

Rainbow Gets Girls Ready for Life
Help Give Your Daughter a Head Start!

Any Questions Contact



PARENT GUIDE

Revised
June 2018

Colorado Jurisdiction
International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Introduction

Your daughter's membership into the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG) can be one of the most important steps she will ever take. 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's benefits are realized with your daughter's excitement and commitment to Rainbow. It is an old and well-worn expression that "she will get out of IORG what she puts into it".

You, too, as a parent, grandparent or legal guardian of an IORG member, can have many rewarding experiences including making new friends. You are encouraged and most cordially invited to attend the girl's meetings and activities. By attending the meetings, you will stay well informed as to the upcoming activities. It will also give you an opportunity to see the girls in their various offices and positions of responsibility, conducting the Assembly's business and exemplifying their ceremonies.

Every six months we have an Installation of Officers and occasionally an Open IORG meeting to which friends and prospective members may be invited. We would welcome your support and attendance at any or all of these activities. The girls are very excited and proud when their parents, grandparents and/or legal guardians are a part of the activities of an organization that means a lot to them.

Ceremony of Membership – Initiation

The meeting that your daughter becomes a member of Rainbow will be a memory that will be special to her for her lifetime. It will also be a special time for you as well. When the founder of our order, Rev. W. Mark Sexson, wrote our ceremonies, he based our Initiation ceremony on a girl's quest to find the Pot of Gold at the end of the Rainbow. Through that journey, she learns many lessons taught by the members of her Assembly, soon to be known as her sisters. During this ceremony, the Sister of Faith walks with her to take her to the various offices where the lessons are shared with her. Wherever she goes she is never alone and is always with a friend. There are many traditions of Rainbow that are incorporated in the various lessons that our new sister will learn on her journey. These lessons are life lessons that through her membership will help guide her to a continued good life that she has learned at home and support that foundation of strong morals and values which you have shown her. This foundation will teach her how to use good judgment and decision making not only in her teen years but in her adult life also.

One of the lessons that Rainbow teaches is how to be a lady in not only how you speak and, in your decisions, but in your appearance. At the end of the evening, our new member will receive our dress guidelines for the various events that she will be participating in with her Assembly. For this

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special time and membership ceremony, we ask that she wear a nice tea length dress or floor length formal (not revealing in any way) that reflects the ultimate goal of becoming a lady. We also request that shoes be comfortable to walk in (the ceremony lasts for almost an hour) and are light colors or gold or silver.

What is the Ritual?

The ceremonies for the formal meetings and other Rainbow traditions can be found in a book called the Ritual. When a member holds an office in the Assembly, she learns her station's lecture from the Ritual. By presenting the memorized lecture, members learn the skill of public speaking and leadership. The Ritual reflects IORG's teachings based on right living and thinking.

Meetings and Membership Dues

Assemblies hold their regular meetings twice a month on a pre-established week and day. We ask that the girls arrive at least thirty minutes prior to the time the meeting is to start. The girls help to set up the Assembly room, and, most importantly, have time to visit with other girls and adults. Girls and adults will be notified if there is a change to the time and/or date of the meeting.

Annual dues of membership vary from Assembly to Assembly. This amount is nominal. These dues include a statewide supplementary insurance policy on each member while they are at IORG sponsored activities. This secondary insurance policy protects you when you are chaperoning an activity or while you are driving to an activity. Dues should be current so that each member may vote or hold an office in the Assembly.

You and your daughter have chosen Rainbow because it complements and supports your family values and the lessons that your daughter learns at home. It is our goal to be sure that the girls your daughter will be surrounded by in Rainbow also match those same values and goals. Unfortunately, sometimes girls choose a different path for themselves or make choices that work in conflict with the objectives of Rainbow. Things such as refusing to abide by the Assembly rules, refusing to cooperate with adults of the Assembly, using illegal substances, underage use of alcohol, smoking, theft, sex, pregnancy, conviction of a crime or any activity or behavior unbecoming of a Rainbow Girl can result in her termination from Rainbow. A thorough investigation takes place under the partnership of the Advisory Board, Supreme Inspector/Deputy and, of course, the Mother Advisor. The final decision is made only after all parties have been talked to and all information has been considered.

