

This open house presentation is meant to be split into two sections. One where both the youth and parents are together in the room, and then after some point the youth go off with the chapter members to play games and just have fun, while the parents stay in the room to learn a little bit more about DeMolay on a technical level.

[Slide 1: Welcome Slide]

state the following if there are people walking around and talking throughout the room

If everyone would please find their seat so that we can get started that would be greatly appreciated.

wait for everyone to be seated

Good evening! I want to personally thank you all for coming this evening. On behalf of [Chapter Name] of Wisconsin DeMolay I am [Your Name] and we welcome you to our Open House today where we hope that you'll get a lot of useful information about DeMolay and of course, the most important step, have fun!

For the kids in the crowd, who likes having fun?

wait for youth to raise their hands

Thank you, you can put your hands down.

Fun is what you are really here for and that is really what DeMolay is truly about. Today we are going to give a short presentation to both the youth and your parents about DeMolay and then we are going to have you kids go have fun with our members in another room while we talk more with the adults. We have [describe what activities the youth will be doing] for you all to enjoy tonight.

So,

[Slide 2: What is DeMolay?]

What is DeMolay?

[Slide 3: Having Fun]

If you like having fun, making friends, and doing cool things like laser tag, camping, or participating in a gaming tournament then you are definitely in the right place. DeMolay can offer all of that and more. It's a place for you to be yourself and be surrounded by kids like you.

You see mom and dad, the best part and what really makes DeMolay truly fun, is that the kids themselves plan the fun things they want to do. If they want to go sledding they can plan that. If they want to go see a Bucks game as a chapter, they can plan that. When we go on break after a little while and split up, you young guys are going to get a small taste of the fun and bonding experience that DeMolay can offer.

In our chapters throughout Wisconsin we encourage members to have fun. [chapter name] chapter plans to have one fun event a month for our members to participate in so there of course is no shortage of that.

Also the great part is, you don't have to have fun with just the other guys at your home chapter, but you also can visit other chapter's fun events across Wisconsin whenever you want.

[Slide 4: Oatmeal Lake]

Wisconsin DeMolay is actually lucky enough to be blessed with a camping facility up in northern Wisconsin as well. Our Butler DeMolay Leadership Retreat Center sits on a lake not too far from Rhinelander where you can experience mother nature at it's finest. With a spacious cabin that sleeps 40 a lot of our chapter members enjoy going up there at least once a year to go hiking, boating, swimming, and much more. I also hear that some chapters make great meals when they go up north.

The best part is each chapter has a different experience with Oatmeal Lake. Sir Galahad chapter down in Burlington for example is known for their insane amounts of great food throughout their trips to the Butler facility. You can spend your weekends during the summer out on the water and enjoying some quality food each time you decide to make the trip up to the facility. I definitely recommend that if you decide to join DeMolay that you come take a trip up there with us.

[Slide 5: Overnight Activities]

Jumping right off of the Butler facility, another thing about being a part of DeMolay is that as a state we will host weekend long events each year that are strictly for getting together with other members across the state and having fun. Our annual summer event for example is a great week of fun during summer where we have a whole host of different activities like basketball tournaments, arcade nights, dances, and so much more.

Overnight events are a huge part of DeMolay, whether that be a lock-in at the lodge building where you are now, or a trip up to the Wisconsin Dells there is the opportunity to not only stay in and have a fun night, but also the opportunity to travel across the state of Wisconsin for some overnight or weekend long fun activities.

[Slide 6: Learning New Skills]

However, DeMolay isn't all about just having fun and making friends. While that is a huge portion of what you guys will experience if you do decide to join, you also get many opportunities to learn new skills based on what you are specifically interested in.

As I said with the fun events earlier, you get to choose what you want to do when it comes to learning new things as well. Do you want to learn more about your [town/cities] history? Then you can do that by visiting a local museum as a chapter or inviting someone from town hall to come speak to you. Do you even want to learn how to tie a tie or properly talk to a crowd of people? You can learn all of that and it's up to you to decide what you want to learn.

[Slide 7: Planning]

As I mentioned you get to choose what you want to learn and do within DeMolay. Throughout your entire experience you will be planning and more importantly learning how to plan and execute events that you set out to do. Whether that be fundraising so that your chapter can go on a skiing trip, or hosting a charity event at your local food shelter, you will learn every step along the way to making that event successful and truly your own.

Don't worry if that sounds a bit scary, you'll have both your own friends as well as your adult advisors to help mentor you along the way throughout those processes.

[Slide 8: What can I get out of that?]

I may have lost a little bit of attention from the kids there and they might be thinking, what can I get out of that? Well that's the cool part. In Wisconsin DeMolay we have many different ways of awarding our youth simply for being active in DeMolay. During our Centennial year for example we are giving our members the opportunity to win amazing prizes such as a Playstation 5 or a Nintendo Switch simply for being an active participant in their chapters.

Whether it be planning events, attending events, or filling in when needed in the chapter, you have the opportunity to be awarded for all of that throughout your DeMolay career. So don't worry, we will recognize you and make sure that these are as fun as possible along the way.

[Slide 9: Now have fun!]

In the end DeMolay is all about growing you guys into better versions of yourself. You are given the opportunity with DeMolay to explore your passions and have fun doing them, with our adult advisors there to steer you in the right direction.

Now, with that being said, at this point we are going to take a short break so that the youth can go out with our young men to talk a little bit about DeMolay and have some fun while we keep Mom and Dad here to discuss our organization a little bit more in depth.

[Slide 10: Break]

At this point the youth from the chapter should escort out any present youth to go and play the games or activities that are set up while also discussing their fun DeMolay experiences with the young men. Make them feel welcomed and have fun!

