



GRAND LODGE A.:F.: & A.:M.: OF NEBRASKA



Combined Award Application: NEBRASKA PILLAR AWARD AND GRAND MASTER'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

The **Nebraska Pillar Award** recognizes **lodges** that perform the required activities, which can result in a successful year, a stronger lodge and a fulfilling experience for members.

The **Grand Master's Leadership Award** recognizes **Masters** who perform required activities during the year, which will help to activate your lodge, create interest in members and increase awareness in your community. It includes the Grand Master's Leadership Award, the Grand Master's Leadership Award with Distinction (see the Membership section) and Master of the Year. Master of the Year will be chosen by the Grand Master at the completion of the 2009 Masonic year based on the completion of this award application.

Find additional lodge activity ideas in the Lodge Planning Guide and the Lodge Leadership Manual.

Instructions: If an item is applicable to one of the awards, a checkbox will be listed in the column under that particular award. If there is no checkbox in the column, that item does not need to be completed to receive that award. In some cases, only a certain number of items listed in a category must be completed for an award, please read the sections carefully. Unless otherwise noted, each item must be completed where there is a checkbox under the respective award in the right-hand columns.

This application must be postmarked not later than December 31st, each calendar year and sent to: Grand Lodge Office, P.O. Box 81852, Lincoln, NE 68501-1852. If submitting supporting materials including more than 5 additional pages, please submit 6 complete copies of the award application and supporting materials.

_____ **Lodge No.** _____, _____, **Nebraska**

Prepared by: _____ **Signature:** _____

Date: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Complete Application for Lodge Activities: January - December, 2009

Grand Master's Activities

(see the Lodge Planning Guide for a full description of these activities):

	<u>NE Pillar</u>	<u>GM Leadership</u>
<u>Lodge Donations/Fundraisers.</u> Your lodge donated at least \$100 to or held a fundraiser for at least one of the following:		
Masonic Relief Fund (March).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CHIP (June)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Grand Lodge Office (December).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
George Washington Masonic Memorial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Who received your donations and how much?</i> _____		

Lodge Activities. *(Must complete at least two of the following for GM Leadership Award; for the Pillar Award complete at least three of the following.) Check all completed. (Descriptions of the following activities are in the Lodge Planning Guide. Refer to the month in parenthesis for the first five activities.)*

Community Service Activity. (April) Describe activity: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family activity. (May) Describe activity: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urged brothers to explore Freemasonry or donated books to lodge library or Grand Lodge Library. (July) Describe activity: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Held a Back to Lodge Night; invited lodge members active in other Masonic organizations to lodge meeting and asked them to briefly speak on that organization. (September) Date held: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Held an observance honoring veterans. (November) Describe observance and date held: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lodge officer(s) attended a Lodge Leaders Forum. Date and location: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	<u>NE Pillar</u>	<u>GM Leadership</u>
Supported Local Charity. Your lodge supported a local charity either through a donation ... or working at a site. <i>Describe the charity and the work you performed.</i> _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Masonic Blood Drive. Your lodge held a blood drive in your community. <i>Date held and number of pints of blood donated.</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ladies Festival Weekend. Member(s) of your lodge and their ladies attended the Ladies Festival Weekend event in October.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation in Grand Lodge Programs. The Lodge participated in or provided direct financial support for two of the following Grand Lodge supported programs: Nebraska Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp, Nebraska CHIP, Grand Lodge Academic Scholarship Program, Cornerstone Laying Ceremony and the Nebraska Masonic Education Symposiums. Participation can include financial support, attendance, providing chaperones or volunteers, or other non-financial involvement. <i>Describe your lodge's participation in these programs.</i> _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lodge Activities

<u>Leadership</u>	<u>NE Pillar</u>	<u>GM Leadership</u>
Calendar of Events. Master distributed the attached plan/calendar of events to all Members. <i>Note when completed and attach a copy:</i> _____		<input type="checkbox"/>
Attendance at Training. At least one member to attend one or both of these two Grand Lodge training programs. The Enrollment Program trains mentors to welcome, educate, involve and retain new members. The Lodge Leadership Program helps advancing lodge officers plan for the year they will serve as Master. Check the Lodge Planning Guide for the trainings in your area. <i>Training(s) attended and dates and locations:</i> _____ <i>Brother(s) who attended:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lodge Meetings & Operations

(Must complete all options for the GM Leadership Award; for the Pillar Award, complete at least three of the following.)

