

2025-2026 Vanguard Award Requirements

Lodges must complete the necessary activities in each of the six (6) categories between 06/24/2025 and 08/15/2026. The application is due to the Grand Lodge of Texas by September 15, 2026. Activities that satisfy multiple requirements may be counted for credit no more than two (2) times.

NOTE: A completed Annual Return with full payment, Minimum Audit Form No. 71, and a copy of the appropriate IRS Form 990 filing must be filed in accordance with federal and Grand Lodge requirements. By the following signatures, the senior officers of said Lodge and the District Deputy Grand Master of the Lodge's respective district certify this to be true.

Worshipful Master

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Senior Warden

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Junior Warden

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Treasurer

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Secretary

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Lodge Name & Number: _____

Masonic District Number: _____



2025-2026 Vanguard Lodge Certification Report

Date: _____

To: Most Worshipful Grand Master Rumsey

From: _____,

District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No.: _____

Subject: Vanguard Award Lodge Certification

I, along with the District Instructor, have reviewed the attached Vanguard Application Form for _____ Lodge No. _____ and I hereby certify that this Lodge has met the minimum Vanguard Award Requirements set forth within the required timeframe.

I request that you designate this Lodge as a "Vanguard Lodge" of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas.

The application form and attachments are enclosed for your review.

Fraternally,

District Deputy Grand Master, District No. _____

(Signature)

District Instructor, District No. _____

(Signature)

Instructions to Lodge: *A completed application (.pdf) shall be submitted electronically to your DDGM by 08/30/2026. The application shall minimally consist of an executive summary narrative (brevity is key) of the completed Vanguard tasks. Each narrative shall appropriately cross reference the respective Vanguard tasks that your Lodge completed. Copies of meeting notes can be included if deemed necessary (and must be if required by the activity).*

Instructions to DDGM: *Email a copy of the completed application to the Committee on Masonic Education by 09/15/2026 at CME@grandlodgeoftexas.org.*



Section 1 – Lodge Administration

A. Required Activities:

1. The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden must have successfully completed both of the Officer Leadership Training (OLT) classes, 101 and 201, within the last five (5) years, or have completed all of the Lodge Instruction for Effectiveness (L.I.F.E.) programs, JW (Introduction), SW (Operation), and WM (Administration).

Note: If only one OLT class has been completed, all L.I.F.E. programs must be completed. Past Masters are exempt per Article 276a.

2. Form a Budget Committee consisting of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, and Junior Past Master, and create an Annual Lodge Operating Budget which contains, at a minimum, the following items:
 - i. Income – Dues, Degree Fees, Fundraisers, Donations, Rent, etc.
 - ii. Expenses – Grand Lodge Annual Returns, utilities, Building Maintenance, Donations, Rent, Insurance, etc.

Note: The operating budget shall be presented to the Lodge within two months of the Installation of Officers and documented in the Stated Meeting Minutes.

3. Develop a Leadership Succession Plan for your Lodge. It shall include the Stations of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, and Junior Deacon. Consider mentoring opportunities and strategies which engage Past Masters of the Lodge. Include the establishment (or reinforcement) of a vision and Mission for your Lodge that can inspire members for multiple years. The plan should be presented to the Lodge during a Stated or Called meeting and documented in the minutes. The plan should include the following:

- i. Worshipful Master and Senior Warden mentor the Senior Deacon
- ii. Senior Warden and Junior Warden mentor the Junior Deacon

4. Develop a Strategic Plan for your Lodge. The plan should include a one-year, two-year, and three-year outlook. The plan should be presented to the Lodge during a Stated or Called meeting and documented in the minutes. Include the following items:

- i. Leadership & Administration
- ii. Education & Communications
- iii. Masonic Works & Community Involvement
- iv. Growth, Financials, Facilities, Fraternity, and Fellowship

