

Initiation – A Check List

It is important to remember the importance to the candidate of his initiation. He will be seeking instruction into the mysteries of The Movement and given that he has volunteered to undergo a ritual about which he knows little. It must be remembered that he may be more than just a little bit nervous.

Be sure to behave at all times with respect, with dignity and with trust. Be careful of off-the-cuff remarks and comments. It is probably better that you don't try to be funny, but rather adopt the position of allowing humour to emerge.

It is partly the shared nature of the event that makes it special. So, it is important to tell the nervous candidate that everyone present in the room will have experienced the same feelings, fears and uncertainties that he might be feeling and that for that reason they are all very much on his side.

The following checklist will help you ensure that all goes smoothly:

Punctuality: Considering the amount of effort required by the initiation team, be sure to communicate to the candidate that it is vitally important that he arrives early so that everything may run smoothly. The candidate must arrive at the place of initiation under his own steam, and not be provided with transportation so he must be cautioned to plan ahead accordingly.

Dress code: For the candidate the dress code is informal/comfortable. All others present must be dressed smartly/professionally or according to the selected theme.

Alcohol: A strict no alcohol and no drug policy applies to all “Movement” events. This includes and drinks beforehand. Any participant arriving intoxicated or smelling of drink must be refused admission in all instances and without exception.

Refreshment for the Initiate: It is probably wise to assume that the safest course of action is to provide only food and drink that is suitable for everyone. Low sugar and vegetarian options must be available. Ask for dietary requirements on the induction/application form.

Money: Be sure that the candidate knows exactly how much money he must part with on the day for his Initiation fees, and Annual Membership fees. *Payment must be received prior to the initiation.*

Disability: You must ensure that the premises used are accessible for disability and that the premises is suitable for purpose for those with mobility issues.

Finishing time: You must finish proceedings at no later than the agreed time and not one minute over. Delaying the closing of the meeting may seriously inconvenience participants in terms of parking limitations, timings of trains and buses home and so forth.