Chaperones for Assembly Activities

All planned functions are chaperoned according to Colorado Rainbow Guidelines. Each Advisory Board has the responsibility of setting up further rules and guidelines to ensure the girls' safety at all times. If there is ever a question or concern, please feel free to contact the Mother Advisor. She is available to you for questions or clarification. You, as a parent, may be called upon to help with transportation or to chaperone. All chaperones have a background check.

Service Projects

Each Worthy Advisor selects a community service project for the six-month term. These may include Dress for Success, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project, Eastern Star Masonic Campus, Scottish Rite Foundation: Rite Care, Shrine Patient Transportation Fund, Animal Shelters just to give some examples. Your daughter will love participating with the Assembly on these projects. No doubt she will share with you the joy and good feelings of helping others in need and how important the lesson of service is to a Rainbow Girl.

Fundraising Activities

Rainbow Assemblies are self-supporting and the girls' dues are nominal and do not cover all the expenses. It is necessary that the girls hold fund-raising activities during each term. These may include garage sales, candy sales, pancake breakfasts, dinners, fashion shows, paper drives and many more creative ideas that the girls come up with. We hope that you and your family and friends join in and support these worthwhile projects. If you have some prior experience with fund raising or have some good ideas for the girls, please contact the Mother Advisor.

Social Activities

The Worthy Advisor, with the help of the Mother Advisor and the approval of the Advisory Board, plans the activities for the term. They will plan a variety so there will be something of interest to every girl. There should be a least one "fun" activity for each term. Please remember that your daughter does not have to attend all activities, but she will have more fun and fellowship if she does. The Worthy Advisor is encouraged to keep the cost of these activities nominal. You will find that many activities, family picnics, snow trips, etc. are planned to include the entire family. We hope you and your family take these opportunities to meet the girls and get acquainted with other parents.

Service Awards

Colorado has a statewide recognition system. The purpose is to reward the girls in a small way for service to IORG and to stimulate their motivation and interest. Points are earned for attending meetings, practices, serving on committees, and many other projects. Ask your daughter to see her Merit System Sheet (commonly called a point sheet) so you may become

Grand Officer: A girl who has been elected or appointed by the Supreme Deputy/Inspector to serve Colorado IORG on a state level as an officer.

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG): A premier youth group for young girls between the ages of 11 and 20. Rainbow gets "Girls Ready for Life" while building important life skills such as self-confidence and leadership, encouraging service to the community, building character and developing lifelong friendships, all while having fun.

Mother Advisor (MA): Adult lady elected by the Advisory Board to help the Worthy Advisor and all the girls in a local Assembly. This lady is the liaison between the girls and the Advisory Board of their Assembly.

Majority Member: A member who remained in good standing until reaching the age of 20 or marriage. With a Majority Certificate, she may attend Assembly meetings throughout the world for the rest of her life.

Point Sheet: A form used to calculate the individual girls activity and service points for earning her merit bars (Merit System).

Raps: The raps of the gavel mean different things:

One Rap of the Gavel: Those standing are seated. Also used by the Worthy

Advisor in conducting business during meetings.

Two Raps of the Gavel: Only the Officers stand.

Three Raps of the Gavel: Everyone in the Assembly stands.

Ritual: Book containing all the ceremonies of the organization.

Statutes: Rules and Regulations from Supreme Assembly.

Supreme Assembly: Our governing board located in McAlester, Oklahoma.

Supreme Deputy/Inspector (SD or SI): Adult who is in charge of IORG in the State of Colorado.

The Line: The officers holding the stations of Faith, Hope, Charity, Worthy Associate Advisor, and Worthy Advisor of an Assembly. The Assembly elects these girls. Usually, once a girl is elected Faith, she moves up the line, eventually becoming Worthy Advisor.

