

OPEN MEETING (PUBLIC CEREMONY)

(The sign of the Rainbow is never given during the open meeting. It should start in a similar manner as a regular closed meeting)

MOTHER ADVISOR: On behalf of _____, Assembly # _____, of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, we welcome you to this open meeting. We hope to provide information to those girls and parents who are not acquainted with the Masonic fraternity, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of Amaranth, White Shrine of Jerusalem, or the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and provide a deeper understanding of the customs and practices of the organization.

(Officers take their proper stations)

WORTHY ADVISOR: Sister Chaplain, you will attend the Altar.

******* *(Raises the Assembly with 3 raps of the gavel).*

(Chaplain carries the open Bible in both hands from the Recorder's desk to the Altar entering the bow from the South, bows slightly to Bible, takes one step back on her right foot, leaving the bow from the North and returns to her station. The musician may play an appropriate song while Bible is being carried.)

WORTHY ADVISOR: As no one should ever set forth on any great or important work without the assistance of prayer, the Assembly will please stand with bowed heads while the Chaplain leads us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN: Father, may you richly bless each member of this Assembly and all present. Guide and direct each of our lives so that in all we say and do we may be acceptable in Thy sight. Make our lives fitting examples of obedient service to Thee. Amen. *(Assembly responds with)* LORD, HELP US TO KEEP OUR PROMISE.

WORTHY ADVISOR: Sister Drill Leader, you will present our flag at the Altar.

(Drill Leader carries the flag to Altar, entering the Bow from the South and holds the flag at the Altar. Musician may play a patriotic song while flag is being carried).

WORTHY ADVISOR: Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. (Upon completion say...) May we ever honor our country's flag as the great symbol of American liberty and freedom. May it ever remind us of the sacrifices made by countless thousands who have laid down their lives on the field of battle in its defense. Let us sing one verse of the Star Spangled Banner.

(Drill Leader leaves the Bow from the North returning the flag to its position in the Assembly Room to the left back of Patriotism's station.)

******* *(Seats Assembly with 1 rap of the gavel).*

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WORTHY ADVISOR: The Order of the Rainbow for Girls was founded in McAlester, Oklahoma in 1922, by Reverend W. Mark Sexson, a 33rd degree Mason and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Through his work in Free Masonry, Rev. Sexson became aware of the need for an organization for girls similar to the Order of DeMolay for boys. His proposal was met with an immediate, enthusiastic response and 171 girls were initiated.

The vibrant colors of the rainbow were chosen as a way of expressing the beauty of the life of a young girl growing into womanhood.

We have invited you here to briefly explain the meaning and purpose of Rainbow. Rainbow Assemblies are sponsored by Masonic Lodges, Eastern Star Chapters Amaranth Courts or Shrines of the White Shrine of Jerusalem or a Club composed of members of those orders such as a Star & Compass Club. Girls between the ages of 11 and 20 may belong to Rainbow. Girls are daughters and granddaughters of Master Masons, Eastern Star members and other organizations within the Masonic fraternity or they are friends of Rainbow Girls. Rainbow Assemblies exist in 43 of the 50 states and Territories and the Countries of Aruba, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Italy, the Philippines, and Romania.

Reverend Sexson wrote our book of ceremonies, generally referred to as a Ritual and while our meetings are conducted in an organized or ritualistic manner, our purpose is not secret.

WORTHY ADVISOR: Sister Drill Leader, what can you tell us of Rainbow?

DRILL LEADER: In a few moments, you will hear from the Color Stations about the lessons of initiation. But Rainbow goes beyond the teachings and the Ritual moves into that special part of fraternal life called friendship. Some of the strongest bonds of friendship ever made are formed by Rainbow sisters. A Rainbow Sister and friend is special. She is someone to share your innermost thoughts and dreams and will accept you for who you are. You learn about friendships and draw strength from friends. The lessons we learn In Rainbow help us to be a better friend. We laugh together, we cry together, and we grow together. That is what makes the special bond called Rainbow sisters.

WORTHY ADVISOR: Worthy Associate Advisor, what can you tell us about the Order of Rainbow for Girls?

