



Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado AF&M

January 1, 2026

Volume 7 Issue 12

A Brotherhood of Service: The Story of How Freemasonry Helped Shape the Boy Scouts of America

As a member of the Grand Lodge scholarship committee, I have the opportunity to interview many different young people from all different parts of the state. Many young people have passions for service that impress me and others on this committee. This year I was able to interview a young man who was very passionate about the Boy Scouts of America and donated much of his time to this organization. This interaction caused me to investigate if there were any connections between the Freemasons, and the BSA.

In the early years of the 20th century, America was undergoing a powerful transformation. Cities were expanding, industry was booming, and communities were searching for new ways to preserve the values of citizenship, integrity, and duty in a rapidly changing world. In this setting, two powerful traditions one old, and one new crossed paths in ways that would quietly shape generations of young Americans.

In 1910, William D. Boyce stepped off a train in Chicago carrying the charter for a new youth organization he had just incorporated The Boy Scouts of America. What many didn't know was that Boyce, already an accomplished entrepreneur, was also a Freemason and a member of a lodge in the State of Illinois. The ideals of the fraternity were not lost on him. The values of service, moral uprightness, and brotherly assistance were the same virtues he hoped America's boys would grow into.

Boyce was not alone. Just a few years earlier, Robert Baden-Powell, a British Army general and a Mason himself (initiated in London's Lodge No. 3961), had tested a new idea on Brownsea Island, a small experiment in youth character training that would become the global Scouting movement. His success quickly spread from Britain to the United States. Baden-Powell repeatedly emphasized that boys should grow not only in physical preparedness, but in duty to God and charity to the community, and this is a true masonic principal.



Boe Hawkins
Grand Marshall



A Brotherhood of Service (Cont.)

When the young American movement took shape, there were Freemasons who would step forward to guide the young organization here in America. One of the most influential was Daniel Carter Beard who was a proud Freemason, and had already founded the “Buckskin Scouts” based on frontier virtues and chivalry. When he merged his organization into the BSA, he brought with him not just wilderness skills, but deeply held beliefs about honor, character, and service, all inspired by the Freemasons to which he belonged. Beard was completely open about the connection, in his writings, he described Scouting as a way to “grow a boy into the kind of man the Masonic Craft itself values.”

Another brother who helped was Ernest Thompson Seton, a founder of the Woodcraft Indians and one of the BSA’s first chief scouts. Seton was a Freemason and a member of Manhattan Lodge No. 62 in New York. He saw in the scouting a chance to teach boys the same moral precepts he had encountered in his lodge, loyalty, truthfulness, kindness, reverence, and restraint. Like his Masonic brothers, he believed that learning is best internalized through ritual, and symbology, this gave rise to early Scout handbooks and have allegories and structured ceremonies.

There was never a formal partnership between the Boy Scouts of America and the Freemasons, but the connection is undeniable. Freemasonry provided values, volunteers, meeting halls, and even some of the very founders of the Scouting movement. Scouting offered Masons an opportunity to take those tenants into the next generation.

As a result, a quiet alliance was formed, not through formal agreement or organizational hierarchy, but through the steady handshake of shared ideals. A brotherhood of men helped build a movement for boys. And in the end, America received two enduring institutions devoted to the same simple idea of Truth, Charity and Service.



Who is Job's Daughters International?



As a Master Mason, have you ever wondered what opportunities are out there for your daughters? An organization where they can gain some of the same friendship, leadership and personal development that you get from your membership in your lodge, but for girls? Some place where the adults share similar values and look out for your kids as if they were your own?

Have you heard of Job's Daughters International? We are an International Organization for girls from 10-20 and in 5 countries around the world. Originally founded in Omaha, Nebraska in 1920, we were the outcome of a progressive idea that young ladies needed a place to learn leadership, public speaking, communication skills, respect for elders and most importantly, teamwork.

Much like the Masons, we require a belief in higher power and welcome members of all faiths. While Job's is religious in nature, we are not a religion and not a substitute for one. All members are encouraged to practice their own faith, in their own way. Our members are of many different faiths and religions and are brought together to improve themselves and do good for their community.

Job's Daughters will be hosting an information booth at Grand Lodge in Grand Junction this year and we would love to talk to you and your families! We would love to get a bethel started on the Western Slope again. We will have some candy and information packets and some past members who have lots to say about the benefits of JDI so come by and see us! Or reach out to us at cojdigest@gmail.com and we will send you information.

