

The Value of Candidate Counseling

The goal of this topic is to inform Lodge members about the value of Candidate Counseling and the process it takes in your Lodge. It is a chance for the Lodge Education Officer to build a level of support and improved understanding for Candidate Counseling among members. It could be a way of recruiting new Candidate Counselors. The LEO should read or paraphrase the material below.

The length of the program should be 7 to 15 minutes, but could go longer if the discussion is interesting.

- ✍ The purpose of Candidate Counseling in the Lodge is help each new Brother joining Freemasonry to receive a basic foundation in the history and beliefs for which the Fraternity stands. A large number of new Masons, after completing their degrees, may not have the time or ability to attend many Lodge meetings. They can still be outstanding Masons, however, throughout their lives. But to do so, they should receive a basic education about the Fraternity while they are receiving their degrees. This is the role of Candidate Counseling.
- ✍ Each year the Worshipful Master appoints a Lodge Education Officer. A major part of his work is to supervise the Candidate Counseling program. In turn, the LEO recommends Candidate Counselors to assist him for appointment by the Worshipful Master. The Grand Lodge suggests that one Candidate Counselor be appointed for every three candidates a Lodge may have.
- ✍ The Grand Lodge provides a number of resources to help the Candidate Counseling program in each Lodge. These resources include: **(show members each item as they are mentioned and pass them around)** the Candidate Counselors Handbook, forms to keep track of the candidates during the degrees, 4 sets of flip charts (“On the Threshold,” and another for each of the three degrees), and degree pamphlets passed out after each degree.
- ✍ I’d like to give you a sample of the topics that are covered in a typical Candidate Counseling session. (Read down the “Outline” of topics for one or two of the various sessions, found on pages 10-11, 16-17, 24-25, or 30-32 of the Candidate Counselor’s Handbook. You might consider passing out copies of these outlines for the members to review or take with them.)
- ✍ (Introduce the Candidate Counselors from your Lodge, and tell specifically what assignment each of them has.)
- ✍ (Consider presenting, or asking a Candidate Counselor to present, a portion of an actual, or simulated, Candidate Counseling session in front of the members of the Lodge.)