Join us this year for
YOUTH DAYS
August 18th & 19th, 2023
in Des Moines, Iowa
at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown

Pin Design for 2024
Submit your design for the Youth Pin. Please remember the finished size of the pin is approximately 1” diameter. Keep the design simple. The design must include: the year of the pin, Emblems of the 4 units; Junior Odd Fellow Lodge, Theta Rho Girls Club, United Youth Group & Cadet Corp, the colors to be used. Please take the time and color your designs and make sure your name and address are on the back of the design. Due in by April 26!

Advisor Recognition Award
Submit in writing why you feel your advisor should receive this award. Tell us the special things that he or she does to make your meetings more fun. Let us know what your advisor has taught you and how you have grown in knowledge of our order. Although we realize that Assistant Advisors are very special too, this particular award is for the Club/Lodge/Group Advisor only.

Community Service Recognition Award
Send us a list of your community service activities in which your lodge, club, or group participated in without compensation. Provide the description of the projects, amount of money collected/donated, the number of participants and the hours of service provided.
ONE MORE CAST FROM THE CHAIRMAN

WOW!!

The SGL/IARA Youth Days planning is in full swing. Your SGL/IARA Joint Youth Committee, the Grand Lodge of Iowa, and many others have been working to make this year’s activities the best yet. We can’t wait to see all of you there.

A couple of important updates to inform everyone as we draw closer to sessions. With the help from many donors all meals for youth at sessions are FREE. This includes the Youth Banquet, lunches, and dinners. But remember you still need to register via the SGL/IARA registration form. Still check the box on the forms for Youth/Banquet and submit. Don’t forget everyone must have their own registration form. One form per participant. The committee cannot express how thankful we are to all our sponsors this year.

But wait there’s more updates. This year’s community service project we will be making and delivering teddy bears to the Ronald McDonald House before we go to the amusement park for fun night activities. As we all know, the Ronald McDonald House does some amazing things helping children and families while they get important hospital care.

This year I am asking all clubs to contribute one thing. That one thing can be anything. Anything, yes Anything. It doesn’t have to be big, it doesn’t have to be small, it can be anything. Anything that might represent your Club, your Jurisdiction, your Order, something to snack, or just anything silly. The only stipulation is you need 50 of this one thing. These are for our gift bags at the beginning of the session and need to be turned in on Friday morning at breakfast. If you need to mail something beforehand let me know.

Pin Designs are due soon. Put those thinking caps on and get those designs in. It will take time for the manufacturer to produce them so we cannot extend the deadline as in previous years. Don’t want to see a great design not get judged because it wasn’t submitted on time. Also, I need your Community Service hours and activities. This helps get your club recognized properly and helps with our annual report. Youth don’t forget to recommend your Advisors for Advisor of the Year. Please say in a few words why your Advisor is the best and why they should receive this award. Can’t wait to hear all the great things everyone has been doing Y’all are awesome.

Warning!!! Every year at Youth Banquet we do a talent program. Everyone must participate in this. So put on those thinking caps NOW and come up with your talent skits. Group or individual talents will need to be rehearsed before the banquet. Please don’t show up and say you don’t have one, we all have a hidden talent somewhere. This part of the banquet program is what brings all the adults out to our Youth Dinner. Be unique, costumes and props are acceptable but must be appropriate. Piano, microphones, and Bluetooth stereo can be provided also.

Last thing. As we strive to make this year’s activities the best for all attending, help is still needed. In the past some Youth have opted to not participate in assigned tasks. This will no longer be acceptable. If you don’t want to participate or if we hear you complain about activities, you will be asked to leave. We’ve had problems with bad attitudes in the past and it’s just bringing the entire group down and its just not fair to others. So, keep this in mind as you plan your trip. Advisors and Chaperones; you can always reach out to me before sessions to discuss a Youth’s reservations beforehand so as to avoid any conflict of interests. I don’t like being the bad guy here, but it’s only fair to everyone else attending the session.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again. Good things are on the way for this year’s SGL/IARA Joint Youth Days. Thank you for letting me serve as your chairperson.

In FLT,

Steve Adams
Chairman SGL/IARA Joint Youth Committee
Proclamations

Founder’s Day Proclamation

To the Officers and Members of all Degrees of the Independent Order of Odd Fellowship

Fraternal Greetings:

As we continue to enjoy two hundred and one years of fraternity let us not become complacent but strive toward setting goals to make a difference in our communities and share more creative ways of offering the hand of friendship of our fraternity to those we meet.

