



A Parent's Guide to DeMolay

The answers to commonly asked questions



So, your son is interested in joining the local DeMolay Chapter

... and, of course, you're wondering whether it is the right thing for him to do.

Any parent who is concerned for the overall growth, development, and the general well-being of their son; and who may not already be acquainted with what DeMolay is all about, naturally has plenty of questions.

Since its founding, well over a million young men have become members of DeMolay. Many have gone on to become household names in their chosen profession. DeMolay provided them with skills otherwise unattainable for young men ...leadership. However, as each of these young men began his association with DeMolay, there in the background was a concerned parent or guardian asking questions.

This booklet was prepared to give you answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about DeMolay. A few minutes to review the information provided here will give you an overview of the history, values, operation, sponsorship and activities of a chapter of DeMolay.

The questions answered here are generally arranged in categories. However, the answer to a question in one category might contain information that would generally fall into a different category. In those cases, to save reading time, the information will only be presented once.

You may have questions other than those answered here. They may be questions of general nature, or questions specifically related to the chapter your son is considering joining. Whatever your questions, please



Jacques DeMolay

feel free to contact the state Executive Officer at

eo@tndemolay.org.

We appreciate your willingness to learn more about how this character-building and leadership development organization has supplemented the growth of thousands of boys into positive, productive men and quality citizens in their communities.

Please read on.

What is DeMolay?

DeMolay International is the world's largest fraternal organization for young men age 12 to 21. It is specifically designed to provide a good moral environment to young men while teaching leadership skills. The ultimate aim is to build better young men which will, in turn, mean better men to be better citizens, husbands, fathers, and leaders in the future.

DeMolay currently exists in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and nine foreign countries. In the United States there are over 25,000 current members which operate over 800 chapters.

What are the requirements to join?

The requirements are few, but each is important. To be a member of DeMolay, a young man must:

- Be, between the ages of 12 and 21.
- Be of good character and reputation.
- Have a belief in a God, Supreme Being or Deity.
- Complete an application
- Attend a 2-part induction ceremony.

What is the Induction Ceremony like?

The DeMolay induction ceremony is the celebration of a young man's commitment to better himself by becoming a DeMolay. This orientation and explanation sets DeMolay apart from other organizations, because young men present it to all new members, as a chapter.

The ceremony itself contains two sections or "degrees". The first is called the Initiatory Degree. It is a solemn event during which the young man is acquainted with the founding principles of DeMolay. The second section is called the "DeMolay degree." It is a play portrayed by DeMolay members. The subject of the play is loyalty, because it tells the story of Jacques DeMolay (who lived in the 14th century). The importance of the story for today's youth is to always be loyal to your beliefs, family, friends, and commitments. We believe this is an important lesson for today's youth.

The Vows of a DeMolay Member

Humbly and sincerely....

- I promised to be a better son
- I promised to love and serve God, my country, and my fellowmen
- I promised to honor and protect every woman
- I promised to slander no one
- I promised to aid and uphold the public schools
- I promised to be loyal to my friend and brothers
- All of these things and more I did promise!

How do DeMolays learn leadership skills?

DeMolay prides itself on preparing young men for careers above and beyond education. Education is vitally important and DeMolay supplements it with specific training. A process of executing increased responsibilities teaches leadership skills. The chapter contains offices which members may obtain such as president and vice-president. Here are some examples:

Master Councilor	President
Senior Councilor	1 st Vice-president
Junior Councilor	2 nd Vice-president
Scribe	Secretary
Treasurer, Chaplain, and many others	

Members may move through the ranks and obtain higher offices, much like business positions. Each position carries more and more responsibilities. If he participates, here are just a few things that a young man will learn in DeMolay that will prepare him for leadership. These experiences will give him a head start on his classmates in the race for scholarships and jobs.

- ❖ Public Speaking
- ❖ Appearance and image maintenance
- ❖ How to plan and execute events such as banquets and dances
- ❖ How to run a business meeting (Parliamentary Procedure)
- ❖ How to prepare agendas
- ❖ How to assign, utilize, and execute committees

In fact Tennessee DeMolay puts such an emphasis on higher education that each year they give out several scholarships to DeMolays to apply towards College. The qualifications of these scholarships are such that they must show a 3.0 GPA or higher to be eligible to apply for a scholarship and the scholarship is renewable each year as long as the criteria is met. In the past these scholarships have been in excess of \$2000.00 each.

How does a young man learn good character in DeMolay?

