



## NORTHWEST / NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Pledge Process

ONYX is a leather fraternity for gay and bisexual Men of Color. Our mission is to EDUCATE, EXPLORE, and EMPOWER. We educate Men of Color about the leather/kink community, provide a safe space for exploration, and empower members to live their leather journey freely, safely, and happily.

At ONYX, we've developed a pledge process to help identify potential ONYX Men. These potential members must demonstrate their willingness to embrace a lifetime commitment to the principals of ONYX Northwest/NorCal. In order to show commitment, pledges must follow this pledge process, developed in compliance with our National Association's Bylaws and the Standard Chapter Articles of the Association. Pledges will be assessed based on their attendance, performance of service opportunities, knowledge of ONYX history, and demonstration of educational growth. This assessment will take place during a **pledge process** which spans 12-16 weeks. There are four stages of the pledge process: Pre-Pledge Requirements, Approval Process, Pledge Period, and Member Acceptance. After gaining Member Acceptance, the pledge is a member of ONYX and shall be given his "colors" (ONYX insignia) in a ceremony in accordance with the National Bylaws.

## Pre-Pledge Requirements

Prospective pledges must understand that we are a BDSM fraternity focused on leather, kink, fetish, and gear. Applicants **must** have a serious, demonstrable, and abiding interest in being an ONYX man. We seek those who would help us further our mission. The ideal pledge is already on his own journey of exploration and discovery. He has had some leather, kink, or fetish experiences and sees ONYX as an opportunity to further that journey.

1. Age Requirement –
  - a. 21 yrs. or older
2. Pre-Attendance –
  - a. Applicant must attend **two** functions of the organization before applying for membership. These functions may be 2 bar nights, 2 meetings, or any combination of 2 events of the organization.
3. Application
  - a. Applicant must complete and submit [this application \(onyxnorthwest.com\)](http://onyxnorthwest.com).
  - b. Applicant must provide a copy of government issued photo ID.
  - c. Applicant must pay a \$35 deposit towards their membership fee.

## Acceptance Process

1. Application Review
  - a. Pledge Master and VP will review all pledge applications and verify applicant information is correct and appropriate.

- b. VP submits pledge applications to full members for vetting.
  - c. Applicants not approved by the group will have their deposit of \$35 returned.
2. Acceptance of Applicants as Pledges
  - a. Applicant must be sponsored by a full member of this chapter.
  - b. Applicant will appear before the body for questioning at a general meeting.
  - c. Full members vote whether or not to accept applicant as a pledge.

## Pledge Period

The pledge period will last 12-16 weeks providing the following criteria is met:

1. Pledge must attend and participate in all meetings, beer bust, bar nights, and other functions of the organization unless excused by Pledge Master or Vice President.
2. Pledge is under supervision and guidance of Pledge Master and Vice President while at ONYX events.
3. Pledge must know about our founding fathers (both national and regional organizations), read and abide by the ONYX Men Code (the rules adopted by our organization), and be knowledgeable about the history of the organization.
4. During our events, a pledge must be willing to perform duties such as: working the door, selling ONYX goods and/or raffle tickets, go-go dancing, recruiting for ONYX and participating in demos as necessary. No pledge will be asked to do anything that deviates from accepted safe BDSM practices, nor be forced into anything beyond their consent.
5. Pledge shall fulfill all reasonable requests made by full, honorary, or alumni members. Pledges may consult with the Pledge Master, their sponsors, or the Vice President to determine the reasonableness of any request.
6. Pledge appears before the body for a final interview after attendance and participation requirements are met. Full members vote to extend membership to applicant.

## Member Acceptance

1. Crossing Over
  - a. President announces the results at the time of installation.
  - b. Pledge Master extends membership to accepted pledge.
  - c. New member is awarded with an ONYX insignia, and any other items approved by the group.
2. Dues
  - a. New member will be required to pay membership dues as listed below. The \$35 deposit paid at the time of application will be applied to the new member's dues.
    - i. Full Membership: \$80
    - ii. Associate Membership: \$35
3. Clothing
  - a. The minimal requirements are a leather vest, boots, and any leather/denim pants.