Therefore, I, Michelle L. Heckart, Sovereign Grand Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, by authority in me duly vested, do proclaim

That the month of April be declared Odd Fellows Anniversary Month throughout Odd Fellowship.

Be it further proclaimed,

That April 26, 2023 be known as Founder’s Day throughout Odd Fellowship commemorating the 204th Anniversary of the founding of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Baltimore, Maryland.

Further, all units of the Order are encouraged to hold special festivities in celebration of the day: Degree Day (name the class for someone in your jurisdiction), Anniversary Ball, Community Work Project, et cetera.

Done in the City of Winston-Salem, the State of North Carolina the 1st day of March 2023 and of our Order the 204th year.

[Seal] Yours in F, L & T,

Attest: /s/ Michelle L. Heckart
Sovereign Grand Master

/s/ Terry L. Barrett
Sovereign Grand Secretary

Make A Difference Day Proclamation

To the Officers and Members of all Degrees of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Fraternal Greetings:

As we continue to enjoy two hundred and two years of fraternity let us not become complacent but strive toward setting goals to Make a Difference in our communities and share more creative ways of offering the hand of friendship of our fraternity to those we meet.

I, Michelle L. Heckart, Sovereign Grand Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, by authority in me duly vested, do proclaim

that the Saturday the 15th day of April be declared Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Make a Difference Day.

Further, all units of the Order are encouraged to hold special festivities in celebration of the day: Community Work Project; Hands Across Your city, town, village, community followed by an open house in the lodge hall; et cetera.

Done in the City of Winston-Salem, the State of North Carolina the 1st day of March 2023 and of our Order the 204th year.

[Seal] Yours in F, L & T,

Attest: /s/ Michelle L. Heckart
Sovereign Grand Master

/s/ Terry L. Barrett
Sovereign Grand Secretary
2023 Annual Communication of:

The Sovereign Grand Lodge
Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Des Moines, Iowa

‘We commend you to: visit the sick, bury the dead, relieve the distressed, and educate the orphan.’
January 2023

To the Officers and Grand Representatives of
The Sovereign Grand Lodge, and Officers and Members
of all Units of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Fraternal Greetings:

The next communication of The Sovereign Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, beginning Monday morning, 21st August 2023, and ending Thursday afternoon, 24th August 2023.

Headquarters and Sessions
Des Moines Marriott Downtown

The Sovereign Grand Lodge
196th Annual Communication

International Association of Rebekah Assemblies
105th Annual Session

General Military Council
119th Annual Session

Youth Days

“WE SEEK TO IMPROVE AND ELEVATE THE CHARACTER OF MAN.”
Des Moines Marriott Downtown
700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515/245-5500

Group Rates—August 17-26, 2023
All Rates are $175.00—Single-Double-Triple-Quad
Tax Rate Presently 12%

Reference Session of The Sovereign Grand Lodge 2023

Information to have available when calling to make a reservation:
Name: ________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________
City/State/Postal Code: ______________________________________
Additional Guests: __________________________________________
Phone Number: __________________________ Email: __________________
Card Number: ___________________________ Exp. Date: __________
Arrival Date: ___________________________ Departure Date: __________

Reservations must be made by: July 26, 2023
2023 Pre-Registration Form

The Sovereign Grand Lodge
International Association of Rebekah Assemblies
General Military Council, Patriarchs Militant

Des Moines, Iowa
August 21 to 24, 2023

Please Note:
All Attendees MUST register
(One form per attendee)

Name ____________________________ Jurisdiction ____________________________

(Name as desired on badge) ____________________________

Unit attending: SGL IARA GMC Youth Guest (please circle one)

Title for name badge ____________________________

Mailing Address ____________________________

City, St./Prv, Postal Code ____________________________

Telephone ____________________________ Email ____________________________

Registration Information

Registrations on or before July 27, 2023, $75.00 $ ________________
Registrations after July 27, 2023, $100.00 $ ________________

Highlight Events

Youth Dinner, Friday Aug. 18 — $60.00 (Fried Chicken)
(Formal Attire - Youth; Semi-formal Attire - Guests) $ ________________ FREE for YOUTH

Welcome Dinner, Saturday Aug. 19 — $65.00 (Sliced Ham/Seared Chicken Breast) (Business Casual Attire) $ ________________

Officer’s Banquet, Monday Aug. 21 — $75.00 (Grilled Pork Chop) (Western/Casual) $ ________________

Installation Dinner, Wednesday Aug. 23 — $80.00 (Beef Brisket)
(Formal Attire — Installation to follow dinner) $ ________________

Total Fees for the session, in US dollars $ ________________

No refund on meals if not attending when canceled after the 27th of July, unless your reservation is picked up at registration by another attendee.

