

Information on Official Visits **2023-2024**

1. It is not required for a Bethel to do a ceremony at their official visit this year. Your deputy will still evaluate you on the Ceremony of Initiation. If you do a special ceremony at your OV, please make sure it is memorized. If you do not do a ceremony, you will conduct a regular meeting, including all Orders of Business (Roll Call, Reading of Minutes, etc). If you choose to do a ceremony, you may postpone minutes, place the Treasurer's report on file, and handle only necessary business.
2. If your Official Visit is not on your regular meeting night, I will bring a special dispensation with me. It is not necessary to request one.
3. If you are having a joint Official Visit, it is the HOST Bethel's responsibility to contact the other Bethel(s) concerning planning. Please do not wait until the last minute to make plans, as it is not fair to the daughters. Your deputy is there to assist you with OV plans. Please work together and with your deputies to determine which Officers will do which parts of the meeting. You know our Daughters better than anyone, so please use your best judgment, so they feel comfortable at the OV.
4. **Be sure to let me know if you are having a Baby Dedication. I want to make sure to have the correct number of gifts and booklets prepared. Baby Dedications will start at the scheduled Official Visit start time, not 15 minutes before as has been a tradition in the past. Please provide me with the names of the babies, and the parents/grandparents who will be there. Remember, this ceremony is for children of majority members, who are younger than school age. You will need to provide the purple and white ribbon to tie around each child's wrist. It is also appropriate for your Bethel to give each child a gift.**
5. Traditionally Bethels serve refreshments at the Official Visit meeting. Please be sure to let us know whether these will take place before or after the meeting. I cannot eat gluten, so items that are heavy with bread or pasta should be avoided.
6. I would ask each Bethel to introduce the Grand Officers at your Official Visit. It is ultimately your decision, but if they have taken the time to come and visit, it is nice to introduce them.
7. Remember that I need to see your bethel's books 2 hours before the OV starts. For a complete list of everything I need to review, please see our directory.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Deputy or me. We want you to be comfortable and have a good time at your Official Visit.

Tammy Watson, Grand Guardian