

**Background /  
Process**

Merit Bars primarily are awards that recognise Active DeMolays for achievement in some phase of Chapter activity or in their personal lives while members of DeMolay. Merit Bars are awarded to individual members. The Advisory Council makes a final decision about whether an individual has met the requirements for each bar.

Each Merit Bar is produced in five colors. Each color designates the number of times a DeMolay has received a bar in that category. The color designations are:

- 1st Award – White
- 2nd Award – Red
- 3rd Award – Blue
- 4th Award – Purple
- 5th Award – Gold

For clarity, if a member qualifies three (3) time in a particular category, he will qualify over time for the White, Red and Blue Merit Bars in that category.

Awards are ordered by the Advisory Council Secretary via email from the Executive Director [ed@demolay.org.au](mailto:ed@demolay.org.au) detailing:

- Member’s Full Name;
- Chapter;
- Merit Bar Category / ies;
- Colour / s;
- Is lapel jewel required? (“yes” if new awardee / “no” if awardee already has previously been awarded a Merit bar / s)

**Merit Bar Category:  
Athletics**

The member must participate in some form of organised athletics programme three (3) times. There is no timeframe (ie., can be 3 times over 4 years).

OR

The member must have received a special citation from a sports organisation or association for exemplary sports performance.

OR

The member must have been part of a sports team which brought honour or award to their school or community.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Attendance**

The member must attend at least 80% of both practice and regular meetings (either face-to-face or virtual) in a calendar year (ie., from 1 January to 31 December).

**Merit Bar Category:  
Civic Service**

The member must complete six (6) hours of valuable public service on behalf of a DeMolay Chapter.

The six (6) hours cannot be done all at one time (i.e., minimum two (2) activities are required).

**Merit Bar Category:  
Conclave**

The member must attend two (2) Conclaves in any jurisdiction as a participant or visitor.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Fine Arts**

The member must work in or on a musical group with a minimum of three (3) performances or for participating in a minimum of two theatrical performances. These need not be DeMolay related.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Fundraising**

The member must actively participate in three (3) direct DeMolay fundraising projects for a total of fifteen (15) hours. The member cannot be remunerated for his involvement.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Health and Fitness**

The member must complete one (1) fitness goal, one (1) nutritional goal and participate in at least one (1) sports or fitness activity within a period of one (1) year. Goals are to be set by each individual with the approval of the Advisory Council.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Installing**

The member must participate in three (3) Chapter Installation Ceremonies as a member of the installing team.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Journalism**

For being a member of, or submitting to, a Chapter newspaper, public newspaper, electronic newspaper, web newsletter, web site, or any other form of published communication with at least six (6) articles submitted and published, copies of which are to be held and retained by the Advisory Council.

For clarity, this includes electronic or paper articles published in a school newspaper or similar and community newspapers.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Masonic Attendance**

The member must bring at least three (3) different Master Masons in good standing to the same DeMolay Chapter Regular Meeting.

Master Mason Advisory Council Members are not to be included.

Limited to one (1) Bar per year.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Masonic Service**

The member must participate in three (3) different Chapter Masonic Service projects with a minimum of ten (10) hours without financial remuneration to either individual or Chapter.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Membership**

The member must nominate as first line signer at three (3) three new members who are subsequently Initiated into a DeMolay Chapter.

The newly initiated member need not take his DeMolay Degree as that is outside the ability of the nominating member to control.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Merit**

The member must contribute twenty (20) hours of service to DeMolay in an area not covered by another bar, with no financial remuneration to either individual or the Chapter.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Patriotism**

The member must complete a minimum of one year's service in a military or auxiliary organisation such as Cadets (Army, Airforce or Navy), SES or the regular or reserve armed forces.

OR

The member must participate in the observance of a national commemoration of the following or similar events:

- ANZAC Day; and / or
- Australia Day.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Religion**

The member must attend at least thirty (30) regular weekly religious services per year.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Ritual**

The member must demonstrate sustained and high standard ritual work in either or both Degrees, Majority, Representative DeMolay Ceremony and Recognition Pin Ceremony with a minimum of 125 points earned according to the points scale below:

<u>Initiatory Degree</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>DeMolay Degree</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Majority Service</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>R.D. Investiture</u>	<u>Points</u>
Master Councillor	40	Master Councillor	40	Master Councillor	35	Chancellor	50
Marshall	25	Jaques DeMolay	55	Senior Councillor	10	Herald	5
Senior Deacon	25	Master Inquisitor	55	Junior Councillor	25	Other positions, all	15
Senior Councillor	20	Junior Inquisitor	30	Chaplain	5		
Junior Councillor	20	Orator	25				
Chaplain	15	Senior Inquisitor	12	<u>Recognition Pin</u>	<u>Points</u>		
Preceptor	10	Guy of Avergne	8	Master Councillor	30		
Senior Steward	5	Senior Guard	5	Marshall	5		
Junior Steward	5	Marshall of Commission	5				
Junior Deacon	5	Lord Constable	5				

**Merit Bar Category:  
Safe Driver**

Each year, with a clean driving record, the member will earn the next level of the bar. An infraction can halt the earning of future colours, and a serious infraction could mean the loss of a colour or colours, or the entire Bar itself.

The issue date of the license / permit is the start date for determining the year of a safe driving record.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Scholastic**

The member must present official school report cards for the previous calendar year (ie., 1 January to 31 December) to the Advisory Council for assessment and decision.

A minimum of a "B" grade average (or equivalent) must be achieved.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Technology**

The member must utilise technology in a way that is beneficial to your Chapter or wider the DeMolay community in an area not covered by another merit bar.

Examples include: create a Chapter Facebook page, Twitter group, refurbish a computer for Chapter use, create a Chapter web page, arrange video game tournament that brings in new members (not just for fun), video newsletter, etc....

Remember – anything published on the internet must be approved by the Chapter Advisory Council and the DeMolay Australia Webmaster before publication.

**Merit Bar Category:  
Visitation**

The member must participate in five (5) visit in total to:

- Another Chapter's Regular Meeting and / or Installation; and / or
- A Job's Daughter's function; and / or
- An Order for Rainbow for Girls function; and / or
- Any Masonic Order function; and /or
- Any other visitation approved by the Advisory Council.

The member qualifies automatically for the Merit Bar if any of the above visitations involves travel of 250kms or more one way.