



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia



A Proclamation 2025-2026

TO BE READ AT DECEMBER STATED CONVOCATIONS OF EVERY SUBORDINATE CHAPTER

WHEREAS, the ancient charges and regulations of Masonry enjoin all Masons to continually seek More Light in Masonry and to proceed in their Masonic journey; and

WHEREAS, the Royal Arch, often referred to as the "completion of the Master Mason's Degree," holds the essential Truth required to complete the historical and spiritual narrative commenced in the Craft Lodge; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia maintains fraternal harmony and productive collaboration with the Grand Lodge of Virginia, recognizing the fundamental importance of the Craft Lodge to our existence; and

WHEREAS, the future strength of the York Rite in Virginia rests upon the collaborative spirit and fraternal bond between all concordant bodies, ensuring that we move forward with unity and shared purpose; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I Kyle William Strickland, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia do hereby proclaim, direct, and urge every Subordinate Chapter within our Jurisdiction to actively participate in the "Royal Arch Red Coat Night" Initiative.

A Call to Action for Companion Recruitment and Education

We call upon every Royal Arch Chapter to participate in the following directives to promote the Royal Arch Degrees:

1. Establishment of the "Red Coat Night" Program:

Each Subordinate Chapter is hereby directed to make formal and courteous contact with all Craft Lodges in its assigned area to respectfully solicit an invitation to arrange a minimum of two (2) separate "Red Coat Nights" to be held in the 2025-2026 Capitular Year. No Chapter shall enter a Craft Lodge for this purpose without the express permission and invitation of the Worshipful Master.

Definition of "Red Coat Night": A "Red Coat Night" shall be defined as a formal presentation by Royal Arch Companions, wearing the traditional scarlet or "red" sport coat of the Royal Arch, given to the Master and Brethren of a Craft Lodge during their Stated Communication.

2. Objectives of the Presentation:

The presentation must focus on the historical context of the Royal Arch, its necessary connection to the Master Mason Degree, and the compelling reasons why Master Masons seek More Light in Masonry. The Companions must exercise due deference and respect to the Worshipful Master and the established procedures of the Craft Lodge at all times.

Solicitation of Candidates: The primary goal shall be to solicit petitions from eligible Master Masons, providing them with necessary information and petition forms to continue their Masonic journey and education through the Royal Arch.

3. Strengthening Fraternal Bonds:

All Chapters are encouraged to coordinate their "Red Coat Night" activities with the mention of the Cryptic Council and Commandery of Knights Templar as a completion of the York Rite, presenting a unified front of the York Rite to demonstrate harmony, collaboration, and the full scope of the Masonic journey beyond the Craft Lodge.

Companions should volunteer to assist the host Craft Lodge with clean-up, fellowship, and general support before, during, or after the presentation. Furthermore, Chapters and their Companions should offer to confer Blue Lodge Degree work, with a Royal Arch "Red Coat" Degree Team, as a visible sign of our commitment to the Blue Lodge and the support of Symbolic Masonry.

4. Required Compliance and Reporting:


The District Deputy Grand High Priests are directed to monitor the progress of this initiative within their Districts and to provide assistance in coordinating joint-Chapter visits where necessary, emphasizing proper decorum and communication protocols with the Lodges.

The Subordinate Chapter Secretary shall record the date and the name of the Lodge visited for a "Red Coat Night" in their Monthly Activity Report submitted to the Grand Secretary. Compliance with the minimum requirement of two (2) nights shall be weighed in determining the Grand Line Bowl.


This Proclamation shall be considered a standing directive from the Office of the Grand High Priest for the 2025-2026 Capitular Year.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia at the City of Chesapeake this 23rd day of November, A.D. 2025, A.I. 2555 and in the Two-Hundred and Eighteenth year of our Grand Chapter.




Kyle William Strickland
Grand High Priest

Attest:


Wayne H. Anderson
Grand Secretary