Stated Meetings. Stated meetings held according to bylaws and all started on time.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Meeting Minutes. Secretary published or posted minutes and didn't read minutes for at least 75% of regular meetings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Masonic Education. Masonic education presented for at least six regular meetings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Report. Annual report and fees submitted by due date.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Installation. Installation was open to the public and promoted in advance with invitations sent to members and form news release sent to news media.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Standing Committees. Appointment of all Standing Committees completed by due date. <i>Date completed:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clean-up Lodge. Held a clean-up-our-lodge day. <i>Date(s) held:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Ritual Work

(Must complete both options for GM Leadership Award; for the Pillar Award, complete at least one of the following.)

- Lodge Proficiency.** Lodge certified in Opening and Closing of lodge.
- Ritual Practice.** Held at least three practices of ritual work. *Date(s) held:* _____
- Rusty Nail Degree.** Performed the Grand Lodge’s Rusty Nail Degree for non-attending members. *Date held:* _____

Grand Lodge Activities

- Annual Communication.** The elected and installed Master or a Warden attended
Annual Communication *(for the Leadership Award, the Master must have attended).*
- Area Meeting.** Attended Area Meeting in the fall. *(for the leadership Award, Master*
must have attended.) Date and location attended: _____
- Annual Returns.** Lodge Secretary submitted annual returns and Grand Lodge dues by deadline.

Fellowship

- Lodge Visits.** At least three lodge members visited another Masonic lodge, not as part
of assistance in ritual work. *Date and lodge visited:* _____
- Masonic Events.** Held at least one Masonic event: St. John’s Dinner, observance of
lodge’s date of charter, George Washington Masonic Memorial Program,
Masonic Home Program, Children’s Home Project Night, visit other lodge,
Past Masters Dinner, Lodge brother(s) nominated for the Humanitarian Award or
for the Masonic Service Award, special event held to present recognition awards,
lodge picnic or refer to Lodge Planning Guide. *List events or explain other Masonic
events held not included on this list:* _____

- Fellowship-Building Activities.** Held at least one fellowship-building activity:
Observe patriotic dates, family night, seasonal activities, event for children, costume
party, bazaar, hobby displays, activities with wives, program before meeting for wife
and/or children, meals, parties, honor veterans with a special ceremony, sports, travel to
visit attractions or refer to Lodge Planning Guide. *List events or explain other Masonic
events held not included on this list:* _____

Community and Fraternal Service

(Must complete all options for the GM Leadership Award; for the Pillar Award, complete at least three of the following.)

- Scholarship.** Participated (at least \$25) in the Grand Lodge Academic Scholarship program...
- Masonic All-Star Marching Band.** Funds raised by your lodge, including from other
organizations, paid the fee for high school student(s) to attend the Masonic All-Star
Marching Band Clinic.
- Masonic Charities.** Made a contribution to The Nebraska Masonic Home, the Masonic-
Eastern Star Home for Children or the Nebraska Masonic Foundation of at least \$100.
- Widow’s Event.** Held a Widow’s (Special Ladies) event. *Describe event(s) below:* _____

Community Activities. Your lodge supported a community activity, organization or school: ...

Sponsored a sports team or event, held a Child Identification Program (CHIP) event, cleaned a highway section, organized a recycling project, painted a widow's home, opened the lodge to an after-prom breakfast, put a float in a parade, held a fundraiser for charity, sent items to troops, adopted a family for a holiday, read at a school/library to children, sponsored events, assisted with community fund drive, donated to food pantry, adopted a playground, picked up trash, served at a food kitchen, donated books to a library, adopted a park, organized a blood drive, delivered meals, or refer to Lodge Planning Guide. *Describe the event(s) or explain other events held not included on this list:* _____

Membership

Enrollment Program. Implemented or continued Enrollment Program in your lodge.

Prospective Members. Created a list of at least 10 prospective members and contacted all ...
 on the list and invited them to join and attend an activity or Who Are the Masons? Night.

Dues Notices. Dues notices were sent to all members.

Suspended Members. Contacted at least three suspended members to reinstate membership.

Membership. Maintained same number of members as at end of last year, or
 increased membership.

For Distinction. To earn the Grand Master's Leadership Award with Distinction, your lodge .
 Must show a year-end net gain of 3 percent in membership (*verified by Grand Lodge*).

This year's membership: _____
 Previous year's membership: _____
 Difference: _____
 Percent of increase: _____

Communication

Trestleboard. Published at least four issues of a trestleboard/newsletter that was sent to
 all lodge members, or used e-mail, telephone calls and/or mailings to inform all members about upcoming meetings and activities.

News Releases - Nebraska Pillar Award - Updated at least four form news releases.....
 included in the Lodge Planning Guide and sent to news media.

News Releases - GM Leadership Award - Updated at least two form news releases.....
 included in the Lodge Planning Guide and sent to news media.

News releases sent to news media: _____

Lodge Finances

Budget. Developed a budget for the year showing income and expenses.

Fundraiser. Held a fundraiser for the lodge. *Date held:* _____