

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



SCOTTISH RITE



Scottish Rite for Children opened its doors to the children of Texas in 1921. One of Dallas' first orthopedic surgeons, W. B. Carrell, M.D., was approached by a group of Texas Masons, who recognized a growing need to provide superior medical care to children suffering from polio, regardless of a family's ability to pay. With the introduction of the Salk and Sabin vaccines in the mid-1950s, which virtually eradicated polio in the Western Hemisphere, the institution broadened its focus to other orthopedic conditions. Helped by supporters throughout the country, Scottish Rite for Children is one of the nation's leading medical centers for the treatment of pediatric orthopedic conditions and sports injuries, as well as certain related arthritic and neurological disorders and learning disorders, such as dyslexia.

Each year, Scottish Rite provides extensive treatment and therapy for thousands of children challenged by orthopedic conditions, including scoliosis, clubfoot, congenital dislocated hip, Legg-Perthes, limb-length differences, hand conditions and sports injuries.

The institution's Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Center for Musculoskeletal Research supports and encourages collaboration between researchers and physicians as they search for new ways to solve patients' individual challenges. Medical breakthroughs and new technologies developed through Scottish Rite's research efforts, such as the TSRH® SILO™ 5.5 Spinal System, TRUE/LOK™ External Fixation System and the discovery of the first gene associated with idiopathic scoliosis, have dramatically impacted the lives of not only children treated at Scottish Rite but also throughout the world. To date, more than 50 of our researchers' discoveries have been patented.

Through the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders, specific learning disorders, such as dyslexia, are evaluated and treated. Thousands of students have learned to read and write through Scottish Rite's videotaped dyslexia and literacy training programs.

The organization had 217,713 patient encounters during fiscal 2024. All our physicians hold faculty appointments at UT Southwestern Medical School and are renowned for extraordinary patient care, outstanding research and teaching of medical students, residents and fellows from around the world. More than 1,000 dedicated volunteers play an active role at Scottish Rite for Children, supporting a staff of more than 1,000 full-time staff members. Since inception, more than 14,600 volunteers have contributed 3,651,600 hours.

Scottish Rite for Children is governed by a board of trustees who are members of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in Texas. Most Scottish Rite Masons are affiliated with Freemasonry, a worldwide fraternal organization whose members share a common desire to better themselves as citizens and members of society. Financial support from the Scottish Rite or broader Masonic groups is on an individual, voluntary basis. The organization is not affiliated with the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Thanks to generous donors, supporters and volunteers, Scottish Rite for Children is carrying out its mission of giving children back their childhood. For more information, to volunteer or to make a donation, please call 214-559-5000 or visit scottishriteforchildren.org.