Please mail all Registration Forms with a check or money order to:
2023 I.O.O.F. Session Committee
Marty and Sue Zylstra, Co-Chairs
211 Thornton Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50315

Any special requests, such as: special diet, should be indicated here: ____________________________

______________________________
CITY LIGHTS DINNER – Thursday, August 24, 2023

Please join us in closing out the 2023 Session of The Sovereign Grand Lodge with an evening of fellowship, dinner and entertainment at the Des Moines Embassy Club. The Des Moines Embassy Club is conveniently located directly across the street from the Des Moines Marriott Downtown, The Sovereign Grand Lodge host hotel. Enjoy a picturesque view of the city of Des Moines at night from high atop the Des Moines Embassy Club, including a spectacular view of the Iowa Capitol and its beautiful gold domes.

The evening will begin with a social hour from 5:00-6:00 p.m., with dinner and entertainment to follow. The cost for this event is $75.00 and is non-refundable. Dress is Western/Casual.

Please send your reservation, paid in full, by July 15, 2023 to: (One Form Per Person)

2023 I.O.O.F. Session Committee
Marty and Sue Zylstra, Co-Chairs
211 Thornton Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50315

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: __________________ State: __________ Zip: ___________
Phone Number: ____________________________________________
Date: ________________________ Amount Enclosed: ________________
HOTEL SHUTTLE INFORMATION
The Sovereign Grand Lodge
International Association of Rebekah Assemblies
General Military Council

Name __________________________________________
Address ________________________________________
Email __________________________________________
Phone __________________________________________

Note: The Des Moines Marriott Downtown located at 700 Grand Avenue in Des Moines will provide shuttle service from the airport to the hotel and return. Please provide us with your flight information and we will make arrangements to have you transported to the hotel and return to the airport.

Flight Information:
Arrival Date ___________ Arrival Time ___________ Airline ________ Flight # ________
Departure Date ___________ Departure Time ___________ Airline ________ Flight # ________
☐ I WILL need hotel shuttle transportation  ☐ I will NOT need hotel shuttle transportation

Return this form to: 2023 I.O.O.F. Session Committee
Marty and Sue Zylstra, Co-chairs
211 Thornton Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50315-3179

Questions: 515/244-7618 (Zylstra Home Phone) or 515/360-4589 (Sue’s Cell Phone)

---

Shirt Order Form

Make checks payable to and mail to:
2023 I.O.O.F. Session Committee
Attr: Marty and Sue Zylstra
211 Thornton Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50315-3179

Men

Size: __ Small __ Medium __ Large __ XL __ 2XL __ 3XL __ 4XL
Color: __ Red __ White __ Blue
Price: $25.00 S-XL — $27.00 2XL-4XL

Women

Size: __ Small __ Medium __ Large __ XL __ 2XL __ 3XL __ 4XL
Color: __ Red __ White __ Blue
Price: $20.00 S-XL — $22.00 2XL-4XL

Name: __________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City, State, Zip Code ________________________________
Phone Number: ____________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________
Paid: $_____ — Cash $_____ Check #_______
**Jurisdictional Youth Reports**

*Please have your report written as it will be turned in to the SGL-IARA Joint Youth Committee
*Report information spans from the last SGL-IARA Youth Days to the present.

**SGL-IARA Jurisdictional Youth Reports need to include the following information:**
1. Names, titles and jurisdiction of the Youth giving the report.
2. Total number of Junior Odd Fellows, Theta Rho, United Youth Groups and Cadet Corps and total number of members.
3. Junior Odd Fellows, Theta Rho, United Youth Groups and Cadet Corps that are not meeting.
4. Comparison of membership with prior years.
5. Interesting fund raising projects.
6. Junior Lodge, Theta Rho Club, Unite Youth Group and Cadet Corps activities.
7. Significant membership drive recognition.
8. Visitation activities to other jurisdictions.
9. Recognition of completing Honors Program.
10. Future plans.
11. Grand Junior Lodge, Theta Rho Assembly and information such as numbers attending, when and where held, and significant activities.
12. What are you doing for your sponsoring Lodge? What are they doing for you?
13. Recognition of any and all other special events.

SEND YOUR CONTEST ENTRIES TO: **Chairman, Steve Adams**
Email: seawyo@yahoo.com by April 26!