Upon joining DeMolay, the young man will interact with other quality young men and advisors who are dedicated to upholding the aforementioned virtues. Young men act more upstanding when in the company of other quality young men. Acting in an upstanding manner becomes a habit. This habit makes and demonstrates good character now and serves to mold a mature way of thinking as he obtains adulthood.

I may think young people need these skills, but do the members want to learn them?

Few young people are mature enough to desire this type of training without some type of fun. When DeMolays tell their friends about DeMolay, they discuss the fun aspects. DeMolays have a great deal of fun

and all the while they are learning to act with good character and they learn leadership skills. In order for fun to be had, members learn that they must plan their own fun. Chapters routinely have dances, attend ball games, hold fundraisers (such as spaghetti dinners), and play organized sports. Planning these things appears to be fun, but they are learning at the same time.

How much time does it take to be a DeMolay?

The young man is invited to all events and can spend as much or as little time as he desires. Most chapters have two stated meetings per month to plan activities. In addition to the meetings is whatever events they are holding during the month. An example of one month's worth of events follows. There is no requirement to attend functions; however, we hope that the parents will enforce a six-month trial period. Usually after six months the young man is familiar with DeMolay to truly see the enjoyment and benefits.

Thursday	4th	7:00 p.m.	Chapter Meeting
Friday	5th	8:00 p.m. (all night)	Lock-in Sleepover
Thursday	11th	7:00 p.m.	Chapter Meeting
		Pizza Party before Meeting	
Friday	19th	7:00	District Dance
Saturday	20th	11:00 a.m.	Fundraiser Car Wash
Thursday	25th		Serve Spaghetti Dinner

What types of activities does a DeMolay chapter have?

Within certain parameters, the activities of a DeMolay Chapter are limited only by the imaginations of its members. Members of a DeMolay chapter plan and hold social functions, fund raising, civic service projects, athletic activities, and much more. Insurance restrictions prohibit chapters from engaging in certain activities. However, overall, chapters have a wide range of activities from which they can choose as they plan their activities and project calendar.

Why haven't I heard of DeMolay?

Often DeMolay chapters become so involved in planning, organizing, and enjoying their activities, they overlook promoting their chapter within a community, as they should. However, in a television age, the news would rather focus on the bad acts of young people rather than those concerned about themselves and their communities, like DeMolay members.

If you have not heard of DeMolay, perhaps you have heard of some of the persons who were DeMolays as teenagers. These famous alumni include Walt Disney, actor John Wayne, comedians Tommy and Dick Smothers, pro football quarterback Fran Tarkenton, Dan Rather, Willard Scott, owner of the San Diego Chargers Alex Spanos, and news legend Walter Cronkite. Many of these individuals and other community and business leaders credit part of their success and rise to fame to their DeMolay experience.

A comment on DeMolay

"I feel a great sense of obligation and gratitude toward DeMolay for the important part it played in shaping my life. Its precepts have been invaluable in making decisions, if facing dilemmas and crises,

in holding on to one's faith and ideals, and in meeting those test which are best borne when shared with others in a bond of confidence."

Can you stop being a member if you don't like it?

Yes, you can stop participating. A member will remain on our membership roll until they turn 21. Being on this roll entitles all members to participate in the DeMolay program if they desire.

What is the organization DeMolay?

DeMolay in the United States is organized by state. Each state is under the direction of an Executive Officer. He coordinates the activities of advisors to assist chapters in operation. Each follows the same guidelines set forth by DeMolay International in order to provide a quality experience for young men that are in harmony with moral and legal standards. In Tennessee the Executive Officer has a staff of volunteer advisors that help to work with the state officers in planning state supervised events.

DeMolay is Tax Deductible Charity

DeMolay is a recognized 501(c)3 Charity by the IRS. Therefore all contributions to the organization are tax deductible. Our adult workers may deduct certain expenses incurred by volunteering for a chapter (such as gas, tolls, lodging, etc.) For more information, contact a chapter or your tax advisor.

What activities are offered on a state level?

Tennessee DeMolay University – Each year Tennessee DeMolay offers a leadership conference. In this weekend retreat the boys learn and develop leadership skills as well as working on developing overall knowledge of the organization.

Annual Statewide Conclave – Each year Tennessee DeMolay host a conclave. This event is the ending of one group of state officers and the beginning of a new group of state officers, which are elected by the voting delegates from each chapter throughout the state. This is also a time for sports competitions and competitions between chapters. This is a 4-day action packed weekend with lots of exciting things to do.

