

Colorado York Rite Summer Festivals

For more than 20 years, Colorado Masons have had the opportunity to receive the York Rite Degrees and Orders in summer festivals. The bodies are held on consecutively and have traditional weekends throughout the early and mid-summer.

Colorado Royal Arch Masons Pasture Degrees

The most long-term of the three festivals is the Akron Pasture Degrees. Akron Chapter No. 26 sponsors this event on the first Saturday of June each year. It starts with a Cowboy Breakfast at Mike Anderson's ranch yard northwest of Akron, Colorado after which we move out to the pasture at a beautiful rock outcropping for the degree work. The Mark Master, Virtual Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees are conferred with full pageantry. Casual dress (jeans and boots) are appropriate as this is an outdoor event, and participants should be prepared for all permutations of Colorado weather. Umbrellas are a good addition for protection from either rain or strong sun.

Colorado York Rite Council Degrees

The Great Plains Rendezvous is the second of the Summer Festivals that Colorado York Rite Masons participate in. It is held on the 4th Saturday in June each year. As a Grand Council of Colorado event, jointly organized in concert with other states, it rotates between Colorado, Wyoming and Kansas. 2025 will be Wyoming's year to host the event, and most probably will be in either Laramie or Cheyenne. Each state confers one of the three Council degrees, the Royal Master, the Select Master and the Super-Excellent Master. The Super-Excellent Master degree includes a fascinating closing pageant that may be open to wives and guests. Details will be provided as the host Council makes them available.

Angel in the Forest Commandery Festival

The summer festival for Colorado Knights Templar started more than 25 years ago as the Angel of Shavano Festival on the Larry Blanchard Ranch near Salida, Colorado and was an event of Salida Commandery. It moved to Masonic Park on the banks of the Rio Grande in South Fork, Colorado and renamed Angel on the Rio, and later Salida Commandery passed the torch to Pueblo Commandery which now hosts the Angel in the Forest Festival at a private park west of Rye, Colorado. The festival is held on the 2nd Saturday of July each year. The three Commandery Orders are conferred by various Commanderies from around the state in full costume. They are the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Mediterranean Pass and the Order of Malta, and finally the Order of the Temple. There has been a lunch and dinner as part of this event. Details will be posted as they develop from Pueblo Commandery