

# Georgia Jaycee Honor Corps History

This organization we know as the Georgia Jaycee Honor Corps (formerly the Georgia Jaycee Rebel Corps) had its founding moments back in 1956. At this time there was a small group of past state Jaycee officers (“has beens”) that would always gather together at each board meeting and state convention, since they never missed one, to reminisce and socialize. These Jaycees decided to give their group the title “ROYAL ORDER OF KNIGHTS REMINISCENT.” They even designed a business card, which showed a fist held in a horizontal position with the forefinger extended and pointing down at a crooked angle.

This group’s only functions were to socialize, reminisce, and play politics. Their “meetings” would generally end up as all night discussions. At their height, the Royal Order of Knight Reminiscent had about 15 members.

State President Abit Massey, 1956-57, and James Fullin, while coming back from a visitation to the Canton Jaycees, began discussing the idea of an organization to recognize and honor outstanding Jaycees from the local chapters.

As State President Abit determined that the Royal Order of Knights Reminiscent had become too political and met with them to discuss the total abandonment of this “social” group. He explained the idea he and James Pullin had and the Knights agreed to disband.

During the Jaycee year of 1957-58, much discussion was held concerning this new group to be formed. Who were to be the charter members, what policies and by-laws would govern this group, when and where would they meet? Abit Massey is credited with being the founding father and giving this organization the name REBEL CORPS.

The Georgia Jaycee Rebel Corps was officially founded at the State Convention on May 17, 1958 at St. Simons Island. The first officers were: Abit Massey, Commander; Richard Thornton & Peter Rhyne, Vice-Commanders; Phil Dohn, Adjutant; and Jack McGinty, Treasurer. Richard Thornton served as our second Commander and co-planner of the Rebel Corps, James Pullin was our third Commander.

The original 20 charter members are listed below:

#1 James C. Pulin	#8 Jeff Davis	#15 Dr. Lamar Dooley
#2 Abit Massey	#9 George Oetter	#16 Johnny Harkins, Jr.
#3 Richard Thornton	#10 Edward B. Parker	#17 Claude Kent
#4 Peter Rhyne	#11 John Pelfrey	#18 Steve Knight
#5 Phil Dohn	#12 C.J. Broome	#19 Morgan Murphy
#6 Jack McGinty	#13 Johnny Collins	#20 Jack Prince
#7 Sam Doss	#14 Tommy Cook	

The idea for the patch and pin came from the mind of Commander Massey. In those days, the Georgia Jaycees had a close working relationship with the Nevada Jaycees. Each year, we would have a joint party with them at the National Convention. Many of the Nevada Jaycees wanted to wear the Rebel Corps patch on their uniforms. From this idea of giving patches to the Nevada Jaycees helped spread the reputation of the Rebel Corps to other states.

The first few years of the Rebel Corps the membership was small but continued to grow in prestige due to the fact that the requirements for membership were strict and only individuals that had performed outstanding service to the State Jaycee Organization were accepted.

The idea for the Cocktail Party was thought of just a few years after our founding. The Hospitality Room has been with us from the beginning. During the 1968-69 Jaycee year the Rebel Corps voted to give Honorary Membership to outstanding Jaycees from other states that visited Georgia. However, much of the by-laws and policies of the Corps that we have today have remained almost unchanged from the beginning.

The Georgia Jaycee Rebel Corps evolved from a small group to over 2,400 members, known as "Colonels." All these members have taken the oath to serve as a living example of the Jaycee Creed. Our Colonels are available and willing to help the Local, District, Region and State organization in any way they can.

The Georgia Jaycee Rebel Corps is the oldest Corps organization in the nation.

At Jekyll 2018 the name was officially changed to the GEORGIA JAYCEE HONOR CORPS.