

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH

“**Who mentors a boy, by the Master’s plan, shapes the course of the future man**”. Grand Master Nathan Turk often used this quote while serving as chairman of the Youth Committee.

My Brothers, this has been an exciting and productive year. Many Lodges have adopted our youth programs and given awards. Thank you for your participation. However, we are still far short of our goals.

The youth of America stands at a perilous crossroad. Now, an opportunity lies before you; to influence the formative years of our Masonic future. This is your opportunity to create a real time picture of our current Masonic involvement with youth throughout the State of New York.

Realizing the importance of Youth, as the future of the Fraternity, it is our goal to assist Lodges and their members in the development and growth of programs that provide and promote youth activities in all communities in the New York State. Each Lodge and District is encouraged to support youth activities, whether Masonic or not, in its community. In return, we expect increases in the public recognition of our craft and as a result, the needed increase in Masonic membership.

Our awards and programs are devised to recognize outstanding leaders in our community, both Youth and adults, Masons or not. The format, procedure and presentations of all our awards are simple and require very little time or money from you or your Lodge. Here are some examples:

For Adults:

The **General Douglas MacArthur Award** is presented for exemplary service to Youth by non-Masons. For example, participation in Little League, mentoring a Chess Club, Police Athletic League or Big Brothers of America to name only a few. A Bronze medallion now accompanies the certificate of recognition.

The **Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouting Award** is a national recognition approved by the Boy Scouts of America to acknowledge outstanding service to the youth of our communities through the Scouting movement by Masons belonging to both organizations.

For Youth:

Girl Scout Recognition – The “Masonic Girl Scout Gold Award” is a newly-created national Masonic Award program in conjunction with the Girl Scouts of the USA and is administered by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout may earn in her career as a Girl Scout and our Masonic Girl Scout Gold Award Certificate and pin recognizes this effort.

Eagle Scout Commendation – Grand Lodge now offers to those qualified as Eagle Scouts, a special commendation. Included is a personal letter of congratulations from our Grand Master, accompanied by a Boy Scout nationally approved bronze medallion.

Do not forget our involvement with our own New York Masonic Youth organizations; New York DeMolay, Constellation of Junior Stars, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in NY and Organization of Triangles, Inc.

Your help is needed to complete our quest. We will take the Masonic principles and teachings where every Mason can go: Into the hearts and minds of our young people.