

Freemasons Civility Initiative

Freemasons Civility Month Calendar

May has been designated Freemasons Civility Month by the Grand Master of British Columbia and Yukon. Following a number of presentations, talks and resources supplied to Brethren over the past few months, the Civility Initiative has established a one month challenge for Freemasons throughout the jurisdiction. This has been done to bring some of the civility themes that we have talked about into our everyday lives.

Civility is a grand theme, but the implementation of civility in our daily lives need not be a grand challenge. Small acts of civility practiced throughout our daily interactions with family, co-workers, friends, and complete strangers shape how we portray ourselves to the world. As with any developed habit however, they come about through conscious practice until they become part of who we are.

The May Civility Month Calendar is simply a list of civil actions that we can work into our relationships with others. This is not a Grand Lodge mandated program - however I hope brethren will choose to participate. The Calendar provides four weekly themes of:

1. Civility on the Road

It's been noted over the years that when we drive a vehicle, our personalities seem to undergo a dramatic shift. Impatience, rude gestures, profane outbursts, we've either seen them, heard them or even more honestly, been responsible for them ourselves. Instead of giving in to our instincts, we can strive to be a considerate motorist and exhibit courtesy and civility in even the most trying traffic conditions.

2. Doing Kindly Unto Others

Brotherly love, relief and truth; our cornerstones, we can build on them outside the doors of our Lodges. We weren't born with good manners; these were taught to us and once learned, never forgotten. But sometimes, in the hectic pace of day to day living, we forget.

3. Cell Phone and Internet Civility

With increasing functionality, those remarkable cell phones we carry become more indispensable every day. Unfortunately, they are also becoming the scourge of civility. They have wormed their way into our lives to such a degree that we find it hard to put them aside when we should. Try to keep your smartphone in check to help you maintain civility in your contacts with others

4. Civility in the Lodge

It's a lodge meeting tonight, away from the craziness of the world. To ensure harmony observe our basic tenets and principles.

Near the end of May, take the last three days to determine what you have learned about civility.

See the Civility Calendar following for weekly challenges.

Thank you for supporting the Freemasons Civility Initiative. Please forward your comments and suggestions for further action on civility to:

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The May Civility Month Calendar is simply a list of civil actions that we can work into our relationships with others. Each Sunday evening take a look at the theme for the upcoming week. Think about how you can work the simple challenges into your day. The final week is for reflection on insights & learnings.

Civility Month Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | Week #1 Civility on the Road - investments in courtesy pay dividends in safety | | | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| | Follow the "Zipper" pattern when merging | Signal your "intention" well in advance on all necessary occasions | Acknowledge a driver who exhibits civility to you – use the Fellowcraft sign to wave | Do not follow too closely | Take a breath when cutoff | Do not text while driving |
| | Week #2 Doing Kindly Unto Others - brotherly love, relief and truth carried out of the Lodge | | | | | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| Use hands free and keep conversations short. Call back when parked | Try to see the other person's perspective | Acknowledge people. Use positive body language and make eye contact | Be cognizant of others and share the sidewalk | Let your mannerisms reflect positively in your dealings with retail and service staff | Strive for civility under trying circumstances | Use Thank you very much it goes a long way |
| | Week #3 Cell Phone and Internet Civility - face to face contact without technological interference | | | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | |
| Walk closest to the curb when with a child or a lady | Conduct your Social Media activities that positively reflects your membership in the Craft. | All cell phones in the middle of the table at dinner | Be discreet when using your phone; no one wants to hear a stranger's conversation | Avoid loud conversations in the presence of others in public places | Use airplane mode in meetings, group dinners, concerts and theatre performances | When talking to someone show respect and do not use your smartphone |
| | Week #4 Civility in the Lodge - a haven from the day to day pressures of life | | | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | |
| Review BC & Yukon Social Media policy | Read one article from www.masoniccivility.org | Use Masonic titles when referring to a brother | Address the WM only | Help set up and take down Festive Board | Readily lend a hand when needed | No talking during ritual |
| | After consciously focusing for 1 month on civility take some time to reflect on what has transpired. | | | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| Shake hands with every brother in the Lodge | What have you learned about civility and our interaction with others? | Have you noticed any changes in your conduct with others? | Have you noticed any changes in how others relate to you? | | | |