

Guidelines for Formation
Of a Unit or Club
Oasis Shriners

Units:

All units, under Imperial bylaws, operate strictly at the will and pleasure of the Potentate. The purpose of a unit is to serve Oasis and its Potentate, whether by providing a performance parade unit or serving a function in the operation of the temple.

Units are typically formed by members of a club, or members independent of a club, to offer a fun activity for nobles or to fulfill a need in the organization.

The number of people involved in formation of a unit depends largely on the purpose of the proposed unit. A good, workable number is 12. Even if it is, say, a motorized unit with only a half-dozen vehicles, in order to be able to *depend* on the appearance and performance of the unit, you would need to have sufficient membership to cover all the bases.

Type of unit: it's always the best policy to avoid duplication. If you've already got a motorcycle unit, you don't necessarily need another one, for example. Uniqueness is a good measure of whether a unit should or needs to be formed, or whether those interested in that particular vehicle or function shouldn't simply join an existing unit.

First step to take: write a letter to the Potentate requesting consideration for the unit, with a full description of what you want the unit to be. Then submit a petition to the Potentate and Director of Units with the names of all prospective members of the unit. *Be very specific in your unit description, including any equipment, vehicles or uniforms. Understand, also, that any equipment, uniforms or other material or devices are the responsibility of the unit, not Oasis.*

Though it is ultimately the Potentate's decision on whether to allow the unit, the unit request should be then presented to the full Oasis Divan for review and discussion. After the review, and at the will and pleasure of the Potentate, a charter may be granted to the applicants. Prior to the issuance of a charter, however, the first act of the unit would be to select officers and

approve bylaws for the unit, which would then be submitted to the Director, who would present it to the Potentate and Divan for consideration.

Clubs:

Clubs are usually chartered to serve a specific geographic area, though there are some clubs, such as Past Captains, the Golf Club and Shriners on Bikes, that are assembled to serve a particular group or interest that may have membership spread across the Oasis jurisdiction.

Though clubs don't have jurisdictional boundaries, it is a good and accepted practice to allow no clubs in any area that would 'overlap' with another existing club, thus creating a potentially adverse effect and relationship with an existing club.

In order to form a club, you must first petition the Potentate and Divan of Oasis Shriners. This is done by notifying the Director of Clubs and Units, in writing, of your interest in forming a club. Upon this notification, you must then assemble a petition with no fewer than 25 members all sharing interest in formation of this club.

Upon review of the letter of intent and petition, the Potentate and Divan of Oasis Shriners will consider extending a charter for the club. Prior to the club being chartered, the organizers must draft a set of bylaws and select officers for the club. The petition, bylaws and organizational chart are then presented to the Potentate and Divan for consideration for charter. *Granting a charter is ultimately the decision of the Potentate of Oasis Shriners*, and there is no guarantee that a club will be allowed.

Clubs and units are governed under the bylaws of Oasis and the Imperial Council, A.A.O.N.M.S. and the General Orders of the Potentate of Oasis Shriners.