State Sweethearts Dance – Each Year around Valentine's Day a statewide dance is held. This is a nice break for the DeMolays and is a chance for them to see friends from across the state during the school year.

District Conclaves – Each District holds a Conclave. This usually consists of an induction ceremony and dinner as well as having some type of fun activity like a dance or putt-putt golf. Members from other districts visit to make the fun a little greater.

Habitat For Humanity – Each year Tennessee DeMolay helps with Habitat for Humanity by helping build a home for a less fortunate person.

Special Olympics- Each year the Tennessee DeMolay across the state participate in local, regional and state Special Olympics functions.

Where are the other chapters in Tennessee?

Memphis
Chattanooga

Collierville
Murfreesboro

Nashville
Jackson

Awards / Achievements

What awards and achievements are offered?

The execution of the DeMolay program teaches the members how to plan and execute events, develop and use human resources, and provides them confidence, organizing skills, etc. The members are also able to earn awards and take part in training conferences that teach successful skills of chapter management.

Merit Bars

By participating in aspects of the programs, members can earn recognition of achievements. One recognition item is the merit bars. Merit Bars are linked together to form a medal which lists the accomplishments of the member. The Bars are awarded in 16 categories with 5 levels per category. The categories are as follows:

Athletics	Attendance	Civic Service	Conclave
Installation	Journalism	LCC	Masonic Attendance
Masonic Service	Membership	Religion	Scholastics
Visitation	Fine Arts	Merit	Ritual

Leadership Correspondence Course

A series of 5, 50 question courses which analyze the history and organization of DeMolay. The members use various reference materials to answer the questions. Parents, advisors, and family members are all welcome to take part in the Course. Once the course is complete the person receives a pin and a certificate.

Representative DeMolay

The first step to leadership development is learning the skill of self-evaluation. The Representative DeMolay (R.D.) award is a self-evaluation test completed by the young man. The test causes the member to analyze his own progress in areas of his life, such as scholastics, religion, current events, etc.

Membership Awards

#1 Pin

Awarded for being the sponsor of 1 new DeMolay member.

Founder's Membership Award

Awarded for being the sponsor of 5 new DeMolay members.

Blue Honor Key

Awarded for being the sponsor of 10 new members.

Is DeMolay a religious organization?

No. Among the requirements for membership in DeMolay is the belief in a Supreme Being, but not one of particular doctrine, sect, or denomination. A young man's religious convictions are his own. DeMolay's members include those that follow, Christian, Jews, Mormons, Hindus, Buddhists, and other religious groups.

DeMolay does not involve itself in religious discussions. It merely recognizes the importance of a faith in the lives of young men. Through the virtue of Reverence for Sacred Things, it seeks to remind our members to rely upon and use their own faith in life.

A DeMolay's Ethics

- A DeMolay serves God.
- A DeMolay honors all womanhood.
- A DeMolay loves and honors his parents.
- A DeMolay is honest.
- A DeMolay is loyal to ideals and friends.
- A DeMolay is courteous.
- A DeMolay is at all times a gentleman.
- A DeMolay is a patriot in peace as well as war.
- A DeMolay is clean in mind and body.
- A DeMolay upholds the public schools.
- A DeMolay is a good citizen.
- A DeMolay preserves our high standard.

Why does DeMolay allow members of all religions to join?

The value of having membership across the religious spectrum is in the opportunity it provides for members of one religion or denomination to understand the perspective of others. The diversity of this country provides opportunities to be introduced to faiths, cultures, and traditions from around the world. By allowing young men of different backgrounds to participate it prepares the young man to rely upon his faith and respect the faith of others. This principle will be very important, as he becomes a more active citizen. He will value the culture and traditions of others while standing confidently upon his own beliefs.

Love of Parents
Patriotism

Reverence for Sacred Things

*Honor one's promises
Comradeship*

Cleanness of thought, word, & action

Courtesy

How did DeMolay get started?

In 1919, while employed as the social services director for the Scottish Rite bodies in Kansas City, Missouri, Frank Sherman Land hired a teenager by the name of Louis Gordon Lower to perform odd jobs around the building. As the two became friends, Land found that Lower's father had died a short time before and that the young man missed having the guidance that a father would provide. Lower had other friends whose fathers were also not in the home (WWI had just ended a few years earlier) whether through divorce, abandonment, or death. Land suggested Lower invite some of his friends to the Scottish Rite Temple to discuss starting a club. Within a few days Lower brought eight of his friends to a meeting. The nine young men agreed that the idea of a club was a good one. Soon the "Order of DeMolay" was born. Within three years chapters had been established in 39 of the then 48 states and District of Columbia. It has now spread worldwide.