Term: The four or six month period of time the girls are in a particular office (except Recorder and Treasurer).

Uniform Code of By-Laws: The By-Laws for the IORG from Supreme Assembly.

Worthy Advisor (WA): The girl responsible for the activities of the Assembly for a six-month period.

Service to IORG Award

Like the Grand Cross of Color, this is awarded annually to adults who have served an Assembly but are not a member of a Masonic Organization.

Both the Grand Cross of Color and the Service to Rainbow Award are given based upon the number of new members initiated into the Assembly during the year. One adult award may be given for each award given to a girl. There are never more adults than Rainbow Girls recognized for these awards. This honor is voted on by the Advisory Board members holding Grand Cross and approved by the Supreme Inspector/Deputy.

What to Wear?

As a parent or guardian, you know that what to wear is one of the challenges of raising a teenager. In Rainbow, we are trying to teach the girls to be leaders and develop skills and behaviors that will send them successfully into adult life. Our dress guidelines were developed to help the girls to choose apparel that is appropriate to the event that they are attending, while being fashionable and ladylike. The Mother Advisor will give you and your daughter the Colorado Dress Guidelines. Please go over these with your daughter and feel free to contact the Mother Advisor if you need clarification or have any questions.

What do parents wear?

As adults, it is important that we reflect what we expect in the girls. Please review the Colorado Dress Guidelines with yourself in mind for when you attend meetings and activities. It is not necessary for you to wear formals as the girls do unless you want to, but certainly a short dress is appropriate. We appreciate the support that our adults give the girls by setting the right example also.

RAINBOW GLOSSARY

Advisory Board: Committee of adults who work closely with the girls in the Assembly toward successful completion of various activities (their friends).

District Deputies (DD): Liaison between the Mother Advisors and the Grand Deputy.

Floorwork: Any part of the meetings which involves girls walking from place to place or moving in tandem together to coordinated music.

GEC: Grand Executive Committee is the governing board of adults for the State of Colorado.

Gold Book: Instructional Book issued by Supreme Assembly.

Grand Assembly: Colorado's State convention.

Grand Deputy (GD): Liaison between the District Deputies and the Supreme Deputy/Inspector.

familiar with it and can help her to ensure it is completed and is turned in on time to the adult in charge of the program in her Assembly. They will request the point sheet on the last meeting of the term so that they can receive their awards at Installation. Please help your daughter remember this deadline. Helping her to keep track is a great way to learn more about Rainbow and its many activities, plus you can work on it together and praise her efforts and teamwork with the other girls.

Following is a breakdown of points to be earned for each bar or award:

Merit Pin	35 points (earned from attendance)
	7 Service Bars 50 points each plus memorization of color station
	Pot of Gold 150 points plus a 500-word essay
Wreath	Memorization of Landmarks; memorization of Charity's Lecture; memorization of Traditional Work; attendance at thirteen (13) meetings (own Assembly, a Sister Assembly, or Official Visits) during eight consecutive months; participation in or attendance at two consecutive installations of own Assembly; be a first line signer on an application of a girl who is initiated into Rainbow within two years of earning the Pot of Gold.

In addition to our merit system above, most assemblies have additional awards after all awards have been earned. These are determined by the Advisory Board.

Officers and Elections

When a new Worthy Advisor appoints your daughter to an office, she will have memory work contained in the Ritual to memorize to the best of her ability. We ask that you encourage your daughter to spend time learning her part. She will be required to say her memory work to an Advisory Board member prior to Installation. In accepting the office, she is expected to attend all officer practices. All girls take pride in doing good work and they love to "brag" about how good their Assembly is! This can only happen when a girl knows her floor work and Ritual work by attending practices and listening to the direction of the District Deputy and Mother Advisor. If there is a transportation need in getting her to events and practices, let the Mother Advisor know. She will make arrangements to have your daughter picked up and brought home. We look to you to help with this responsibility of ensuring that your daughter has transportation to all the activities that she wants to attend.

