

16. How does someone schedule an appointment or refer a patient to Shriners Children's?

Call the toll-free national patient referral line at **800-237-5055** in the U.S. or **800-361-7256** in Canada. To find a Shriners Children's location near you, visit the Refer a Patient page at shrinerschildrens.org.

17. How is Shriners Children's different from other pediatric healthcare systems?

Shriners Children's emphasizes compassion and a family-centered environment. Our medical staff provides individualized care plans, takes the time to listen, and focuses on the concerns, needs and goals of the patients.

18. What role does Shriners Children's play in medical education?

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

19. What is the goal of the Shriners Children's research program?

Shriners Children's is committed to conducting high quality, innovative research in the areas of burns, orthopedic/musculoskeletal and neurological injury and disease in order to improve the care and quality of life of children with these conditions and challenges.

20. Where can I get more information about Shriners Children's and Shriners International?

To learn more, visit shrinerschildrens.org or shrinersinternational.org.

International Headquarters
2900 Rocky Point Dr. | Tampa, FL 33607
Tel.: 813-281-0300
shrinersinternational.org | shrinerschildrens.org



20 Frequently Asked Questions

about Shriners International and Shriners Children's

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 more than 200 temples (chapters) located throughout the world.

2. What is Shriners Children's?

Our unique healthcare system, which has locations in three countries, is dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, conducting innovative research, and offering outstanding education 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 Children's?

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

4. Where does the money come from to operate Shriners Children's?

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, our healthcare system 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. How can I learn more about supporting Shriners Children's?

For information about ways to give to and support Shriners Children's, please visit lovetotherescue.org or call 855-401-4897.

6. When was the Shriners fraternity founded?

Mecca Shriners was established in New York City in 1872.

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

Similar to college fraternities that use a Greek motif, in 1872, the organization's founders chose to model the iconography, regalia and theme of the fraternity after an Arabian-nights themed party one of them had attended while touring Europe. The Shriners' red fezzes (hats) and the costumes sometimes used in parades and ceremonies pay tribute to this long-standing tradition.

8. When and where did the first Shriners Children's open?

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

9. What are some examples of the orthopedic conditions treated at Shriners Children's today?

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

10. What other types of conditions does Shriners Children's treat?

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

11. When did Shriners Children's 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.

12. What are some examples of expertise in burn care found at Shriners Children's?

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.

13. When did Shriners Children's begin to provide care for spinal cord injuries?

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

14. What does the cleft lip and palate program at Shriners Children's offer?

Patients with a cleft lip and/or palate are treated by a multidisciplinary team that creates individualized treatment plans to improve facial appearance, strengthen self-esteem and achieve optimal function.

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

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

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“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.”