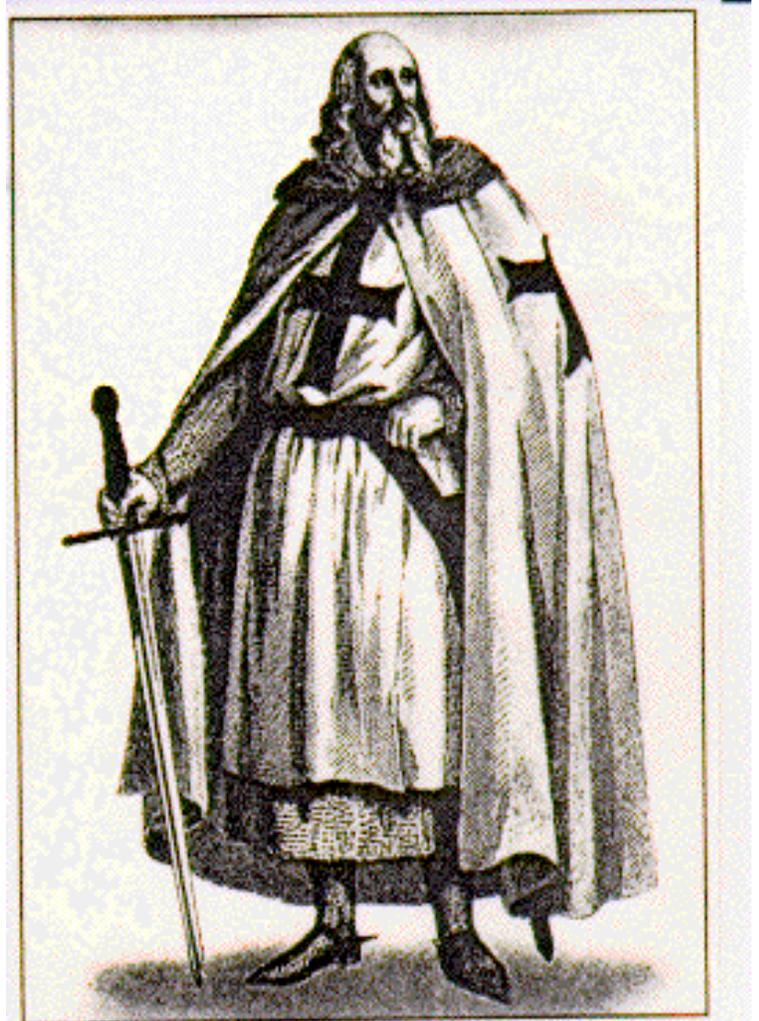
Where did the name DeMolay come from?

The name came from Jacques DeMolay, the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar during the Crusades. The original nine members of DeMolay selected the name in honor of his high principles.

What is the story of Jacques DeMolay?

Jacques DeMolay was born in France in 1244. At the age of 21, he became a member of the Knights Templars; a group originally called "Poor Soldiers of Christ". Sanctioned by the Pope and the Church Council in 1128, their purpose was to guard the road between Jerusalem and Acre (the port on the Mediterranean). Because of church sanction and they fought valiantly in several crusades, the Knights Templars were a popular group among the people. The name Knights Templar became synonymous with heroism. Even nobles and princes sent their sons to join them.

In 1298 Jacques DeMolay was elected Grand Master of the Templars. Over the years, the organization amassed great wealth and King Philip of France became concerned that they would use



Jacques DeMolay

their power and wealth against him. False charges were pressed against DeMolay and the Templars by the King in order to brand them as criminals. On orders of the King, Jacques DeMolay and hundreds of members of the Knights Templar were arrested and thrown into prison. During his **Seven-Year** imprisonment, DeMolay was tortured repeatedly in attempts to get him to betray other leaders and members of his beloved Templars. He consistently refused to betray his fellow Templars and because of his refusal, he was sentenced to be burned at the stake on March 18, 1314. DeMolay died a martyr to loyalty.

What is the History of Memphis # 1?

Memphis #1 was the first DeMolay Chapter east of the Mississippi River. The chapter received its charter on March 21, 1921, the original charter may be faded, but not the spirit of DeMolay.

