

Vermont Grand Assembly Five Year Development Plan

Vermont Grand Assembly has been struggling with membership and in order to stem the tide of this decline we have developed a five-year plan to move our organization forward. The plan is to build a strong foundation by setting attainable goals and working together to not only reach but exceed them. Our five-year goals are to have six healthy Assemblies with at least ten active members each, have Ritual proficiency in each Assembly, have active participation in Assembly programs by our sponsoring Orders and a real presence in our communities through service and charity projects.

Regular Assembly Meetings

Consistency is crucial if we are to be successful. Each Assembly is required to have one Ritualistic meeting per month. This meeting must be opened and closed per the standards in the Ritual. If you do not have enough members to do this, adults may be used to assist or other Assemblies could be invited to assist. Other meetings can be fun, fundraising, service/charity or membership recruitment. It may take us a few months to get into the habit of having these meetings but we will. With only a few members in your Assembly now might be the time to consider changing your meeting day or time.

State Meetings

State meetings are not required for any members unless they are Grand Officers. We will be doing Initiation a minimum of four times throughout the year at these state meetings. Until we have greater membership in the individual Assemblies this may be the only opportunity that the girls will have to see an Initiation. It also gives non-Grand Officers an opportunity to take part in the ceremony. We will also be doing the Pledge Initiation at these meetings. Other State Meetings will be used for education, enrichment, fun and service.

Green Mountain Rainbow

In an effort to reach as many young Vermont women as possible, the Grand Assembly of Vermont is introducing a program called Green Mountain Rainbow. In our little state, we have the advantage of relatively short travel times, compared to the travel challenges that some jurisdictions face. We know from our travels for Eastern Star and Masonic activities, that the far corners of Vermont really aren't that far away from each other.

Vermont currently has four Assemblies that meet regularly and to keep those Assemblies active, we conduct many of our activities on the state level. During the course of the year, we travel to each of these Assemblies several times to help with projects, bring in new members or just have fun. In short, we're already traveling for the bulk of our events. For this reason, in the fall of 2018, we will begin initiating new members from areas that don't currently have active Assemblies. Our goal is to bring the teachings and life-long friendships of Rainbow Girls to communities that don't currently have it. We will bring new members into one of our currently active Assemblies and as those girls learn and grow in Rainbow, they'll be able to spread the word about this great organization to their friends and community. If enough girls are interested in a geographic area, we'll investigate opening an Assembly there.

If you have a daughter, a granddaughter, a niece or a neighbor who might like to learn about Rainbow Girls or Rainbow Pledge, please contact us to learn how to bring Rainbow Girls into your community, one girl at a time.

Rainbow Pledge Program

During the next five years each Assembly will sponsor a Pledge Group. Pledge is a service and social organization for girls ages 7 to 11 who are willing to pledge themselves to a life of love and service. It is hoped that, on their 11th birthday, or during their 11th year, they will be eager to petition for membership in the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

The Rainbow Pledge Program allows girls to be of service to others, which will bring the girls a genuine feeling of accomplishment, that they will discover the meaning of true happiness by helping others.

The Rainbow Pledge Program is designed to be a confidence builder. A Rainbow Pledge will learn how to accept responsibility and how to be both an effective leader and a dependable follower. She will have the opportunity learn how to speak effectively and to listen carefully.

She will learn the importance of being of service to others, to accept responsibility, and to develop her own leadership abilities. She will also have the opportunity to meet and develop friendships among girls her own age.

The Pledge Groups will meet monthly in conjunction with the Rainbow Assembly.

Quarterly Challenges

Each quarter there will be a challenge for the Assemblies to meet. The challenges will consist of membership recruitment, outreach to Masonic family, service/charity and fundraising. Work with the other Assemblies so that we aren't all doing our events on the same day. At the end of each quarter there will be a reward for each Assembly that participated.

Quarter 1 (August 1-October 31)

Plan and carry out a successful membership recruitment event. After the event has taken place, compile a report with all of the plans/ideas, invitations, advertising, photos (digital is fine), and a general synopsis of the event to send to the Supreme Inspector. Post on Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat before, during and after the event.

Quarter 2 (November 1-January 31)

Plan and carry out a successful service/charity event. After the event has taken place, compile a complete report to send to the Supreme Inspector. During the holiday season there are many organizations and individuals who need assistance. Post on Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat and send pictures with an article to your local paper. Make sure people know the good things you are doing.

Quarter 3 (February 1-April 30)

Plan and carry out a successful event with the Masonic family in your area. This includes Masons, Eastern Star and DeMolay. These can be social events, informational events, service events or even a work day at the Lodge. Anything that gets everyone together to get to know one another. After the event has taken place, compile a report and send to the Supreme Inspector. Post about this event, share it with people.

Quarter 4 (May 1-July 31)

Plan and carry out a successful fundraiser. It's up to the individual Assemblies how the funds are raised and what they are used for. Advertise this event in the community. Invite members of the Masonic family to participate. After the event has taken place, compile a report and send to the Supreme Inspector. Use Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat to promote the event.

Quarterly Newsletters/Updates

We will be sending information out quarterly to the Eastern Star Chapters and Masonic Lodges throughout Vermont. We will remind them of upcoming events and encourage their attendance. We will include recaps of events that have already taken place. We will be collecting email addresses from individuals so that we can do an e-news letter too. Everyone is encouraged to submit articles about events that they have had or will be having. The newsletter will be sent regardless of the amount of content. Consistency in our communication is important.

Supreme Inspector Visits

The Supreme Inspector will visit each Assembly once per quarter to discuss progress on membership, assist with Ritual, speak with the Advisory Board and members about upcoming events and to address any questions or concerns. For the first year of the plan these visits will be scheduled ahead of time. After the first year they may be impromptu visits. Unless there is inclement weather, the visits will take place regardless of the number of members present.