

Grand Lodge of Maine, A.F. & A.M.

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www.MaineMason.org



Office of the Grand Master
Thomas E. Pulkkinen

November 18, 2016

To the Master, Wardens and Secretary of all Maine Masonic Lodges,
DeMolay Executive Director, Rainbow Supreme Deputy

Last Spring, more than 200 young boys and girls from throughout Maine (including one member of our Masonic youth organizations) were recognized at a Portland Pirates hockey game for service to their communities and fellow citizens. The award winning youth for 2016 will be recognized at the Portland Red Claws basketball game on March 26, 2017. The Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation financially supported the 2016 youth service recognition initiative and will be doing the same in 2017 and 2018. And now there are opportunities for your Lodge to become involved.

Masonic support of youth service projects fits within our vision for Maine Freemasonry – Enriching Lives through Education, Charity and Spiritual Growth. It is also consistent with the deployment of our Charitable Foundation resources in ways that encourage and engage kids to build positive habits that will enrich their lives – reading (Bikes for Books), serving (Volunteer Youth Service) and overcoming obstacles that hamper the fulfilment of dreams and aspirations (National Masonic Foundation for Youth).

Brethren looking for opportunities to become actively and visibly involved in their communities should consider nominating young men and women for the award in early 2017. But more than that, I urge you to consider taking an active role in encouraging and assisting school age youngsters to conceive, plan and undertake service projects. These initiatives may be undertaken in concert with other organizations and may qualify for Charitable Foundation community betterment and youth activity matching grants. And they would great projects on the soon to be announced Master Builder Award program for Masons of all ages, and the Lodge Masonic Excellence initiative for 2017.

Attached is a card (or copy) on the **Young Maine Volunteer Roll of Honor** that defines the qualifications for nominations for volunteer recognition. Youths age 18 or younger as of December 31 may be nominated for recognition if they volunteer at least 50 hours of service during the calendar year. If you know of young volunteers who have met these criteria in 2016, nominate them early in 2017.

The next step might be to identify individuals or groups that your Lodge might sponsor or work with on meaningful service projects during 2017. Mentor and assist the students in defining and undertaking the projects using the enclosed Project Support Award Application. Consider using the Charitable Foundation matching grant program to assist the students in accomplishing their plans. Make a difference in their lives and your community, and help your Lodge be recognized as an active, important part of your community.

Please contact RW Donald Pratt at rockclimber0903@yahoo.com or (207) 692-4807, or RW Mark Rustin at DeputyGM@mainemason.org or Grand Lodge for more information. The attached form that can be customized for your Lodge is available on the Grand Lodge website – www.MaineMason.org.

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