**Pin Design for 2024:**
Submit your design for the Youth Pin. Please remember the finished size of the pin is approximately 1” diameter. Keep the design simple. The design must include: the year of the pin, Emblems of the 4 units; Junior Odd Fellow Lodge, Theta Rho Girls Club, United Youth Group & Cadet Corp, the colors to be used. Please take the time and color your designs and make sure your name and address are on the back of the design. **Due in by April 26!**

**CONTESTS FOR YOUTH!**

**Community Service Recognition Award**
Send us a list of your community service activities in which your lodge, club, or group participated in without compensation. Provide the description of the projects, amount of money collected/donated, the number of participants and the hours of service provided.

**Advisor Recognition Award**
Submit in writing why you feel your advisor should receive this award. Tell us the special things that he or she does to make your meetings more fun. Let us know what your advisor has taught you and how you have grown in knowledge of our order. Although we realize that Assistant Advisors are very special too, this particular award is for the Club/Lodge/Group Advisor only.
**Did you know???

Who Discovered Iowa?
In 1673, two French explorers Louis Joliet and Father Jacques Marquette while traveling down the Mississippi River discovered Iowa.

What is Iowa State known for?
Iowa State is known for agricultural products like corn and pork. It is UNESCO’s third City of Literature as well.

What is Iowa State known for?
Iowa State is known for agricultural products like corn and pork.

---

**Abbreviation:** IA  
**Nickname:** The Hawkeye State  
**Joined the USA:** December 28, 1846 (29th State)  
**Population (2020):** 3,190,369  
**Located:** Midwestern United States  
**Capital:** Des Moines  
**Biggest City:** Des Moines  
**State Bird:** Eastern Goldfinch  
**State Flower:** Wild Rose

---

**11 Facts About Iowa**

1. **Iowa is nicknamed as the Hawkeye State**

   Iowa is named Hawkeye as the tribute to a real life tribal leader of the American Sauk tribe, chief Black Hawk who fought against the settlers. It is also said to be inspired by Hawkeye, the hero of the novel *Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper.

   The Iowans and the athletes of University of Iowa refer to themselves as Hawkeyes with Herky the Hawk as their mascot.

2. **Iowa or the sleepy ones**

   A story regarding the origin of the name Iowa suggests that the state was named after the people of *Ioway* who are said to be the original inhabitants of the place. And Iowa means "the sleepy ones" which was the name given by other tribes for fun.

   With farmlands covering the majority of the land, people of Iowa are definitely not sleepy heads but hardworking souls.

3. **Here a bone, There a bone!**

   In Iowa, you might find bones of *Woolly mammoth* bones almost everywhere. It is pretty sure that these prehistoric pachyderms lived in this area long ago. The Hawkeyes will not be surprised if they find a mammoth bone in their fields once in a while.

4. **Iowa is the Corn state**

   Iowa can be called the *breadbasket* of the US. Being the top producer of corn, Iowa produced more than 3 million bushels of corn alone in 2019, harvesting about 13.1 million acres of land.

*Continued...*
5. There are more Hogs than Humans in Iowa

Being the number 1 pork producing state of the country, Iowa is home to pigs more than humans. For every 1 human, there are nearly 8 pigs and the total number of hog population is estimated to be around 24.6 million. That’s huge!

With more than 5,400 pig farms and one among the largest exporters of pork as 30 percent of the total pig population in America is in Iowa.

6. Iowa, the city of Literature

Iowa is the only city in the United States of America that is designated as UNESCO’s City of Literature. Iowa was chosen for this title on November 20, 2008, and has been teaching creative writing to the world for about 80 years through its influential literary institutions.

One of the major reasons why Iowa is a haven for creative writing is that 99 percent of Iowa’s population is literate with the largest literacy rate in the entire country.

7. Birthplace of sliced bread

Don’t you think breakfasts are better with sliced bread? If so, thank Iowa because pre-cut loaves of bread first originated from Iowa. Otto Frederick Rohwedder, an Iowan, in 1912 invented the bread slicing machine which was first received with skepticism.

Though his invention got destroyed in a fire, he reconstructed the machine and today, sliced bread is an inevitable kitchen staple.

8. Iowa has the sacred Effigy Mounds

Built during the Late Woodland period, an Effigy Mound is a prehistoric burial mound. It contains raised piles of the earth which are shaped like animals including bears, birds, panthers, deer, and bison.

The Effigy Mounds are considered sacred by Native Americans and the archeologists believe that they were built to mark celestial events.

9. Iowa, the only state bordered by rivers

Iowa is the only American state bordered by two parallel running rivers. The Missouri River and its tributary, the Big Sioux marks the Western border. The Mississippi River borders Iowa in the east.

