

INFORMAL OPENING

Conclave Form

This ceremony is to be used to open the State Association informally, with parents and guests present. The entire ritual is to be given from memory. If some State Officers and Preceptors are not available, the Executive Officer may designate such persons to participate.

Required Parts: State Master Councilor: S.M.C.; State Senior Councilor: S.S.C.; State Junior Councilor: S.J.C.; State Senior Deacon: S.S.D.; State Junior Deacon: S.J.D.; State Senior Steward: S.S.S.; State Junior Steward: S.J.S.; State Chaplain: S.Ch.; State Marshal: S.Mar.; Executive Officer: E.O.; State Chapter Dad: S.C.D.; 7 Preceptors: 1P. - 7P

Required Paraphernalia: Gavel on S.M.C.'s pedestal, Holy Bible in possession of S.S.S., School books in possession of S.J.S., National flag in possession of S.S.D., State flag in possession of S.J.D., a lighted candle in possession of each Preceptor, seven candlesticks with candles arranged around the Altar in the usual manner.

Optional Paraphernalia: Altar cloth, Altar flowers, pedestal covers, gavel on S.S.C.'s and S.J.C.'s pedestals.

S.C.D. (welcoming remarks)

Lights dimmed. Preceptors enter through side door with candles lit in reverse order and proceed around the left side of the altar to their respective candles. Each preceptor lights his respective candle, then says his speech.

If not enough Preceptors are available, the following options may be used:

- (1) A speaker may be assigned to give all of the Preceptors' parts from either the point inside the seven candles or from the East. Seven members of the degree team light the candles as the speaker refers to each candle.*
- (2) A speaker may be assigned to give all of the Preceptor's parts. As he refers to each candle, he approaches and lights that candle.*

- 1P.** The first candle symbolizes the love between parent and child, that love which existed before we were born, has remained with us all our life through, and will follow us even beyond the grave. The sages named this love "agape", love for no other reason than the sake of being.
- 2P.** The second candle is emblematic of reverence for all that is sacred. A young man crossing the threshold of DeMolay for the first time professes a deep and abiding faith in one living and true God. Without this steadfast faith and the grace of our heavenly Father, our toil would be for nothing.
- 3P.** The third candle stands for courtesy, a courtesy which reaches to the stranger, to the aged, to all men. It is this courtesy that brings a warm feeling and a smile and makes this life more pleasant for others as it lights the pathway before us.
- 4P.** The fourth candle, the candle in the center of our seven, stands symbolically for comradeship. Millions of young men such as ourselves have knelt at this symbolic Altar and dedicated themselves to the same good sonship and good citizenship. As long as we remain faithful to these pledges, as long as there is an Order of DeMolay—we are one.
- 5P.** The fifth candle stands simply for fidelity. A DeMolay can never justly be false to his vows, his promises, his friends, and his God. He is called upon daily to defend the bulwarks and precepts of the Order that he might never fail as a leader or as a man.

- 6P.** The sixth candle is symbolic of cleanness, not only the bodily cleanness which we all practice, but the cleanness of every thought, word, and deed. Only in cleanness can a DeMolay rightly be representative of the pureness of our teachings.
- 7P.** The last candle is emblematic of patriotism. Perhaps we shall never be called upon to defend our country in the field of battle, but each day affords new opportunities to stand as good and upright citizens in behalf of that beloved banner and our hallowed land.

Preceptors exit, 1P. leading, through the side door. Lights brought up to full.

S.C.D. * * * (3 raps)

S.S.S., carrying open bible, and S.J.S., carrying school books, enter simultaneously through rear doors, S.S.S. from the left rear door, and S.J.S. from the right rear door. When Stewards reach the steps to ascend the stage, S.J.S. stops, waits for S.S.S. to ascend stage and pass in front of him, and then ascends the stage and follows behind S.S.S. to west of the Altar.

S.S.S. approaches Altar and, without kneeling, places the open Bible on the Altar. S.S.S. takes one step back.

S.S.S. We place the Holy Bible, the foundation of our faith in everlasting days, upon the Altar as symbol of the religious liberty which is the birthright of all people.

S.S.S. does an about-face and moves to his station.

S.J.S. approaches Altar and, without kneeling, places the school books on the northeast corner of the Altar. S.J.S. takes one step back.

S.J.S. We place the school books on the Altar as a symbol of the intellectual liberty, without which there could be neither civil nor religious freedom.

S.J.S. does an about-face and moves to his station.

S.S.D., carrying National flag, and S.J.D., carrying State flag, enter from the right rear door. As S.S.D. enters the room, all persons salute. S.S.D. and S.J.D. ascend stage. S.S.D. moves to the northeast corner of the stage and places his flag in its stand. Simultaneously, S.J.D. moves around the west side of the Altar to the southeast corner of the stage and places his flag in its stand. S.S.D. and S.J.D. move to their respective stations.

