremony of Light, as it appears in the SOURCE without additions or changes.
- 2) Room to be set as in Diagram One except for stations.
- 3) The following are the required items:
 - a. **Holy Bible** lying open near the center of the Altar.
 - b. **School Books** are lying on the Northeast corner of the Altar.
 - c. **Seven Candles** lit.
 - d. **National Flag** in appropriate place.
- 4) The Speakers begin and end from the same seated positions. (Source reference 9418).
- 5) The Speakers talk to the room at large.

B. REQUIRED PARTS: Minimum of 3 Speakers, each of whom must present a minimum of **two** of the stations. A station is defined as the portion of the ceremony where there is a logical break and/or the speaker is required to move from one point to another. If 4 or more Speakers are used, each speaker must represent at least 1 station. There are no Candidates.

C. TIME LIMIT: 20 minutes.

CEREMONY OF LIGHT

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) The Ceremony of Light, as it appears in the SOURCE without additions or changes.
- 2) Room to be set as in Diagram One except for stations.
- 3) The following are the required items:
 - a. **Seven Candles** lit.
- 4) The Speaker talks to the room at large.
- 5) The speaker will indicate to Judging Panel the motion(s) the Competitor will use to indicate lighting and extinguishing candles.
- 6) The Speaker will indicate to Judging Panel where the East side of room is. It is not required that the East side of room is the side where Judging Panel is seated.
- 7)

B. REQUIRED PART:

The Speaker. (There are no Candidates.)

C. TIME LIMIT: 20 minutes

FLOWER TALK

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) The Flower Talk, as it appears in the SOURCE without additions or changes.
 - a. The fifth word "just" of the first sentence should be used indicating that the ceremony is being presented to a new initiate.
- 2) Room to be set as in Diagram One except for stations.
- 3) The Speaker talks to the room at large.
- 4) The speaker may start anywhere in the room. How he gets to "Point O" is not judged.
- 5) The Speaker will indicate to Judging Panel where the East side of room is. It is not required that the East side of room is the side where Judging Panel is seated.

B. REQUIRED PART:

The Speaker. There are no Candidates.

C. TIME LIMIT: 20 minutes

FATHER'S TALK

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) The Father's Talk, as it appears in the SOURCE without additions or changes.
- 2) Room to be set as in Diagram One except for stations.
- 3) The Speaker talks to the room at large.
- 4) The Speaker will indicate to Judging Panel where East side of room is. It is not required that the East side of room be the side where Judging Panel is seated.

B. REQUIRED PART:

The Speaker. There are no Candidates.

C. TIME LIMIT: 10 minutes

SHIELD TALK

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) The Shield Talk, as it appears in the SOURCE, without additions or changes.
- 2) Room to be set as in Diagram One except for stations.
- 3) The Speaker talks to the room at large.
- 4) The Speaker will indicate to Judging Panel where East side of room is. It is not required that the East side of room be the side where Judging Panel is seated.

B. REQUIRED PART:

The Speaker. There are no Candidates.

C. TIME LIMIT: 10 minutes

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) Seven Preceptor ritual parts, in order as they appear in the SOURCE.
- 2) No room set-up required. Competitor will stand at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.
- 3) Competitor will be judged on ritual & performance only. There is no direction judging.

B. REQUIRED PART:

The Speaker. There are no Candidates.

- C. TIME LIMIT:** 15 minutes

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

A. REQUIRED WORK:

- 1) One complete part as it appears in the SOURCE or as Specified on judging sheet.
- 2) Competitor is judged on the ritual (words spoken & sounds made) of the part as shown in the SOURCE and as accepted in Contest Specifics for Best Part Competitions.
- 3) RITUAL ASSISTANT (RA):
 - a. The RA may be used only for those Best Parts contests identified below.
 - b. The RA must be qualified to attend a tiled DeMolay meeting if the ceremony indicates the requirement.
 - c. The purpose of the RA is to provide language from other parts within the degree so the competitor may act and react according to the degree requirements.
 - d. The competitor that opts to use a RA must provide the RA for their performance for those Best Part contests listed in these SPECIFICS.
 - e. RA sheets will be provided by Panel Chairman.
 - f. The RA should be seated on the sideline out of eyesight of the competitor and not in the immediate area of the competitor but should be seated at a place designated by the Panel Chairman.
 - g. The RA may ONLY cue the last full sentence of the Ritual prior to each of the competitor's speeches.
 - h. The RA is not judged, nor will the competitor's score be impacted by the actions of the RA so long as that person adheres to the rules. However, if the competitor makes a mistake due to the RA not providing the appropriate words, the competitor will be penalized.
- 4) Appearance & costuming will be judged based on the degree's normal requirements.
- 5) No room set-up is required; competitor will compete at a location within the room as designated by the Panel Chairman.
- 6) Initiatory Degree
 - a. No individual contest for Senior Councilor and Junior Councilor
- 7) DeMolay Degree
 - b. No individual contest for Geoffrey de Charney

B. REQUIRED PART:

- 1) Initiatory Degree
 - a. Master Councilor 15 minutes
 - b. Marshal 10 minutes
 - c. Senior Deacon 10 minutes
 - d. First Preceptor 5 minutes
 - e. Second Preceptor 5 minutes
 - f. Third Preceptor 5 minutes
 - g. Fourth Preceptor 5 minutes
 - h. Fifth Preceptor 5 minutes
 - i. Sixth Preceptor 5 minutes
 - j. Seventh Preceptor 5 minutes
- 2) DeMolay Degree
 - a. Jacques DeMolay 15 minutes (Ritual Assistant allowed)
 - b. Master Inquisitor 10 minutes (Ritual Assistant allowed)
 - c. Junior Inquisitor 10 minutes (Ritual Assistant allowed)
 - d. Orator 10 minutes

RITUAL PARAPHERNALIA

REQUIRED

INITIATORY DEGREE

Crown of Youth
2 Gavels
Altar (*)
Chairs for required parts.
Gong
Candlesticks

DEMOLAY DEGREE

Chairs for required parts.
Parts

OPTIONAL

Councilors' Podium
U.S. Flag
Chapter Banner

FOURTH SECTION

1 Gavel
Altar (*)
Chairs for required parts

U.S. Flag
Candlesticks
Chapter Banner

CHAPTER PROFICIENCY

Gavels
Chairs for required parts
Candlesticks
Gong
Altar (*)

Councilors' Podium
Chapter Banner

CHAPTER ROOM SETUP

22 Officer Stations
7 candlesticks with candles
School books
The gong and gong stick
Altar (*)
Flowers
Chapter banner (optional)

2 gavels
Bible
The Flag and Flagpole
Flowers
Altar cloth
Baton for Marshal

FLOWER TALK

Altar (*)

1 Red Flower
1 White Flower

CEREMONY OF LIGHT

Altar (*)
National Flag

Candlesticks

* Altar shall include a Bible and schoolbooks. If an altar cloth is used it shall be artfully arranged. If the cloth has a DeMolay emblem, it will face the West.

>>> **PLEASE NOTE:** Clarification of candle use during Ritual Competition will be made at Ritual Advisors Meeting. <<<