B. Choose at Least Five (5) Activities:



1. For each EA and FC who did not advance in the last two (2) years, investigate and determine why they failed to advance. Submit with the Vanguard Application a simplified report documenting the following: Name of EA or FC, why he failed to advance, and the platform of communication to him (phone, letter, email, physical meeting). Also document the failed attempts (*note: At least two attempts should be made and documented*).
2. Plan and execute a social event for your local inactive members (e.g., those who have not attended a Lodge function during the prior Masonic year and live within the jurisdiction of the Lodge). This could be a dinner at the Lodge or local restaurant, firearms event, sports game, etc. Submit with the Vanguard application a report describing the event, how the Lodge marketed the event, how the Lodge contacted the members, and the attendance of the event. Describe the follow-up actions the Lodge plans to execute to reinforce the relationships that were re-connected. Alternately, host a speaker at a Stated or Called meeting to present the Grand Lodge of Texas Bring-A-Brother Back program.
3. At the beginning of the Masonic year, create a committee consisting of the line officers of the Lodge to attempt to contact at least 20% of your inactive local members (those who have not attended a Lodge function during the prior Masonic year and currently living within the jurisdiction of the Lodge). Submit with the Vanguard application a simplified report documenting the following: member's name, platform of communication to him (phone, letter, mail, physical meeting). A quarterly report shall be presented by the committee during a Stated meeting and documented in the minutes. Document also the failed attempts. *Note: no more than two (2) attempts should be made.*
4. Have the Secretary, or other qualified brother, attend a Secretary's School of Instruction. Provide appropriate documentation, including the Secretary's name and date and location of the training.
5. Have the Treasurer, or other qualified brother, attend a Treasurer's School of Instruction. Provide appropriate documentation, including the Treasurer's name and date and location of the training.
6. Establish, or provide documentation of an active program, for one of the following "long-term" funding program opportunities for the Lodge. (*Note: these programs shall be separate from the general operations fund for the Lodge and shall be used exclusively for the purpose it was established*). Document this plan and respective activities with a copy of the Stated Meeting Minutes providing proof that it was discussed and approved by the Lodge members and signed by the Worshipful Master and attested by the Secretary. *Note: The goal of either option below is to initiate a long-term investment strategy which yields interest for the Lodge's benefit.*



- i. Building Maintenance Fund
 1. If the Lodge owns its building: investment income is to be used for building improvements, enhancements to the Lodge, regalia, furniture, or similar
 2. If the Lodge rents the building (in part or whole): investment income is to be used for rent, the insurance premium, regalia, furniture, or similar.
 - ii. Charity
 1. This fund is designated for use within the approved GLOT charity programs, including scholarships and various charitable initiatives within the community
7. Have the three principal officers (WM, SW, JW, TR, SC) attend the Grand Annual Communication. Alternatively, have at least five (5) members of the Lodge attend the Grand Annual Communication (this can be in combination with the senior officers).

End of Lodge Administration Requirements



Section 2 – Community Involvement

A. Chose at Least Ten (10) of the Following Activities:

1. Participate in the Take Time to Read Program.
2. Present the Mirabeau B. Lamar Award Medal to deserving students and/or teachers at a public meeting or at the High School.
3. Participate in the Fantastic Teeth Program.
4. Provide at least one (1) \$500 college or trade school scholarship to a deserving High School senior. Present the award at an open meeting of the Lodge or at the High School awards ceremony of the recipient.
5. Provide a public school or private school Teacher Honorarium award for distinguished service. Present the award at an open meeting of the Lodge or at the school of the recipient.
6. Collect or raise at least \$500 in/for needed school supplies and present them to a local school.
7. Participate in the GLOT Honesty and Integrity Program.
8. Provide at least \$250 in financial support to a GLOT recognized Masonic youth group (e.g., DeMolay or Rainbow Girls).
9. Provide at least \$250 in financial support to a non-Masonic youth organization focused on the development of future leaders (e.g., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts).
10. Provide at least one active advisor for a GLOT recognized Masonic youth group.
11. Host an Open meeting to recognize a high achieving youth (e.g., Eagle Scout, Gold Award Girl Scout, etc.).
12. Provide at least one active advisor for a non-Masonic recognized youth group (e.g., Boy Scouts).
13. Present the Community Builder Award at an Open meeting of the Lodge.
14. Allow the Lodge facility to be used for a public function or activity provided for under Article 224.



15. Host a Masonic Information Booth at a public event. Alternatively, join with your City, County, or other public entity in a community event. Highlight the Lodge and the good deeds the Lodge has done and continues to do for the community.
16. Participate in Adopt-A-Highway or similar public service activity.
17. Gather and distribute food, clothing, or other items for those in need.
18. Host the opening of a Representation of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas for the purpose of conducting a cornerstone ceremony or placing a grave marker for a Past Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas.
19. Host an open house for your Lodge.
20. Host an event for local veterans.
21. Participate in the Gift of Life program.
22. Provide at least \$250 in support to a community organization such as Police, Fire, or other first responders.
23. Support an orphanage, senior living facility, or women's shelter in Texas by providing one of the following:
 - i. At least \$250 in financial support
 - ii. At least 40 volunteer hours

End of Community Involvement Requirements



Section 3 – Member Service

A. Required Activities:

1. Present all appropriate Grand Lodge Service Awards (i.e. 50, 60, etc. years' service) and all appropriate Lodge Service Awards (i.e. 25 and 40 years) for the current Masonic year. Document if no members satisfied the requirements.
2. Host an Open Meeting focusing on the families and/or friends of your members, such as Bring-A-Friend program, Widow's Program, Father/Son Program, Father/Daughter Program, Wife/Sweetheart Program, Veterans Program, or other similar activity.
3. Create or maintain a functioning website or social media page based upon the criteria set by the GLOT Internet Committee.