S.Mar. enters from right rear door, ascends stage, and moves to the point between the center candle and the east. As S.Mar. nods his head, S.M.C., S.S.C., S.J.C., and S.Ch. enter from right rear door in that order, ascend stage, move to the point west of the Altar, and form the triangle as listed below:

	S.M.C.	
S.S.C.	S.Ch.	S.J.C.

As S.Mar. nods his head, S.M.C, S.S.C., S.J.C., and S.Ch. kneel for a moment of silent prayer. S.Mar. does not kneel.

S.M.C. Amen.

Those kneeling rise. S.Mar. moves to the south side of the Altar. As he turns north, heading for the point west of the Altar, S.M.C. turns north and takes one step west. S.Mar. escorts S.M.C. from west of the Altar to his podium by way of the north side of the Altar. When S.M.C. is behind his podium, S.Mar. moves to his station.

S.M.C. * (rap)

S.S.C. turns north, moves to his station. Simultaneously, S.J.C. turns south, moves to his station. Simultaneously, S.Ch. takes one step east, turns north, and moves to his station by way of the east.

S.M.C. * (rap)

All except S.M.C. sit down.

S.M.C. Brethren and friends, on behalf of the Associated DeMolay Chapters of Georgia, I welcome you most cordially to this Conclave. It may not be out of place at this time to explain briefly the general purposes of our Order, to which only young men between the ages of 13 and 21 years are eligible. While we have secret signs, words, and modes of recognition, we have no secrets from the world so far as our central purposes are concerned. We are banded together for mutual improvement, to help each other live clean, manly, upright, patriotic lives, which will be a credit to our parents and friends, and which will merit the commendation of all good men. In our meetings we inculcate only principles which are in harmony with this exalted purpose in our daily lives and seek to carry them into effect. We feel we can rightly bespeak for our Order in general and for ourselves in particular the hearty assistance of all good men and women.

S.M.C. Brother State Senior Deacon, you will present the flag of our country at the Altar.

S.M.C. * * * (3 raps)

S.S.D. moves to the National flag, removes it from its stand.

S.M.C. Brethren and friends, you will stand at attention and salute our flag.

S.S.D. moves to the west side of the Altar by way of the east and south.

S.M.C. Brethren and friends, join me in saluting and pledging allegiance to the flag.

ALL I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

S.M.C. As no great undertaking should ever begin without asking the blessing of Almighty God, let us give our attention to the State Chaplain as he leads us in prayer.

Brother State Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

Lights dimmed. S.Ch. conducted by S.Mar. moves to the west side of the Altar by way of the south.

S.M.C. Active DeMolays will kneel on left knee. All others will remain standing.

All Active DeMolays except S.Mar. kneel in unison as S.Ch. kneels.

S.Ch. Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the many opportunities we have had to display Thy manifold gifts of grace. We thank Thee for the privilege of service and for the knowledge of Thine eternal love. We ask Thy special blessing upon these State Officers who have assumed the responsibilities of leadership in this State Association this past year. Reassure them of Thy continued guidance and protecting care. Give them the will to understand, the courage to do that which is right, and the strength to carry out Thy teachings. Amen.

ALL Amen.

Active DeMolays rise as S.Ch. rises. S.Ch. conducted by S.Mar. moves back to his station by way of the north. Lights raised to full.

When S.Ch. and S.Mar arrive at their stations, S.S.D. returns to his station by way of the north and returns flag to standard.

S.M.C. In the name and under the authority of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay, whose See is at Kansas City in the State of Missouri, and by virtue of the power in me vested as State Master Councilor of the

Associated DeMolay Chapters of Georgia, sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Georgia, I declare this State Association informally open.

S.M.C. * (rap)

S.M.C. Brother State Marshal, you will present the Executive Officer of this jurisdiction west of the Holy Altar for introduction.

S.Mar. moves to the west side of the Altar by way of the south, descends stage, and receives E.O. at the right rear door. E.O. conducted by S.Mar. enters from the right rear door, ascends stage, and moves to the west side of the Altar.

S.Mar. Brother State Master Councilor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you and through you, to the members and guests here assembled, Dad William R. Carver, Jr., Executive Officer of the Jurisdiction of Georgia and Active Member of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay.

S.M.C. Brother State Marshal, you will present him further east.

As E.O. conducted by S.Mar. moves to the east by way of the north, S.M.C. leads applause. When E.O. arrives at the east, S.M.C. comes out from behind podium to receive him and tenders the gavel to E.O. Once E.O. is received by S.M.C., S.Mar. returns to his station.

E.O. * (rap)

All except E.O. sit down. After saying any words he might have, the E.O. returns the gavel to the S.M.C. so he can proceed.