



# Commanderies of Knights Templar



## Welcome Brother!

You have taken a very exciting and important step forward in the third stage of the York Rite by inquiring in a **Commandery of Knights Templar in the State of New York**. Within a short time you will notice our Masonic Order to be very interesting, educational, fun, and of course historic. Whether you have an interest in history, camaraderie, attending events, or furthering your York Rite knowledge, Knights Templar has all of this plus more.

In the approximate year of 1099, a small band of Crusaders remaining after the conquest, recognized the plight of the pilgrims and bound themselves in a holy Brotherhood in arms, entering into a solemn agreement to aid one another in clearing the highways, and protecting the pilgrims through the passes and defiles of the mountains to the Holy City. This was the circumstance that set the stage for Templary.

The Knights Templar were laymen who protected and defended Christians traveling to Jerusalem. These men took vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and were renowned for their fierceness and courage in battle. In 1118 A.D., nineteen years after the successful Crusade, these Poor Fellow Soldiers of Jesus Christ, as they termed themselves, were officially recognized and sanctioned and were given for their headquarters, a building on Mount Moriah, the site of the former Temple of King Solomon. Consequently, they became known as the Knights of the Temple, or Knights Templar.

In colonial days, New York City was the starting point for Masonry in the State of New York. The craft had been in existence for many years prior to the formation of the Mother Grand Lodge in London in the year 1717. In 1814 the Grand Encampment of New York was formed. The preliminary meeting was held in New York, January 22, 1814. The first regular meeting was held in New York, June 18, 1814. There is no proof of a direct connection between Ancient and Modern Knights Templar. Since its inception in New York State in 1814, generations of Sir Knights have continued their respected Chivalric traditions of Knights Templar on local, state, and national levels.

Your acceptance in our prestigious organization must be preceded by becoming a Royal Arch Mason within the York Rite. Being a Christian Order of Masonry, Sir Knights must believe and attest to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Find out what attributes you might expect to attain as a Knights Templar in our Order (organization).

## Knights Templar Orders:

- The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross
- The Order of Malta / The Mediterranean Pass
- The Order of the Temple

## Knights Templar Charities:

- NY Division of Knights Templar Eye Foundation Inc.
- NY Division of Knights Templar Educational Foundation
- Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage for Christian Ministers

For more information: [grandcommanderyktny.org](http://grandcommanderyktny.org)

the York Rite of New York