

The Three Link Fraternity

Striving to make this world a better place in which to live.



MOTTO

"Friendship, Love and Truth"

OBJECTIVE

"To Improve and Elevate the Character of Man"

HISTORY OF ODD FELLOWSHIP

In 17th century England, it was odd to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need and of pursuing projects for the benefit of all mankind. Those who belonged to such an organization were called "Odd Fellows."

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was founded on the North American continent in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 26, 1819, when Thomas Wildey and four members of the Order from England instituted Washington Lodge No. 1. This lodge received its charter from the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows in England.

Odd Fellowship became the first national fraternity to include both men and women when it adopted the beautiful Rebekah Degree on September 20, 1851. This Degree is based on teachings found in the Holy Bible, and was written by the Honorable Schuyler Colfax who was Vice President of the United States during the period 1868-1873.

An Invitation

You have received this Membership Application because we believe you have the qualifications necessary to make a good member of the Three Link Fraternity.

WHAT IS ODD FELLOWSHIP

A simple explanation would be: Odd Fellowship is a world-wide Fraternal Organization, based on a belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Through its Teachings and Ceremonies, it seeks to elevate the character of men and women, and thereby make this world a better place in which to live. It exemplifies this belief through active involvement in charitable work on various projects in our communities, states and nation. It must be emphasized that Odd Fellowship is not a religion. Odd Fellowship, however, does require that all members must believe in a Supreme Being, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe, be of good moral character, and be loyal to their country.

WHO MAY BECOME A MEMBER?

A man or woman over the age of 16 years, of good character, whose life and acts have been worthy and honorable, is eligible for membership. It is required that a member, in good standing, recommend the candidate as worthy of sharing the duties and enjoying the privileges of Odd Fellowship.

Odd Fellowship strictly forbids any interference with one's religious beliefs or political opinions, either directly or indirectly. It requires acknowledgment of God and complete obedience of civil laws.

A FAMILY FRATERNITY

We in Odd Fellowship encompass the whole family. We all believe in the same principles for our various lodges. Odd Fellow Lodges are for men and recently women became eligible for membership. Rebekah Lodges are also for both women and men. Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges work together on numerous programs and projects. A very important phase of Odd Fellowship is the Junior Lodge (for boys between 8 - 18 years of age) and Theta Rho Clubs (for girls 8 - 18 years of age). Our young members are offered interesting, enjoyable and educational opportunities that will assist them during the growing stage. We feel Odd Fellowship is truly a family oriented Fraternity, finding an interest for all members of the family.

FRATERNAL VISITATIONS

Being an Odd Fellow or Rebekah entitles you to visit any lodge in any city or community in the United States, Canada or the twenty-seven other nations where our lodges regularly meet. The influence of Odd Fellowship is spreading throughout the World as new lodges become established in additional countries.

CALIFORNIA ODD FELLOWSHIP

The "Three Link Fraternity" was officially established in California on September 9, 1849, with the institution of California Lodge No. 1, in San Francisco. (This was one year to the day before California was admitted to the Union as the 31st state.) From this golden seed Lodges soon became established throughout California.

Coping with ever changing conditions throughout our universe, maintaining a viable service driven organization, dealing with important environmental, social and community service issues, and charting a future course for growth and prosperity are among the many goals of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs throughout California and the world.

In addition to local community service, California Odd Fellowship is involved with medical support and research into arthritis, diseases of the eye, and heart disease; education, through scholarships and student loan programs; drug abuse prevention; and numerous other service and education related programs.

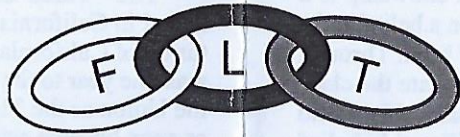
HOMES - CAMPS - PARKS

California Odd Fellowship has assumed an obligation to care for the aged, the widow, and children. The Odd Fellows Home at Saratoga, (Saratoga Retirement Community) which replaced one established in 1895 near Oroville, has provided a home for more than 4,000 Odd Fellows, their wives or widows and Rebekahs since its founding. The two Homes owned and operated by California Odd Fellowship are Saratoga Retirement Community (opened in 1911) and The Meadows of Napa Valley (purchased in 1992) provide for more than 750 residents including members and non-members. Independent Living, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing and Special Care facilities are available at both homes. Fellowship Plaza, also located in Saratoga, was built in 1979, and has 150 independent living apartments for seniors on limited incomes.

Since 1897 Odd Fellow-Rebekah Children's Home of California, DBA Rebekah Children's Services, in Gilroy, Campbell and Salinas has been serving the needs of children some of whom are unable to remain in their own homes, along with families struggling with mental and emotional illness. Originally an orphanage, Rebekah Children's Services currently provides for residential treatment, foster care for seriously abused children, an adoption agency and community programs for over of 3,000 children annually.

The Three Link Camp in Tuolumne County was founded in 1958, and provides a summer camping program for children, camping and RV facilities, and a year around recreation complex. Other Odd Fellow recreation areas include Odd Fellows Sierra Park, Odd Fellows Russian River Park, and Redding Odd Fellows Camp in Shasta County.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



THE THREE LINK FRATERNITY
Independent Order of Odd Fellows

_____, 20____

To the MEMBERS of _____ Lodge No. _____ working under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge or Rebekah Assembly of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of California. As one who believes in a Supreme Being, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe and is loyal to my country, I respectfully request admission into your Lodge by:

Initiation Re-instatement * Transfer * Deposit of Card * Association

I promise that if admitted, I will conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of your Lodge, and those of the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly of California. I also promise that I will seek my remedy for all rights associated with my membership in this organization within the tribunals of the Order only, and will not resort to the civil courts for their enforcement under any circumstance or for any purpose.

REFERENCES

APPLICANT

Print Name _____

Birthplace _____

Birthdate _____, 19____

Occupation _____

Residence _____

Mail Address _____

City, State
and Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

SPONSOR

Signature _____

Sponsor's Lodge _____

INTERVIEWING COMMITTEE

We certify that this applicant meets all membership requirements of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of this Jurisdiction.

* CERTIFICATION OF STANDING: I Certify that the above applicant is a _____ Degree member in good standing in _____ Lodge No. _____

[Seal] ATTEST: _____, Secy.

Grand Lodge of California, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, 122 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126 - Phone 408-753-9663
Rebekah Assembly of California, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, P. O. Box 637, Gilroy, CA 95021 - Phone 408-842-2842



**The
Three
Link
Fraternity**

*A
Fraternal
Experience*

**Membership
Application**

**Independent
Order
of
Odd Fellows
of
California**