



FACTS ABOUT SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL

- Shriners International is a fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth.
- Shriners International is open to men of integrity from all walks of life.
- Today, there are approximately 310,000 Shriners belonging to 194 temples (chapters) in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Germany, Puerto Rico and the Republic of Panama.
- Shriners International is the fraternity that founded and continues to support Shriners Hospitals for Children[®]. The hospitals provide pediatric specialty care to children with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate. All care and services are provided regardless of the patients' ability to pay.
- Mecca Shriners was the fraternity's first temple (chapter) founded in New York City in 1872.
- The fraternity's unique theme comes from founders Billy Florence, an actor, and Walter Fleming, a physician. They wanted the fraternity to have a vibrant backdrop. Florence conceived the near Eastern theme after an Arabian party he attended in France.
- The red fez is one of the fraternity's most distinctive symbols. It derives its name from the place where it was first manufactured, Fez, Morocco. The fez was chosen as part of the Shriners' near Eastern theme, which is the basis for the color and pageantry of the organization's events.
- Famous Shriners include Gerald Ford, Arnold Palmer, Brad Paisley, Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., John Wayne and Sam Hornish, Jr.
- Shriners received mini-Corvettes in the early 1970s when GMC manufactured them to promote the Stingray Corvette. They began using them in parades and competitions to bring attention to their charitable works.
- There are over 4,000 Shriner clowns, hundreds of which will be present at the Shriners 4th of July Parade in Uptown Charlotte.

138th Imperial Session

- Annual business meeting of Shriners International where they will install the 2012-2013 Imperial Potentate
- Alan Madsen of Cornelius, N.C. will become the new Imperial Potentate and his wife, Jan Madsen, will become the organization's First Lady
- Events open to the public include:
 - **Mini-Documentary Premiere:** *Shriners: A History of Brotherhood and Compassion*
 - **Shriners 4th of July Parade**
 - **Unit Competitions** including clowns, mini-cars, horses, bands and more!
 - **Patient Success Story Premiere:** *Two Worlds Apart – One Place of Hope*

When

July 1-5, 2012

Where

Charlotte Convention Center
501 South College Street
Charlotte, N.C. 28202

Parade: 10th and North Tryon Street

Times

Shriners: A History of Brotherhood and Compassion, July 1, 3pm (Red Carpet, 4:15pm)

Two Worlds Apart – One Place of Hope, July 4, 11:15am (Red Carpet Event, 11:45am)

Shriners 4th of July Parade, 2:30pm

Unit Competitions, July 2-3, times vary