Burns Night Supper & Whisky College

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1370 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado 80203

Scottish Music  Silent Auction  Burns Poetry

Presented by the Denver Knights of Saint Andrew



Whisky College | 5:00 p.m. | \$55 – Adult (21 and over)

Join us for a captivating Scotch whisky tasting and educational journey led by a true expert. This year’s special class features selections from Glenmorangie Distillery, showcasing how a single malt evolves through time and craftsmanship. Discover how age, cask type, and maturation techniques transform aroma, taste, and finish—revealing the subtle complexities that make each expression uniquely exceptional. *Price includes a commemorative tasting glass!*

Dinner & Entertainment | 6:00 p.m. | \$74 – Adult (13 and over)

Pear Salad, Haggis, Filet Mignon, Asparagus, Twice Baked Potato, Chocolate Mousse

Join us for a lively dinner in honor of Robert Burns: Celebrate Scotland’s beloved bard with an evening of traditional fare, poetry, and song. Enjoy the stirring sounds of the El Jebel Pipe Band and the Celtic folk tunes of Gobs o’ Phun. Raise a glass to heritage, humor, and Highland pride in true Burns Night fashion!

Advance tickets only!
denverburnssupper.com
or scan the QR code

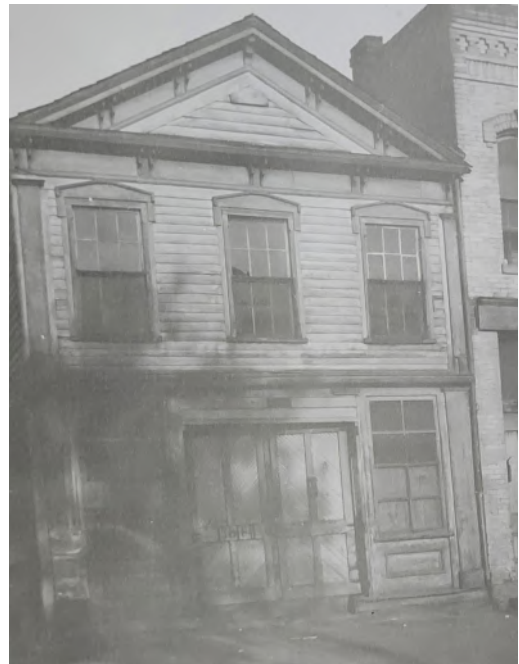
*Reserved table with purchase
of 8 dinner tickets*



Within the Vault

“Auraria Lodge Gavel”

This beautiful gavel was made by Bro. C.R. “Dick” Chandler from wood salvaged by Bro. Carl E. Lessing from Colorado’s first Masonic lodge in Auraria. The building was located at 1361 Eleventh Street in Denver and torn down in 1939. Also pictured is a piece of the original siding.



This ongoing series of articles highlights the fascinating artifacts contained within the Grand Lodge Museum that you can see on your next visit. The museum is not supported by the Grand Lodge budget and needs your help to preserve and protect our treasured history. Please contact the Grand Secretary to see how you can help!

Membership Awareness and Retention

Greetings Worshipful Masters, Officers, and Brothers:

As 2024 begins and we look to Freemasonry through the lens of membership, awareness, and retention, I wonder how many of our lodges are actively engaged in membership, awareness, and retention in their lodges and in the local communities?

I would like to hear from the lodge representatives on what they are doing to promote the craft from membership to awareness in their lodges and community at large. What are the various ways that you maintain the members' awareness and interest of the craft? What local programs do you have in place to expand your membership locally?

One program for consideration for 2024 is the creation of a Craft Warden position or appointee and I bet that some of the lodges already have a similar position in place, but I would also like to know if that is the case for those that do and those that do not.

The concept of the Craft Warden would be to address the above membership and awareness activities inside the individual lodges and build an interface between the lodges and membership & awareness and the GL district lecturer. The Craft Warden would be responsible for local membership & awareness activities for your lodge and allowing for a larger base of ideas and exchange of information between the GL committee and the lodges. The position could encompass things like holding and scheduling local training and presentations for your lodge as educational, awareness, retention type material, candidate open houses or even scheduling digital meetings based on approved content and format as an open meeting.

