

To the Officers and Members of subordinate chapters,

It is my honor to serve our Grand Chapter this term as the Chairman of the Youth Activities Committee. In my role as Chairman, I have been asked to reach out to all of you and speak to you about the purpose of our committee.

The Youth Activities Committee exists to promote interest and awareness in the Fraternal Youth Organizations, while informing the subordinate Chapters of the activities and needs of the different youth groups.

Within the Masonic family, we are fortunate enough to have three youth organizations: the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, the International Order of Job's Daughters, and the International Order of DeMolay for Boys. For those of you who might be unfamiliar with these groups, they serve to instill in young men and women very much the same ideals and values we teach in our chapter room.

These groups serve a host of purposes in the life of a young person. Through the efforts of these groups, their members develop life skills that aid them in succeeding in adulthood, both socially and professionally. As we look at a society wherein most teenagers have more online friends than real-life friends, a group that brings its members together face-to-face is a precious commodity.


The life skills taught through these groups extend far beyond organization and time management however. They also help to develop good judgment in their members, by offering an environment where making the right decision is supported.

Lastly, and one of the most important things one can give a child, is a sense of belonging. Given the history, structure, and social nature of these groups, they instill a sense of belonging that oftentimes young people don't know they need until they find it.

Now, this is only the beginning of the term, and our committee will be working with these groups to determine where our efforts can best serve, but there is one thing they need which has been true since I was a member of Rainbow...our involvement. These children need us to serve as role-models, inspiration, shoulders to cry on, a push in the right direction, and even just a person to unlock the lodge doors. You can give as much or as little of your time to these groups as you see fit...and they will be grateful for all of it.

We look forward to serving the Grand Chapter, as well as these worthwhile organizations, during the coming term.

Lovingly and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steph B" followed by a stylized flourish.

Stephanie Bowen-Earnhardt

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Sent with the approval of the Worthy Grand Matron