The confluence of the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers marks the lowest point in the state which is 480 feet above the sea level.

10. Iowa has a miniature island

Sabula is Iowa’s only island city. Sabula was once physically connected to Iowa. But the damming project of 1939 submerged the lowland areas leading to the creation of the island. The island is one mile long and a quarter-mile wide with a population of about 576 according to the 2010 census.

With several public parks, pizza places and a historic caboose, this island city of Iowa is perfect for a weekend getaway.

11. Birthplace of first electronic digital computer

Iowa holds the right over the world’s first digital computer. John Atanasoff, a professor at Iowa State University and his student Clifford Berry created the world’s first electronic digital computer and named it the Atanasoff–Berry Computer (ABC).
IT’S ALL FOR FUN!

Happy Easter

BASKET
CHICKS
EGGS
HUNT
TREATS

BEANS
CHOCOLATE
FAMILY
JELLY

BUNNY
EASTER
FLOWERS
SPRING

momvstheboys.com
Anyone graduate from your lodge, club or group?
Is your jurisdiction working on the Youth Honors Program?
We would like to add any of this information to our Newsletter for mailing and recognition purposes:

Graduate Members: Jurisdiction: ____________________________ Graduate Name:__________________________________
Youth Honors Program: Level____________ Name ___________________________________________

Please send this form to the SGL-IARA JYC Committee Secretary: Michele Trynor

We want to include you in The Youth Informer!
The Youth Informer would like to publish your article in our next publishing. Please submit your articles to: Gwen Wixom, Editor. E-mail to gwen.century21@aol.com Remember, this is your paper. Take an interest in being a writer for your community and let us know what your club has been up to. Send me your pictures and articles and we will try our best to get all entries in your Youth Informer.

We, the Committee would love to attend your sessions in your jurisdictions.
All you have to do is send an invitation (email or letter via snail-mail) and someone will be there. Please do this asap as travel plans need to be made. Attending your sessions will allow us to answer questions and take your ideas to others.

FACEBOOK PAGE: SGL-IARA Youth
*Use Facebook to share your activities with others.
*Use Facebook as a question and answer page.
*Keep in touch with everyone that attended Youth Days in the past or just this year.
*Share your organization’s website with others.

Website: www.ioof.org (Click on YOUTH)

FILL OUT COMPLETELY & MAIL WITH $10 (U.S. OR CANADIAN) PER YEAR TO:
SGL-IARA JYC YOUTH INFORMER, Gwen Wixom - 2816 IRISH RIDGE RD., BURLINGTON, IA 52601
OFFICE USE: AMOUNT SUBMITTED $ _______ U.S. _______ CANADIAN
__NEW ___RENEWAL ___ADDRESS CHANGE ___(NO CHARGE FOR ADVISOR/CO-ADVISOR)

NAME__________________________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS _____________________________CITY ___________________ STATE/PROVINCE _______ ZIP ______

SUBSCRIPTION FORM FOR ADULTS

Office Use: Amount Submitted $ ______ U.S. _______ Canadian
__New ___Renewal ___Address Change ___(No Charge for Advisor/Co-Advisor)
YOUTH COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

CHAIRMAN: Steve E. Adams
(307) 256-4518
Email: seawyo@yahoo.com

SECRETARY: Michele Trynor
(207) 423-1551
Email: micheletrynor@hotmail.com

YOUTH DAYS COORDINATOR: Laurel Delony
(253) 468-1949
Email: laureljdelony@gmail.com

PIN COORDINATOR/WEB SITE: Greta Bowers
(267) 620-5477
Email: gretabowers@ymail.com

EDITOR YOUTH INFORMER: Gwen Wixom
(319) 754-5532 or (319) 750-1179
Email: gwen.century21@aol.com

We’re here for you!
Do you need us? Do you need help? Advice? Or just an ear to listen? Request a visit by contacting Youth Committee Chairman Steve Adams directly by phone, email or letter and we will be there. We only ask that you contact us as soon as possible to enable us time to make arrangements to get to you as quick as we can.

Did you know: you can find us at these places?
Website: www.ioof.org (Click on YOUTH)

FACEBOOK PAGE: SGL-IARA Youth
*Use Facebook to share your activities with others.
*Use Facebook as a question and answer page.
*Keep in touch with everyone that attended Youth Days in the past or just this year.
*Share your organization’s website with others.
The Youth Informer
Gwen Wixom, Editor
2816 Irish Ridge Road
Burlington, IA 52601