WORTHY ASSOCIATE ADVISOR: Rainbow is a service-oriented fraternal organization designed to build self-esteem, confidence, provide leadership skills and to get girls ready for life. It can open the door to experiences and friendships that will stay with her all her life. It will teach her how to live a life of service, how to be a good leader and how to work in teams. It will teach her lessons to help make her a better adult in the world in which she will live in the future. Rainbow is dedicated to maintaining the high ideals of womanhood, teaching honor of home, church and nation. We encourage all to exemplify these virtues in their daily lives. Parents, Grandparents, legal guardians of active or majority members, majority members, and Master Masons, Eastern Star, Amaranth or White Shrine members or their spouses may attend Rainbow's meetings.

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WORTHY ADVISOR: Sister Chaplain, what can you tell us about Rainbow Girls?

CHAPLAIN: In our Assemblies we ask the blessing of our Heavenly Father upon our members and sponsors. We ask that our lives be enriched with the opportunity to be a part of Rainbow and that we may become better daughters, wives, mothers, and leaders as we go through life and that the lessons of love and service be our guide to a successful life.

WORTHY ADVISOR: Our Order is based on a beautiful heavenly object, the Rainbow, a symbol of God's promise that never again would the world be destroyed by flood, for, after the storms would come the white light of promise.

WORTHY ADVISOR: In Rainbow, we journey through the lessons of initiation, represented by the colors of the Rainbow. We are conducted through this initiation by the Sister of Faith. Sister of Faith, what can you tell us about your office?

SISTER OF FAITH: I am Faith. The jewel of my office is the dove and represents a life that is at peace because of its abiding faith. In the Initiation, my duty is as a guide for the candidates. Sister of Love, tell us about your station.

SISTER OF LOVE: I am the Sister of Love. My color is red and is a symbol of love and devotion. In our Initiation, we learn about God's love for us as well as the love we should have for Him, as well as our father, mother and family. Sister of Religion, tell us about your station.

SISTER OF RELIGION: I am the Sister of Religion. My color is orange and is a symbol of the heroic in religion. In our Initiation, we learn that religion is implanted in the hearts of each of us. We also learn that we should be identified with some organized religion. Sister of Nature, tell us about your station.

SISTER OF NATURE: I am the Sister of Nature. My color is yellow and is a symbol of the beauty of God's great out-of-doors. Nature is the living, visible garment of God. It is here in the freedom of the fields and out-of-doors that we may commune with God. Sister of Immortality, tell us about your station.

SISTER OF IMMORTALITY: I am the Sister of Immortality. My color is green and is a symbol of immortality and eternal life. In our Initiation, we speak of the Master of Life who said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth In Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever, liveth and believeth In Me shall never die." Sister of Fidelity, tell us about you station.

SISTER OF FIDELITY: I am the Sister of Fidelity. My color is blue and is a symbol of loyalty and trueness. In our Initiation we learn that being true to each other and our word should be sacred. Faithfulness, loyalty and devotion are the cornerstones of this lesson. Sister of Patriotism, tell us about your station.

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SISTER OF PATRIOTISM: I am the Sister of Patriotism. My color is Indigo and is a symbol of patriotism and courage. In our Initiation, we learn to be true to our flag and defend it always. We re-dedicate our life to our country and its Flag which is sacred to all Americans. Sister of Service, tell us about our seventh station.

SISTER OF SERVICE: I am the Sister of Service. My color is violet and is a symbol of service and self-sacrifice. In our Initiation, we learn that it **is** the service we perform that will turn the landscape into gold. Everyday there is someone we can help through a life of service.

WORTHY ADVISOR: These seven degrees of our Order together create a beautiful Rainbow. There are two other lessons which complete our initiation. Sister of Hope, will you please tell us about your lesson.

SISTER OF HOPE: I am the Sister of Hope. The symbol of my office is the anchor and represents a life that is secure. God spoke to Noah saying, "And I do set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth." It is to Hope that the Candidate comes during the journey of initiation for reassurance. Hope is always there. It will never sleep. It will never die. Hope always awaits you.

WORTHY ADVISOR: Sister of Charity, tell us about your lesson.

