

Chapter Sweetheart Guidelines



Pennsylvania DeMolay
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Chapter Sweetheart Program Overview

A successful Sweetheart program not only depends on good Sweethearts but also upon great adult leadership and guidance. This guide was created by a panel of DeMolay members, advisors, chaperones and sweethearts to help Chapters establish and run a successful local Sweetheart program. This guide complements, but never supercedes any policies of the Executive Officer of Pennsylvania DeMolay.

Chapter Sweethearts can be an important and fun part of the DeMolay program. A well-run Sweetheart program can boost membership and attendance at any Chapter meeting or activity. The young women have a chance to expand their leadership experience within the Sweetheart program. Sweethearts can help convey the value of the DeMolay program to prospects, family members and other Masonic Youth Groups by promoting fund-raisers, activities and membership recruitment.

The Chapter Sweetheart Program is optional. A Chapter can choose to have as many Sweethearts as it likes, depending upon the strength and ability of the chapter to support the program. The term of a Chapter Sweetheart is traditionally one year, however, a local Chapter may choose its own term length.

The Chapter Sweetheart may provide programs and aid in planning activities to expand the interest and influence of their local Chapter, raise funds for the State Charity, and better the image of DeMolay to all parties.

The Chapter Sweetheart is expected to exemplify the highest ideals of womanhood, set an example for others to imitate and conduct herself beyond criticism.

Sweethearts who have accepted leadership roles in other youth organizations should fulfill those duties. Failing to complete service obligations already accepted, in order to serve as Chapter Sweetheart, creates bad will for the DeMolay Chapter. Remember that your family, faith, education and necessary employment always comes before fraternity.

Chapter Sweethearts

Eligibility - Each Chapter sets its own standards of eligibility, and selection process for its Chapter Sweethearts. Some of the criteria may include age or school grade, membership in a female Masonic youth group, and specific knowledge of the DeMolay program. Chapter Sweethearts should assist the Chapter leadership team of Councilors and advisors with Chapter fund-raisers, social events and activities. Attendance at chapter leadership team meetings is encouraged, but at the discretion of the Master Councilor and Chapter Advisor.

Membership - Chapter Sweethearts should seek to enhance the membership of DeMolay by introducing young men to the program.

Activities – Chapter Sweethearts should attend the functions of the Chapter, unless prevented by illness, school, work, or other commitment. Sweethearts may travel with the Chapter to other Masonic activities, when available. Sweethearts may also attend visitations to other Chapters' open ceremonies and activities, but not to Chapter meetings. By Executive Officer policy Chapters may vote to allow their own Sweethearts (but not visiting Sweethearts) to attend Chapter business meetings. They can enter the meeting room after the opening ritual ceremonies and retire before the closing. This is not required, however, and some Chapters do not allow this. The Jurisdictional dress code and chaperone requirements must be followed on all outings and activities.

Charity - Chapter Sweethearts may provide initiatives on the local level to enhance and support statewide goals for the Sweetheart program, including, but not limited to promotion of the State Charity.

Elections

The election process for Chapter Sweethearts is determined by the members of each local Chapter. For more information on a specific Chapter's Sweetheart program, contact the Chapter Advisor.

Crowns and Sashes

A Chapter may provide their Sweetheart with a crown and a sash.

Traveling and Visitations

Chapter Sweethearts may only travel with their Chapters.

Dress Code

All Sweethearts should use good judgment when planning attire for an event. If you question an outfit's appropriateness, talk to your Advisor.

Performance of Duties

The standard of performance is established by the Chapter via a set of published rules, produced by the Chapter, and approved by the Advisory Council.

Adult Positions

Chaperones

While a chaperone is recommended for all activities, an adult female chaperone is *required* whenever a Sweetheart stays overnight at a DeMolay function. An Advisory Council may choose to require a chaperone at all times. Of course, it never hurts to have a chaperone when just traveling for a day trip. A chaperone is not a disciplinarian or a watchdog-- a chaperone is there to help should any problem arise.

A chaperone is an approved adult at least 21-years of age, who will be with the Sweetheart and will be responsible for her during the entire DeMolay function. A chaperone sets the example; it is obvious then that they must dress and act appropriately. A good chaperone is one who enjoys the company of the other adults attending the function and is available to the Sweetheart should a need arise. It is recommended that the chaperone always have emergency contact numbers available, as well as a medical permission form for the Sweetheart.

Chapter Sweethearts need to make sure they have a chaperone before they go to an activity or event. The Sweetheart's mother, father, legal guardian, an advisor of the Chapter, or any other person approved by the Advisory Council may be a chaperone. A Chapter Sweetheart should coordinate her chaperones with her assigned advisor and her parents.

Chapter Sweetheart Advisors

It is recommended that Chapters designate a member of the Advisory Council as Sweetheart Advisor. If a Sweetheart Advisor is not appointed the Chapter Advisor usually supervises Chapter Sweethearts until another Advisor is appointed. This Advisor is responsible for the Sweethearts and their program. A Sweetheart Advisor is a great way to get DeMolay Moms involved at the Chapter level.

A Sweetheart Advisor must be a trained and registered member of the Advisory Council who is appointed by the Chairman. Sweetheart Advisors should attend all Chapter Advisory Council Meetings and give a report on the current Sweetheart Program.

Continuance of the Program

The Chapter Sweetheart program is a tradition, not a requirement, and the members may choose to activate or deactivate the program before a new term begins.