

Wisconsin DeMolay Sweetheart Program Policy

First edition

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 to assist chapters establish and run a successful sweetheart program. This guide compliments, but never supersedes any policies of the Executive Officer or Wisconsin DeMolay.

Chapter sweethearts can be an important and fun part of DeMolay. 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 DeMolay to prospective members, family members and other masonic youth groups by promoting fundraisers, activities, and membership recruitment.

The chapter sweetheart program is optional. A chapter can choose to have a chapter sweetheart depending on the strength and ability of the chapter to support the program or lack of interested sweetheart candidates. The term of a chapter sweetheart is traditionally one year, however, a chapter may choose its own term length.

The chapter sweetheart program may aide in the planning of activities and to expand the interest and influence their local chapter, raise funds for the state charity, and better the image of DeMolay to all parties.

Each sweetheart is expected to exemplify the highest ideals of womanhood, set an example to others to imitate and conduct herself beyond criticism.

Chapter Sweetheart eligibility

Eligibility: Each chapter sets its own standards of eligibility, and selection process for its chapter sweetheart. Some criteria *may* include age or school grade, membership in female Masonic youth group, and specific knowledge of DeMolay. Chapter sweethearts should assist the chapter leadership team of councilors and advisors with chapter fundraisers, social events and activities. Due to the role of the chapter sweetheart attendance at chapter meetings is required. She cannot be married, pregnant or have a child. A sweetheart that becomes pregnant or marries during her term must resign or be removed from office.

Membership: Chapter sweethearts should seek to enhance the membership of DeMolay by introducing young men to the program and making prospective members feel welcomed.

Activities: Chapter sweethearts should attend the functions of the chapter, unless prevented by illness, school, work, or religious/family commitment. Sweethearts may travel with the chapter to other masonic activities and visitation to other chapters. 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 the chapter sweethearts is determined by the members of each local chapter. For more information on a specific chapter's sweetheart election process, contact the Chapter Advisor.

Crown and Sash

Each chapter sweetheart shall be provided a crown and sash for the duration of their term as chapter sweetheart. It is the chapter sweetheart responsibility to ensure proper care of the crown and sash to uphold the integrity of both items.

Traveling and Visitations

The chapter sweetheart should encourage members of the chapter to travel to state and other chapter functions. The chapter sweetheart should travel with members of the chapter, when available. At all times a chapter sweetheart must have a designated chaperone at all functions.

Dress Code

All sweethearts should use good judgement when planning attire for an event. If you question an outfit's appropriateness, talk to your advisor.

Performance and Duties

The standard of performance is established by the chapter via a set of publishes rules, produced by the chapter, and approved by the advisory council.

Continuation of program

The chapter sweetheart program is a tradition, not a requirement. The members of a chapter may choose to activate or deactivate the program before a new term begins.

Adult Positions

Chaperones

While a chaperone is required for all activities, an adult female chaperone is required when ever a sweetheart stays overnight at a DeMolay function. 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 and it is recommended that they always have emergency contact numbers available.

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 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 the chapter sweetheart until another advisor is appointed. A sweetheart advisor must be a trained and registered adult volunteer.

State Sweetheart

Role and responsibilities

The state sweetheart is expected to participate actively with the chapter sweethearts and keep in close contact with the sweetheart program advisor. The state sweetheart is expected to lead the efforts with assistance from the state leadership team to raise monetary funds and needed items for the state charity. The state sweetheart should attend all functions for other Masonic organizations that the state leadership team is invited to, unless prevented by illness, school, work, or religious/family commitment. The state sweetheart is not the same as an elected state officer as the level of involvement, responsibilities, and required commitment is not the same. It is an important position, but she more so works with and alongside the state master councilor and his core of officers as “the first lady of Wisconsin DeMolay.”

Eligibility:

- Each candidate must complete the application, with all required signatures by the deadline, which is March 1st.
- Each candidate must attend sweetheart weekend in-person for the entire duration.
- Must be at least 16 years of age by the time of election but not yet 21 years of age.
- Serve at least 1 full term as a chapter sweetheart, unless an exception is made at the discretion of the EO.
- Chapter sweethearts who have accepted a state leadership role in other masonic youth organizations must fulfill those duties in full before running for the office of state sweetheart, unless an exception is made at the discretion of the EO. Further more, if the state sweetheart is elected to a state leadership position in another masonic youth organization during her term as state sweetheart she will forfeit her office of state sweetheart at the time of taking office in the other organization.
- Must have the availability to attend all planned state functions that is open to her.
- Must complete the Leadership Correspondence Course during her term as a chapter sweetheart.

A past state sweetheart is not eligible to run for office again, on the local or state level.