

20 Frequently Asked Questions

about Shriners International and
Shriners Hospitals for Children®



1. What is Shriners International?

The worldwide organization is a fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth. There are nearly 200 temples located throughout the world.

2. What is Shriners Hospitals for Children?

Our unique health care system, which has 22 locations in three countries, is dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, conducting innovative research, and offering outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals. All care and services are provided regardless of the families' ability to pay.

3. What is Shriners International's connection to Shriners Hospitals for Children?

The fraternity founded and continues to support the health care system as its official philanthropy.

4. Where does the money come from to operate Shriners Hospitals for Children?

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Shriners Hospitals for Children relies on the generosity of Shriners, corporations and the general public to carry out its mission and improve the lives of children every day.

5. What percentage of the Shriners Hospitals for Children operating budget is spent in direct support of the organization's three-part mission of patient care, research and education?

Approximately 85 percent

6. How can I learn more about supporting Shriners Hospitals for Children?

For information about ways to give to and support Shriners Hospitals for Children, please visit donate2shc.org or call 800-241-GIFT.

7. When was the first Shriners temple (chapter) established?

Mecca Shriners was established in New York City in 1872.

8. Why does Shriners International have a Near Eastern theme?

Similar to college fraternities that use the Greek motif, Shriners International selected Near Eastern iconography and regalia to serve as the fraternity's theme when it was founded in 1872. The Shriners' red fezzes (hats) and the costumes they sometimes wear in parades pay tribute to this long-standing tradition.

9. When and where did the first Shriners Hospitals for Children open?

We opened our first hospital in 1922, in Shreveport, La. The hospital initially focused exclusively on treating the orthopaedic aftereffects of the polio virus, which was rampant at that time.

10. What are some examples of the orthopaedic conditions treated at Shriners Hospitals for Children today?

Our health care system provides treatment for a full range of congenital and acquired orthopaedic conditions. The most commonly treated conditions include clubfoot, limb deficiencies, deformities and discrepancies, scoliosis (curvature of the spine), osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease), and orthopaedic difficulties associated with neuromuscular disorders such as spina bifida and cerebral palsy.

11. What are the principal service lines offered at Shriners Hospitals for Children?

Our care disciplines are pediatric orthopaedics, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate.

12. When did Shriners Hospitals for Children begin to provide burn care?

Our locations specializing in treatment of burns and burn-related injuries have been leaders in burn care and research since opening in the mid-1960s.

13. What are some examples of expertise in burn care found at Shriners Hospitals for Children?

Our hospitals that treat burns and burn-related injuries provide comprehensive acute, reconstructive and rehabilitative care. In addition, a multidisciplinary team provides support to the patients and families as they transition back to school and family life.

14. When did Shriners Hospitals for Children begin to provide care for spinal cord injuries?

In the early 1980s, Shriners Hospitals for Children opened the nation's first spinal cord injury rehabilitation centers specifically designed for children and teens.

15. What are some of the rehabilitative programs and services offered to patients with spinal cord injuries at Shriners Hospitals for Children?

Available programs include a complete range of therapies, psychosocial guidance, fitness programs and experiential activities to build independent living skills.

"The Shriners organizations have been there for me just as much as my family ... I'll never be able to truly thank them for all they've done for me."



Shriners International



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®

16. What criteria determine a child's eligibility for care at Shriners Hospitals for Children?

Children up to age 18 are eligible for care at Shriners Hospitals for Children if there is a reasonable possibility they can benefit from the specialized services available. Acceptance is based solely on a child's medical needs.

17. How does someone schedule an appointment or refer a patient to Shriners Hospitals for Children?

Call the toll-free national patient referral line at **800-237-5055** in the U.S. or **800-361-7256** in Canada. To locate a Shriners Hospital near you, visit the refer a patient page at **shrinershospitalsforchildren.org**.

18. How are Shriners Hospitals for Children different from other pediatric hospitals?

Our health care system emphasizes compassion and a family-centered environment. Our medical experts provide individualized care plans, take the time to listen, and focus on the concerns, needs and goals of the patients.

19. What role does Shriners Hospitals for Children play in medical education?

By maintaining relationships with several medical teaching facilities, Shriners Hospitals for Children fosters an academic environment committed to providing high-quality education for its medical staff and expert care to all patients.

20. Where can I get more information about Shriners Hospitals for Children and Shriners International?

To learn more, visit **shrinershospitalsforchildren.org** or **shrinersinternational.org**.

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shrinersinternational.org

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Shriners International



**Shriners Hospitals
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