As meetings and activities go by, it is very likely, as her time in Rainbow grows, that your daughter will want to become Worthy Advisor. Most girls feel this way at some time. There are four line offices that lead to the office

of Worthy Advisor. It takes months of dedication and hard work to achieve this goal, but it is something a girl will remember all her life. This training in leadership is invaluable as she moves into her career of choice. The journey to this position of leadership is rewarding and requires commitment to hard work and high standards.

Faith is the first elected office to becoming Worthy Advisor. In electing a girl to be Faith, her Rainbow sisters are going to consider her Ritual work, her friendliness, her support of the Assembly, her service, her dependability and her attendance. These are qualifications that the girls will consider at the election meeting.

It is expected that a girl who is elected to the office of Faith will continue on through the line to Worthy Advisor. In the case of a vacancy in the line, all of the other girls advance and a new Faith is elected. The other offices are Hope, Charity, Worthy Associate Advisor and then Worthy Advisor.

Depending on the size of the Assembly, there are two other offices that are elected once a year. They are Recorder and Treasurer. These girls serve for an entire year and are elected at the first meeting in January. It would not be advantageous to the Assembly to change these offices each term as they require disciplined record keeping, and consistency in the record keeping is important to the Assembly and a help to the Mother Advisor.

The Worthy Advisor-elect selects all of the other officers of the Assembly for the term with the guidance of the Mother Advisor. The Advisory Board must approve all officers and Rainbow Girls taking part in the Installation. If you have questions about the selection and election of officers, please talk to the Mother Advisor or District Deputy.

Districts

Colorado is divided into three districts:

District #1:

- Fort Collins Assembly #2
- Columbine Assembly #96

District #2:

- Gunnison Assembly #99
- Monte Vista Assembly #23
- Grand Junction Assembly #12

District #3:

- Pikes Peak Assembly #4
- Littleton Assembly #5

Each district has a District Deputy to assist the Assemblies.

The District Deputies are available to help at Official Visit practices, answer questions from the Mother Advisors and acts as a go between person for the Assemblies and the Grand Deputy.

Travel is highly encouraged between the Assemblies in the districts and also between the districts.

Grand Assembly

Grand Assembly is our annual convention held the first part of June. It begins on a Thursday or Friday and ends on a Saturday or Sunday. We hope that you and your daughter will be able to attend. It is held in various locations around the state. Those few days are filled with fun, excitement, and the opportunity to meet girls and adults from around the state and even girls and adults from other states and countries who come to visit our Grand Assembly.

The Grand Worthy Advisor, the Rainbow Girl leader for the year, presides at this session along with her Grand Officers. Girls from around the state try out for these positions and serve in this capacity for one year. Grand Assembly is the culmination of that year. They hold the same offices as are seen in the individual Assemblies. In addition, girls are appointed to serve as Grand Representatives to other states and countries where Rainbow exists.

During Grand Assembly, the Grand Officers conduct the business of Grand Assembly, just as you have seen the girls in your Assembly conduct their business. The highlight of Grand Assembly is the announcement of the new Grand Officers.

Grand Assembly is another one of Rainbow's traditions and life changing experiences. Your daughter will talk for weeks after she comes home from Grand Assembly of all the fun that she had and how much she learned about Rainbow.

Supreme Assembly

Supreme Assembly is our governing board headquartered in McAlester, Oklahoma. The officers of Supreme Assembly are adults appointed and elected from the ranks of Supreme Inspectors and the House of Gold. Any Ritual changes or changes to the Supreme Bylaws and Constitution etc. are recommended and voted on by these adult leaders.

Supreme Assembly is held every two years. The location varies throughout the world. When Supreme Assembly is in session, the ceremonies and floor work are beautifully exemplified by Current and Past Grand Worthy Advisors from around various jurisdictions around the world.

Grand Cross of Color

This is the highest honor that IORG can bestow for service. It is given for exceptional service above and beyond. This honor is conferred annually on IORG members and adults of our sponsoring orders.