B. Choose at Least Four (4) Activities:

1. Assign a committee for the purpose of identifying a recipient of the Golden Trowel Award to a deserving member of the Lodge. Present the award in a ceremony appropriate for the occasion. *Note: The committee may determine that there is not a current qualified candidate. If so, document the committee's findings during a Stated Meeting, this will satisfy this requirement.*
2. Formally acknowledge Masonic anniversary dates of Lodge members. Do this either during Stated meetings, or on a members-only Lodge web site or social media page, or in the Lodge newsletter.
3. Host a Past Master's Event. It is encouraged that the Senior Warden provide a summary of his plans during his year in the East during this event.
4. The Lodge to plan for and execute an officer's retreat outing to discuss the plans for the Lodge during the year. Discussion topics could include goals, budget, fundraising, mission and vision, etc.
5. The Lodge to attend and participate in Masonic funerals. Have at least five (5) members attend a Masonic funeral. Alternatively, a member of the Lodge that is qualified to be the funeral master conducts at least one masonic burial service.
6. Publish a Lodge newsletter at least six (6) times per year for the members of your Lodge.
7. Ensure Lodge safety by completing/maintaining the following:



- i. Purchase a First Aid Kit and place it in your Lodge at a convenient location. If you have a First Aid Kit, ensure that it is stocked and any outdated supplies are discarded and replaced.
- ii. Purchase a fire extinguisher for the Lodge and place it in a convenient location. If you have a fire extinguisher, ensure that it is properly pressurized and up to date.
- iii. Purchase and install lighted Exit signs for the Lodge exits. If you have lighted exit signs, ensure they are working properly.

End of Member Service Requirements



Section 4 – Masonic Education

A. Required Activities:

1. The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden must be certified in ritualistic opening and closing (each one from all three positions) of all four Lodges per form 101 or 101a.
2. Present a topic developed by the Masonic Education Committee, such as present or previously published Lodge and district Education Programs, Briscoe Programs, or presentations focused on the content of the Texas Monitor, or other published source in at least four (4) Stated or Called meetings. Provide documentation of the programs.

B. Choose at Least Six (6) Activities:

1. Have at least one Master Mason (not including the WM, SW, or JW) attend and successfully complete one of the OLT classes (101 or 201) during this Masonic year.
2. Have your officers support your Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Association (MWSA) by accumulating at least nine (9) attendance credits. *(Note: one lodge member attending one meeting equals one attendance credit)*
3. Have a member of your Lodge present a talk on a Masonic educational topic at a Lodge at which he is not a member.
4. Present at least two (2) Masonic Education programs provided by the MWSA, District Instructor, District Education Officer, District Deputy Grand Master, or other guest speaker. Speakers from appendant bodies can be counted, e.g., York Rite, Scottish Rite, etc. The appendant body speaker can be a member of your Lodge.
5. Have the three principal officers, or at least five (5) members attend the Briscoe Workshop hosted by the District Service Team. Alternatively, have a Called meeting at your Lodge to conduct a Briscoe Workshop, lead by a qualified brother.
6. Have at least three (3) of your members attend a Forum hosted by the Committee on Work.
7. Have at least three (3) of your members receive a ritualistic certificate (either A, B, or C) from the Committee on Work during this Masonic year.



8. Participate in the formation or re-activation of a Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Association form your masonic district. Alternatively, have a member of your Lodge serve as a MWSA officer during this masonic year.
9. Host either a Committee on Work Forum & Exam or a L.I.F.E. Certification class hosted by your District Service Team or M.W.S.A.
10. Have at least one degree graded by the Committee on Work.
11. Conduct at least one EA, FC, or MM education program at a Called meeting. Invite all appropriate masonic classifications to attend.
12. Have the District Education Officer present an educational program at a Stated or Called meeting of the Lodge.