Chapter Sponsorship and Supervision

Who sponsors a DeMolay chapter?

DeMolay is sponsored by Masons of the community. It is one way Masonry gives back to and remains active in communities. By sponsoring this group to teach leadership, morals, and good citizen character, Masons are active in preserving our future. Masons feel DeMolay helps ensure that the leaders of tomorrow are given proper guidance today. Think of it as future assurance.

Each DeMolay chapter is sponsored by a group of Freemasons, a Masonic Lodge, or some appendant Masonic group such as the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, or Shrine. The responsibilities of a sponsoring body are: to provide the chapter a place to meet; to provide adult leadership and guidance through maintaining an active Advisory Council; to assist the chapter whenever and however needed.

Who are the Masons?

Today's Masons are men who have joined together for mutual improvement in an organization that provides basic framework in which to improve themselves morally and spiritually while giving back to the community through the conduct of various community service and charitable undertakings. Traditionally, the caliber of men who seek membership in Masonic Order are among the most charitable and civic-minded individuals in any organization. Like DeMolay, it provides a social interaction in an environment for men that require high morals and good character from its members.

Are the Masons a secret organization?

No. In most towns, the Masonic Hall is prominently marked. In many locations, the meeting times and of the local lodge is published in the newspaper. Primarily, three things have contributed to the impression that the Masons are a secret organization.

1. The meetings of the local lodges are restricted to members only.
2. The fact that Masons have certain modes of recognizing each other such as a word or a sign that are kept confidential. This is to ensure that those involved and attending functions are members of the fraternity and not trying to get into meetings out of idle curiosity.
3. Unlike other organizations, Masons do not hold large membership recruitment drives. They chose to focus on each individual membership applicant.

How did DeMolay & Masonry come to be associated?

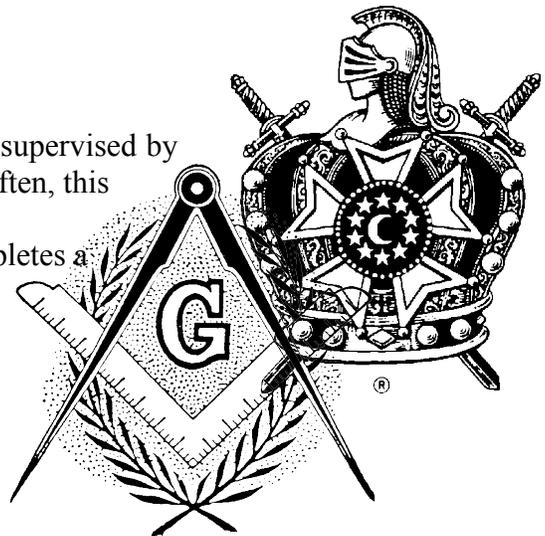
The founder of DeMolay, Frank S. Land, was himself a Mason. As DeMolay grew and new chapters were being formed in the 1920's, Land realized that each DeMolay chapter would require a group of quality men to provide leadership and support. He decided that chapters were to be sponsored by Masonic Lodges or a group of Masons that would ensure that there would always be service-oriented men of quality and character to serve on the advisory council of a chapter.

Is DeMolay a junior Masonic organization?

No. The Masons do not sponsor DeMolay to someday obtain Masons from its members. They are merely concerned with preparing Young men for the future. While in DeMolay they will interact with many Masonic members and develop a healthy, trusting relationship with Masons. They believe in helping today's youth through DeMolay.

Who supervises the activities of a DeMolay chapter?

Activities and projects of a DeMolay chapter are always supervised by a group of advisors who comprise the Advisory Council. Most often, this Body is made up of Masons from the sponsoring organization. Further, any Master Mason, Senior DeMolay or parent who completes a DeMolay Advisor Development (DAD) seminar and completes a Workers Profile may serve as an advisor. The DeMolay Advisor Development seminar is an in-depth seminar on proper procedures in being a chapter advisor. The Worker Profile is An extensive questionnaire checking into each advisor's past history.



Why do the young men refer to advisors as “Dad”?

The young men who started DeMolay did not want to refer to Frank S. Land as Frank. They felt this did not give him the respect he deserved. They further felt that Mr. Land was too formal. So they decided to refer to him as “Dad” Land. This was certainly the appropriate title for the man who advised and provided a fatherly influence. The title became a habit and since then every advisor is addressed with the title of “Dad”.

What do the Advisors do?

