

GUIDE:

FOR INVOLVING YOUTH IN OUTREACH EFFORTS

Masonic Outreach encourages lodges to involve the Youth Orders when doing outreach to older members and widows/ers. By doing so, the lodge can create an opportunity for engagement that will benefit both age groups! Below are ideas on how this can be done...

Create an Opportunity for Service Projects:

- The lodge can reach out to older members and widow/ers through phone calls or by posting information in their Trestleboards that they are seeking homes to help the Youth Orders with their service projects.
- The lodge should state that is a wonderful opportunity to have some small repairs done, light housekeeping, yard work, cleaning out a garage or shed, etc. and it will provide an opportunity for the Youth to earn their service hours.
- By taking this approach it removes any stigma associated with asking others for help. It also gives the older members or widows the opportunity to give back to the youth.
- Masons of all ages still want to give back and contribute in any way they can and by creating an opportunity for a service project your lodge has done exactly that!
- Involving the Youth Orders also helps the lodge leverage more people to help, if the lodge doesn't have enough younger members to take on service projects.

Create an Opportunity for Teaching Skills:

- The lodge can ask the Youth Order leaders to see what skills they may be willing to teach older members and widows.
- Then the lodge can connect with older members to see what skills they may be interested in learning AND teaching the youth.
- The lodge can then host different events at the lodge to bring together the Youth and the older members and widows for some educational events. These should be events that are taught by both age groups.
- Educational events can include computer skills such as Video Calls (ex. Facetime, Zoom, etc.); using cell phones; woodwork; music; crafts; cooking etc. Let the Youth and older members and widows/ers identify what they can teach each other- you may be surprised!

Create an Opportunity to Connect:

- Invite the Youth to write letters and cards to older members and widows/ers.
- Create a pen-pal club that can be done with pen and paper or through technology like email, video call, or texting.
- Of course, ensure that the communication remains appropriate and involves the oversight of an adult.

By connecting the Youth Orders and older members and widows/ers, the lodge creates avenues for reconnection and a more meaningful experience for all...