



Q: What's the value of the Chapter Experience?

The value of Royal Arch Masonry will be justly appreciated by all who are Exalted to that Most Sublime Degree, particularly by those who are seeking to complete their Masonic education. It reveals the full light of Ancient Craft masonry, presents it as a complete system in accordance with the original plan and confers at last the rights and light of a Master Mason in fact as well as in name. It truly leads to a fuller understanding of the purposes and spirit of Freemasonry, for standing upon this towering summit we are able for the first time to perceive the completeness of the Ancient Craft and to understand how all its forms and ceremonies, from the Entered Apprentice to the Master Mason's Degree, are the preparation for the final goal, the Most Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason.

Q: What is a Chapter?

The local Body of Royal Arch Masons, which operates much like your Blue Lodge.

There are Chapters throughout the state, a full listing can be located on the Grand Chapter Website, if you are interested in learning more reach out to us via our website or by asking a Royal Arch Mason in your Lodge.

Maryland Royal Arch Masonry:
complete *your* Masonic story...

Why Royal Arch Masonry?

FELLOWSHIP | TRADITION | CHARITY

Royal Arch Masonry, or Capitular Masonry, gives you an opportunity to meet Brothers from local Lodge's working to improve themselves in Masonry.



Fellowship and Philanthropy Royal Arch Charity

Royal Arch Research Assistance

Since its conception in 1974, Royal Arch Research Assistance (R.A.R.A.) has been the world's leading philanthropy dedicated to helping children with Central Auditory Processing Disorders.

R.A.R.A., through the contributions of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, supports the Center for Central Auditory Research at Colorado State University, where continuous efforts are being made to understand and treat individuals with Central Auditory Processing Disorders.

D. Ross Vansant Scholarship

The D. Ross Vansant Scholarship is provided to a Son, Grandson, Daughter, or Granddaughter of a member of the Royal Arch Masons of Maryland. It is also available to members of Maryland Masonic Youth Groups, DeMolay, Rainbow, and Job's Daughters.

*Please visit the Grand Chapter Website

HOW DO I MOVE FORWARD?

- NEED TO FIND A CHAPTER NEAR YOU?
- NEED TO DOWNLOAD A PETITION?
- NEED TO RESEARCH THE DEGREES.

VISIT US AT:
www.yorkritemaryland.org

Many historians have traced the earliest origins of the Royal Arch Degree to Ireland, late in the 17th century and in England in 1738. In 1752, ambulatory or military warrants for Lodges were introduced. This was instrumental in placing the Royal Arch Degree on a par with the Master Mason Degree.

Military lodges were greatly responsible for planting Freemasonry in the Colonies and also gave birth to the use of the Marl and Royal Arch degrees in the "New World." Lodge records show that the Royal Arch Degree was conferred at Fredericksburg No. 4 on December 12, 1753. George Washington was raised in this lodge a few months prior to this date.

What are the Degrees of the Chapter?



Mark Master

The Mark Master Degree is believed to have originated as a ceremony of registering a craftsman's mark in those years distinguished by operative craft masons and their temple building. It is highly regarded by students in all Masonry, teaching lessons that have proven of value in all walks of life.



Past Master (Virtual)

Bestowed because of the old requirement that only Past Masters of a Symbolic Lodge may join the Royal Arch. (This is a virtual degree created to conform with tradition, and it confers no rights as a Past Master in a Blue Lodge.)



Most Excellent Master

The Most Excellent Master Degree is a product of American innovation. It was conferred in a Royal Arch Chapter as early as 1783 in Middletown, Conn. It is by far the most spectacular degree in all Freemasonry. It is the only degree that brings to our attention the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple. The very idea upon which all Masonic symbolism has been based.



Royal Arch

The Royal Arch Degree is the climax of Ancient Craft Masonry and Masonic Symbolism. It is described as "the root and marrow of Freemasonry." It is the complete story of Jewish History during some of its darkest hours. Jerusalem and the Holy temple are destroyed, the people are being held captive as slaves in Babylon. Here you will join with some slaves as they are set free to return home and engage in the noble and glorious work of rebuilding the city and the Temple of God. It is during this rebuilding that they make a discovery that brings to light the greatest treasure of a Mason --the long-lost Master's Word.