Speaker: So Mom and Dad I want to again thank you for coming out here this evening with your young men. I also want to thank you for trusting the young men of our chapter with your boys as well. I can guarantee that out there they will have a great time.

[Slide 11: So Parents, What is DeMolay?]

So, let's go ahead and answer the real questions that you as parents are probably still contemplating. What exactly is DeMolay? Sure we've talked about all this fun that they will be having and touched on the fact that they will learn new skills over their time in DeMolay and while that is all true there definitely is more to the organization that we'd like you to know about.

[Slide 12: DeMolay is. . .]

To put into plain terms DeMolay is all of the following things and really so much more for the young men. We are a fraternal organization based on treating young men from ages 12-21 with respect and giving them the skills necessary to go out into the real world and thrive. From leadership development to how to run a business meeting and community service, these young men over time are going to hopefully learn how to become leaders in their communities while at the same time opening up and becoming comfortable with themselves as they grow into adulthood.

[Slide 13: DeMolay's Background]

Just to give some short background on DeMolay we were founded in Kansas City all the way back in 1919. DeMolay has impacted young men around the world for over 100 years as we now reach over 30 countries worldwide and truly are an international organization.

The great part about all of the success of our organization is that it was founded by a one man and nine young men. A mason in Kansas City named Frank Land after meeting a young man named Louis Lower looking for work noticed that he, along with the young men of Kansas City and the world needed fatherly figures in their lives after the devastation of the first World War and the Spanish Flu. Land believed that masonry could be a conduit to help these young men, but instead gave them the opportunity to make their group their own.

[Slide 14: DeMolay's background 2]

So that's exactly what those 9 young men did. They started to craft their own little group where they could meet and plan out exactly what they wanted to do. After searching through many different aspects of Masonry for something to name their organization after. They learned of the last Grand Commander of the Knights Templar from the medieval era, Jacques De Molay and his heroic stand to protect his own friends in the face of death at the hands of the Spanish Inquisition. The young men were so impressed by his charity throughout his life and in the end, his sacrifice, that they decided to name their little rag tag group DeMolay.

And from their the group prospered, learning different leadership techniques and how to build up their community as well as having fun along the way that the word of DeMolay grew quick throughout their school and after a short amount of time hundreds of young men from Kansas City joined their growing organization and it just continued expanding from Kansas City, to Omaha, Nebraska and more over the years.

[Slide 15: So what makes DeMolay different?]

So what makes DeMolay different from all the other organizations or activities that your young man will more than likely take interest in over the next couple of years, or even already has?

As we stated earlier when the young men were in here the one thing that makes DeMolay special is that the young men truly get to plan and execute whatever fun, fundraising, charity, or business events they want to. From hosting an event for their chapter.

We teach our young men business skills, public speaking, community outreach, communication, self-confidence, and so much more. DeMolay also prides itself on sticking to seven virtues which we call our precepts, which we will discuss here in a little bit at the end to close out our presentation today.

Our Adult volunteers or advisors in DeMolay are really here to just guide the active members along whatever path they want to choose in DeMolay and help them grow as a young man ready to take on the world and the responsibilities of adulthood. Please don't think of us as babysitters but rather mentors, counselors, and extra role models to these young men.

[Slide 16: So what does it cost?]

So, what does it cost to join DeMolay? Well the great thing is that DeMolay only has a one time membership fee. Once someone joins DeMolay they are in it for the rest of their life. Sure once they turn 21 they will age out and become what we call a Senior DeMolay, but they will always have their DeMolay family to turn back on.

There of course is the cost of time. DeMolay can cost however much time the young man decided to put into it. If they want to or only can attend once every month then that's completely fine. We aren't going to ask anything more of them. We understand that life gets busy and not everyone can commit all their time to the organization. If the young man does really want to get involved we are here to help expense costs for events such as our annual summer event and other events that the chapter puts on. We've mentioned fundraising a couple of times and we do want to emphasize that fundraising is highly encouraged to help offset costs for young men to attend events.

You may also have to get a suit for your son as well so keep that in mind

[Slide 17: How can I get involved?]

So Mom and Dad, what is your role in this? Well, if you do want to get involved and be there alongside your sons as they experience DeMolay and grow, then you can become an adult volunteer or an advisor like we had mentioned earlier. Every DeMolay advisor is vetted through a third party background checking company that DeMolay International uses so that all of our advisors are safe to be around youth.

On top of that we utilize a training program that must be completed prior to becoming an advisor that is used to not only teach adults more about how the organization functions but the safety procedures in place for young men and adults involved in DeMolay.

So if you do want to get involved please talk with either me or one of our other advisors here and we can point you in the right direction. You don't have to become a full fledged advisor however, you can just help out whenever you can as a parent to show your son that you care about their involvement. Being alongside your young men as they grow throughout DeMolay is definitely an experience and shows them that in the end you care about them having fun, growing, and being with their friends.

[Slide 18: 7 Precepts]

So I'd like to end this presentation with a quote from a famous DeMolay and leave you with the seven preceptors or virtues of DeMolay.

For those of you who aren't aware. Walt Disney was a great friend of our founder Frank Land and was made an honorary member of the organization during his lifetime. When asked about DeMolay he said the following:

"I feel a great sense of obligation and gratitude toward the Order of DeMolay for the important part it played in my life. Its precepts have been invaluable in making decisions, facing dilemmas, and crises. DeMolay stands for all that is good for the family and for our country. I feel privileged to have enjoyed membership in DeMolay."

Those precepts that Walt mentions in this quote are as follows and are the true foundation on what we try to base our lives off of:

Love for Parents
Respect for Sacred Things
Courtesy
Brotherhood or Comradeship
Fidelity
Cleanness
and
Patriotism

[Slide 19: QnA]