SISTER OF CHARITY: I am the Sister of Charity. My symbol is the money bag representing life's treasures preserved through charitable deeds. I am the last lesson of Initiation. It has been said that there is a pot of gold at the end of every rainbow. So too; is the case at the end of our journey. It is filled with treasures of life more precious than fine jewels, gold or silver. Some of the treasures found in Rainbow are:

- Friendships made with girls of our community who would otherwise never know each other.
- Leadership opportunities afforded every girl in holding different offices in the Assembly.
- Sharpening intellect through our ritualistic work.
- The opportunity to use the virtues taught in our Assembly to become sensitive, mature young women. (Pause).

A rainbow girl's word, when given, can be counted on. Once a girl has accepted a responsibility such as an office or has committed herself to participate in an activity or project, she is obligated to make every effort to complete that task to the best of her ability, here as well as in other aspects of her life. This sets her apart from many others whose efforts are often only half-hearted and incomplete.

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WORTHY ADVISOR: The lessons of the journey of our Initiation are complete. In Rainbow, the Mother Advisor's jewel is symbolized by a circle of gold which represents a life that encircles other lives and denotes protection. Another symbol of our love is a red rose, the red rose of Rainbow which is the symbol of a girls love and devotion to her mother, whose prayers and sacrifices make every day possible.

WORTHY ASSOCIATE ADVISOR:

HONORS: Girls in the Assembly earn honor through service rendered to the Assembly and to their community.

MEETINGS: The meetings are conducted by the girls in a similar form to that set forth in Roberts Rules of Order. Leadership and direction for the girls is supplied by an adult Advisory Board who elects a Mother Advisor whose duty it is to work closely with the girls in all their plans and to guide and direct their ritualistic work.

INTRODUCTIONS: In Rainbow, girls and adult advisors may distinguish themselves by service they render to the organization. It is our custom to recognize these special people at our meetings. At this time, we will introduce some of these people to you. *(Worthy Advisor will follow the instructions for introducing dignitaries present as would be done at an open installation with the guest/dignitaries standing at their seat and introducing them as a group. Introductions should include only; Supreme Officers, Grand Officers, visiting Worthy Advisors and Mother Advisors, Advisory Board Members and Assembly Members. At no time will Supreme or Grand Honors or the sign of the Rainbow be given.)*

SISTER OF FAITH:

ACTIVITIES: We participate in many varied activities and projects during the year -- some for service in our community, some for money making to run the Assembly and some just for fun. We also participate in joint activities with both Jobs Daughters and the Order of DeMolay.

On the Sunday nearest April 6, of each calendar year -- the order's anniversary -- the members shall attend services at a church agreed upon by the Assembly. This is Obligatory Sunday.

SISTER OF HOPE:

MEMBERSHIP: A girl may become a member by completing and signing an application signed by a Rainbow member and a Mason or Eastern Star who is sponsoring her along with a fee of \$____. A girl that is a member of the Assembly and an Adult advisor will visit her and her parents and she will then be voted on for membership by the active members of the Assembly.

Applications may be obtained from any Rainbow member, the Mother Advisor, or a member of the Advisory Board.

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SISTER OF HOPE:

PLEDGE: A younger girl may become a pledge of a Rainbow Assembly at the age of 9 by submitting a Pledge Application and taking an obligation in an open meeting to join that Rainbow Assembly when she reaches the age of 11. She is entitled to attend all social and other activities of the order except closed meetings.

WORTHY ADVISOR:

GOOD OF THE ORDER: This is a time when we may express our feelings, congratulations, or other positive expressions which we wish to share.

WORTHY ADVISOR: Sister Chaplain, you will attend the Altar.

**** (Raises the Assembly with 3 raps of gavel).*

(Chaplain enters the bow from the South side and removes the Bible using both hands, exiting on the South side of the bow, returning the Bible to the Recorder's desk, closing the Bible, then returning to her station. The musician plays appropriate music).

WORTHY ADVISOR: Let us sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds". Our guests will please be seated while we have a retiring march.

** (Seats the Assembly with a single rap of gavel).*