



## What's a Prospect?

### *General*

**WELCOME!** You are encouraged to browse the Patriot's website at [www.patriotsmc.com](http://www.patriotsmc.com) to acquaint yourself with the club. All areas of the website are accessible to the public except the **Member's Only** section. The Patriot's MC welcomes all responsible motorcycle enthusiasts regardless of the make of your motorcycle as long as the below general membership requirements are met. To be considered for full membership you must be male, at least 21 years of age and possess a working motorcycle of sufficient capacity to participate in club rides, a valid motorcycle operator's license and current motorcycle insurance.

**NOTE:** Patriots MC no longer allows women to Prospect for full Membership. Significant others (wife, girlfriend, "old lady", etc) can apply for membership in the Lady Patriots and will have to undergo a similar period of learning as a Lady Patriot "Associate". This period can be at the same time as the Prospect period of their "old man". So have them read this; almost everything here applies to them too.

### *What it means*

The Prospect period is a time when you learn about the Club, the Members, the MC world and the motorcycle community in general. Don't be afraid to ask questions. It is also a time when every Member of the Club is evaluating you.

Get used to the reality that a Prospect is the bottom of the food chain. Prospects have no rank or privileges. Generally the Prospect period is four months from when you receive your Prospect stripe. This period will be adjusted based on whether the Board and Patch Members think you are ready to be a Member. If your Prospect time gets extended it means you have screwed up or your level of participation during the Prospect period has not met expectations.

### *What is expected of you*

For a Prospect it's simple, keep your mouth shut; never discuss club business with anyone, EVER. Never leave a patch holder anyplace, EVER. Never leave your colors anywhere – you might not get them back.

Each Prospect will be assigned a sponsor. You and your sponsor will exchange all contact information. Your sponsor needs to be able to reach you at all times of the day or night. You will be in contact with your sponsor multiple times each week. He will be your primary contact for questions. If a need arises and you are unable to make contact with your sponsor, your secondary contact is the Director of Membership.

You must get to know all of the Patch Members. Learn their names, not just their Road Names, in case you ever have to get in touch with them in the real world. Learn their occupations, hobbies, etc. A club is a brotherhood so become a brother.

You will be expected to BE THERE for all business meetings (church), rides and functions and work when the clubhouse is open which is generally every Friday. Our club realizes that family and job may impact how often you can attend these events, but you are trying to impress us, so take that into account.

Lack of participation is one of the reasons your Prospect time may be extended. Prospects are expected to do as they are told or instructed. You will be expected to watch the back of Club Officers at an outing or a run, be there if a brother is broken down at 2 am, watch the parking lot at events and learn everything you can. The more you do, the easier it is to become a Member.

You are being watched, especially by "heart patch" club Members. Learn the names of members of heart patch clubs that you meet. When we are at events, you will not be allowed to drink. You are expected to introduce yourself to every Member of heart patch MC present. You are to never interrupt a conversation to do that. If necessary, you will stand respectfully at a discreet distance and wait until they recognize you or move off. If they move off, do not follow them. When introducing yourself, you will do so by saying, "I am Patriots Riverside Prospect (your real first name)." This is the ONLY acceptable way to introduce yourself. Unless you are asked a question, you say NOTHING ELSE. You will not have a cigarette in your hand, gloves will not be worn, sunglasses will not be worn and preferably will not have head cover on.

You are expected at all times to do what you are told. You will never be told to break the law. When you hear the word "Prospect" you will be expected to immediately answer. You will be asked to do mundane jobs and duties that are reserved for Prospects. You will be asked to watch the bikes, or go fetch food or cigarettes. You may be asked to police an area of cigarette butts or other trash.

You will be evaluated on how you respond when asked to do these things. Don't forget, we have all gone through the same Prospect period you will experience. You will also be evaluated on how you interact with members of the club as well as how you conduct yourself around heart patch clubs. Your worst nightmare will be if a member of another MC, especially a heart patch club, lodges a complaint with the Patriot's MC regarding your conduct.

### *What you need to learn*

Life in the Patriot's MC is about brotherhood. You will learn what that is during your Prospect period. Do not expect the full-patch Members to begin treating you as a brother until after you patch in. Even then you have to earn their respect. Members will become your brothers by how you demonstrate the

qualities of this club. You will learn to love each other through thick and thin. You will learn each other's strengths and weaknesses and love each other no matter what. You will learn to tell your brothers "I love you". Brotherhood is based upon a million little moments that run the gamut from dangerous situations, to sitting on the side of the road at midnight broken down in the middle of nowhere, to watching each other's kids grow up. Lots of joy and lots of tears make up brotherhood.

### *What if you change my mind?*

If you start to contemplate leaving because someone has told you to do something you don't want to do, or you have to be somewhere when you feel like sleeping, then maybe you are not right for us. Not everyone makes it. If you do start to feel like that, either shut up and put up, or speak to your sponsor.

Please remember that whatever MC you go to, it will be the same thing. If you persevere, you will become part of the brotherhood and be respected for who you are and what you have done.

We don't want quitters. But if you just can't cut it....LEAVE. But, do so honorably. That means meeting with a Member of the Board, explain your reason for wanting to quit and ask their blessing on your decision.

If you do move on, you are OUT. That means that none of the Members are going to call you to go out for a beer or to hang around with them anymore. When you're out, you are OUT.

### *Road Name*

You don't have one. We don't care who you were in some riding club. You can start thinking of a road name, but it is more likely that we will pick a name for you. It will be who you are to this Club. The road name will be short and could possibly describe your personality or something that happens to you while a Prospect. So either don't screw up, or live with your road name – we will.

### *Final thoughts*

Remember, when you become a Member, you will be expected to continue to demonstrate these qualities forever. Do not look at becoming a Member as your chance to slack-off. Each Member is expected to contribute to the success of the club. You will still be expected to attend events and continue as an active Member of the Patriots MC. As the saying goes, "you will get in return only as much as you contribute."

Motorcycle Clubs operate on the honor system. What that means in this case is "you always dance with the one who brung ya". It is a huge act of dishonor to use the Prospect period to look at other clubs you will come in contact with.

Being a Prospect should not be looked at as a necessary evil, but a labor of love. All the horrific shit you've heard about initiation or rite of passage ritual from Prospect to Member is mostly true. Good luck.