Ultimately the advisors are responsible for overseeing all aspects of the operation of the chapter and ensuring that the chapter operates within the statutes set down by DeMolay International (the International governing body). The advisors help the members plan and carry out programs and activities while they are ongoing. The advisors are also responsible for sitting as a hearing board on disciplinary matters in the chapter. They also supervise those programs and activities while they are ongoing. In addition, they often help the chapter by acting as the “record-keepers” and administrators of the paperwork that is required in

order to keep the chapter operating. These advisors are respected members of the community who donate their time and money to assist the growth of these young men.

What is expected of a parent(s)?

- A. *Keep the young man active for at least six months.* Upon joining DeMolay, the young man will be unfamiliar with its procedures and methods. After 6 months, he will be able to make an educated decision about his involvement.
- B. *We all fear and consider worthless those things we do not understand.* Some young men may approach the first few events as being stupid and not “cool”. After he becomes familiar with the methods his comfort level will allow him to take part in and perhaps lead those very activities.

Is there a way for the members’ parents to be involved without being an Advisor?

The involvement of parents is always welcome and encouraged. Many Chapters within the State have an active “Parents Club”. This usually becomes a decision of each individual chapter. DeMolay chapters that have one of these two clubs have always been successful chapters. They have realized the advantages of having the support of parents. The Clubs do things such as refreshments for after chapter meetings, assist in decorations at dances, and help with transportation, and so on. The list is almost unlimited as to what a club can do for a DeMolay chapter. All parents are welcome no matter how much time they are able to commit.

What will be expected of a young man who joins DeMolay?

His involvement in DeMolay is intended to be both fun and rewarding. As with any organization, there are ways for him to maximize the benefit from his membership.

- *Become involved.* He will be expected to attend chapter meetings and activities and get involved in helping make decisions regarding the chapter.
- *Approach his involvement with a positive, helpful attitude.* His approach should include a willingness to learn, a willingness to help others learn and a willingness to be a part of the chapter team. Every DeMolay member has had life experiences that have taught him lessons and given him a unique perspective on issues. Together, the members and their advisors share perspectives and learn from each other as they make decisions that affect the operation and future of the chapter.
- *Put the precepts of DeMolay into practice in his daily life.* Some of the guiding principles of DeMolay (love of parents, reverence, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity (loyalty), cleanness, and patriotism) may seem “out of fashion” in today’s society, but that does not mean that they are without merit. A young man who can impress these beliefs in this daily life will be “ahead of the game” as he approaches manhood.
- *Learn about DeMolay.* Part of being a good member and team player is being familiar enough with how it operates and being able to tell others about it. He will have a handbook and an “open book” course called a Leadership Correspondence Course available to help him learn about DeMolay.

What are the rules members must abide by?

- The presence and /or use of alcohol or any illegal or controlled drug is prohibited at DeMolay functions. The only exception is prescriptions from a licensed medical doctor.
- The possession of any type of weapon is prohibited.
- Aggressive, disruptive, or destructive behavior has no place at a DeMolay function.
- When attending a DeMolay function or going on a DeMolay-related outing, he should not try to be “Mr. Independent.” At any DeMolay function, he is responsible to the advisors in attendance.

While there are specific rules governing specific situation in Chapters. These provide a general description.

Where can my son get a petition if he would so desire to join?

That is the easy part. A petition can be obtained by contacting the state Executive Officer at eo@ndemolay.org. He will put you in touch with the proper person in your area.

The DeMolay Emblem . . . what is its meaning?



The DeMolay Emblem was created with symbolism in mind. Since this symbolism would only mean something to the members. This emblem is shown here. The emblem has remained unchanged since the 1940's. Every part of it has symbolic significance to a member.

The Crown is symbolic of preciousness of youth.

The Pearls and Rubies in the Crown are to honor the founder, Frank S. Land and the nine young men whose ties of friendship drew them together in the formation of DeMolay.

The Helmet is emblematic of chivalry, without which there can be no fineness of character.

The Crescent is a sign of loyalty and is a constant reminder that DeMolay should remain faithful to all obligations they assume.

The Five-Armed White Cross symbolizes the purity of intentions to always remember an important creed "*No DeMolay shall fail as a citizen, as a leader, or as a man.*"

The Crossed Swords denotes justice, fortitude, and mercy. They symbolize the unceasing warfare of DeMolay against arrogance, despotism, and intolerance.

The Stars surrounding the Crescent are a symbol of hope for the future of our members as they assume the important responsibilities of citizenship.