A coordinator for any and all membership and awareness, and retention for the members and prospects for your lodge and local area but focusing on membership and awareness. By nature, the responsibilities of the Craft Warden and membership/awareness committee and GL District Lecturer will cross over into the education committee arena where the Craft Warden would find online content for various presentations, educational materials and more from the members login from the education portal.

Membership Awareness and Retention

It is time that we engage and invest in the lodges into their future and build on our wider experiences that a lot of us are doing today. I would like to get a feeling from the lodges if such a program would be embraced and if they would consider creating such a position.

Please respond to the few questions above to membership@coloradofreemasons.org and please use a subject line of **2024 Membership Review** so I can easily identify responses.

Fraternally,

Pete Finnie; Membership / Awareness Committee

Tax & Non-Profit Assistance

To assist those lodges that have lost their Nonprofit status I have assembled a team to assist lodges in answering questions and directing them in the process to get their status back. The following individuals have agreed to answer questions that come up and advise those lodges working to get their status back. Please be courteous and patient when working with these Worshipful Brothers and remember they are Volunteers. They have agreed to assist the Craft and need our upmost respect for their efforts.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE:

WB John Groves: johngroves@mac.com Grand Junction

WB Blake Terry: sblaketerry@gmail.com Denver

ACCOUNTING:

WB Brandon Doellingen: accounts@coloradofreemasons.org Colorado Springs

Traveling Gavels

In an effort to promote visitations among lodges in the state of Colorado we are going to attempt to provide information in each newsletter about where the travelling gavels are located

There are two gavels that travel around the state. One we are going to call the **Regular Gavel** and one the **Western Slope Gavel**. Check the requirements for claiming the gavel including the number of brethren required to attend the visit.

Front Range Gavel

Location: Weston Lodge No. 22

5718 S. Rapp Street, Littleton, CO

Meeting Dates: 1st & 3rd Weddays; 7:00 p.m.

Master: Thomas Hern



Western Slope Gavel

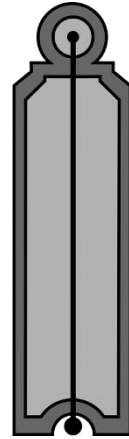
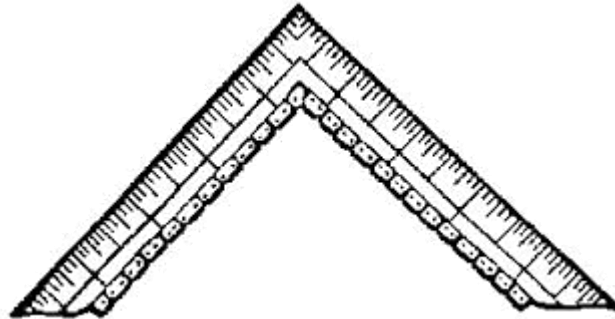
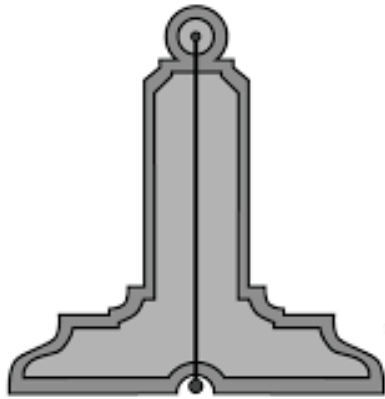
Location: Boulder Lodge No. 14

4665 Nautilus Ct. S., Ste 100, Boulder, CO

Meeting Dates: 1st & 3rd Tues. ; 7:00 p.m.

Master: Chris Hanson





If your lodge is having special events or activities please send the information to the Grand Master (grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org) and the Grand Secretary (grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org) so that it can be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

Contacts

Grand Lodge of Colorado

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Grand Master
 M.W. Bro. William E. Marshall, G.M.
grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org
 (719) 623-5345

Grand Secretary
 R.W.Bro. Scot M. Autry, P.M.
grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org
 (719) 623-5342

Submission Deadline

Articles and events that you want included in the newsletter are due to the Grand Master, or Grand Secretary, by the 25th of the month prior to the publication month.



COLORADO MASONS - SPREAD THE WORD ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA, AND WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES ABOUT A NEW WEBSITE ABOUT MASONRY: BEAFREEMASON.ORG

The Grand Lodge Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. All are welcome as long as you are not feeling ill. For the front door please ring the door bell for access.