End of Masonic Education Requirements



Section 5 – Fraternalism

A. Choose at Least Five (5) Activities:

1. Promote fellowship by having a group of at least five (5) members attend the Stated Meeting of another Lodge in your District.
2. Promote fellowship by having a group of at least five (5) members attend the Stated Meeting of another Lodge in another masonic District.
3. Host a joint function between the Lodge and any Appendant Masonic body.
Alternatively, be the hosting Lodge for the Texas Lodge of Research or Tranquility Lodge.
4. Promote fellowship by having a group of at least five (5) members attend the Stated Meeting of The Texas Lodge of Research or Tranquility Lodge.
5. Host a quarterly social function for Lodge members, their families, and friends.
Document the activity and attendance.
6. Host a quarterly social function for Lodge members only, at a location other than the Lodge (Restaurant, Sporting Event, etc.).
7. Participate in the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas' Ashlar Award program. Have at least one Mentor/Mentee pair complete the minimum requirements in at least one section of the Ashlar Award program.
8. Join with another (or multiple other) lodge to host a social event, public awards ceremony, booth at a public event, festive board, or similar event to promote cooperation and fellowship between the lodge.
9. Re-engage members of your lodge who were suspended for non-payment of dues. The Lodge Secretary shall provide a list of all members suspended for non-payment of dues in the past two (2) years. The Lodge shall develop a strategy and action plan to contact and re-engage these members. Document the strategy, action plan, and results of the efforts. *(Note: if no members were suspended NPD in the past 2 years, note that in minutes of a Stated meeting. This will satisfy this requirement).*

End of Fraternalism Requirements



Section 6 – Grand Master’s Emphasis

The following items reinforce the Grand Master’s Masonic Emphasis for this year. Lodges must complete the required section, and at least 2 of the optional items to complete the Vanguard Award application and be considered for the award.

The points for each item in this section will be used to rank participating Lodges, and the Grand Master will recognize the Top Five Lodges in Texas at the 2027 Grand Annual Communication. Each of the Top Five Lodges will also receive one complimentary registration, each, to a 2027 Officer Leadership Training of their choice.

A. Required Activities:

1. Attend Grand Master’s Conferences – Obtain a minimum of 6 points to complete this section. *(Note: a maximum of 50 points can be earned for this section)*

- i. Three points per elected Lodge officer (WM, SW, JW, SC, TR)
- ii. Two points per appointed Lodge officer
- iii. One point per each Master Mason that is not a Lodge officer

Points Earned: _____

2. The Lodge to utilize the 2023 Investigational Standards and Procedures for Constituent Lodges & Members of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas (available under resources in Grandview) for all investigations.

- i. 5 points for the Lodge holding a Called Meeting for the purpose of teaching its members the procedures to conduct a proper investigation per the guidelines. Completing this item will satisfy the minimum requirements to complete this activity. *(Note: points can only be earned for this item once per Masonic year)*
- ii. 2 points for each investigation conducted per the guidelines.

Points Earned: _____

3. Have the District Instructor grade an opening and closing (official visit or other meeting) utilizing the grading rubric provided by the Committee on Work.

- i. 10 points for a score of 90-100
- ii. 7 points for a score of 80-90
- iii. 3 points for a score of 70-80
- iv. 1 point for a score below 70



Points Earned: _____

B. Choose at Least two (2) Activities:

1. Attend the Alamo, Goliad, Gonzalez, Masonic Oak, or San Jacinto observances – Obtain a minimum of 6 points to complete this section. *(Note: a maximum of 50 points can be earned for this section)*
 - i. Three points per elected Lodge officer (WM, SW, JW, SC, TR)
 - ii. Two points per appointed Lodge officer
 - iii. One point per each Master Mason that is not a Lodge officer

Points Earned: _____

2. Lodge or Lodge Member to develop and publish an article in the Texas Masonic Magazine, Texas History Committee publication, Short Talks, Texas Lodge of Research, or other circular. *(Note: the article does not have to be published during 2025/2026, but must be approved, by documentation, to be published in the future.) (Note: a maximum of 20 points can be earned for this section)*
 - i. 10 points per approved publication.

Points Earned: _____

3. Attend Official Visits of the Most Worshipful Grand Master – Obtain a minimum of 6 points to complete this section.
 - i. Three points per elected Lodge officer (WM, SW, JW, SC, TR)
 - ii. Two points per appointed Lodge officer
 - iii. One point per each Master Mason that is not a Lodge officer

Points Earned: _____

Total Number of Points for Grand Master's Emphasis: _____

End of Grand Master's Emphasis Requirements



