

### PARENT'S CEREMONY

Courtesy of Washington & Idaho  
International Order of Rainbow for Girls  
(additions/modifications by Debbie Noah, Oregon)

W.A. When I was a very young girl, I asked you if I could join a special group of girls in an organization called Rainbow. I didn't know much about it, and maybe you didn't either, but you felt that anything that might help me through my "terrible teens" would be worth a try. Since then, along with my Rainbow sisters, I have learned and grown and we would like to share with you what we have discovered. (W.A. gives rose to her parents first).

Worthy Advisor announces line up:

Girls line up semi-circle behind bow in this order: Love, Religion, Nature, Immortality, Fidelity, Patriotism, Service, Recorder, Treasurer, Chaplain, Drill Leader, Confidential Observer, Choir Director, Faith, Hope, Charity, W.A.A. The W.A. remains in the East. Girls present flowers (from vase near Altar) to parents after their speech and then return to the bow at the end of the line.

LOVE: Love your father and mother, love your home and every member of your family. There may be a time when we don't like each other very much, but we have learned that family love will shine through. This lesson has helped me try to be more tolerant of others, try to understand, and try to help someone who may be distressed.

RELIGION: There IS a God! This is something that I had always been told, but I had many questions. I now know about faith and that I should be identified with some church. I have learned to be kind to my fellow man. I have learned to forgive for I can never fully understand the meaning of religion unless I have learned this lesson. I now take time to thank God for my many blessings.

NATURE: Nature is out-of-doors and I learned that a portion of my time should be spent there. I love the quietness of the fields where the grasses and grains grow. I love to sit in the shade of the trees and to smell the fragrance of flowers in bloom and to see the stars twinkling at night. I now take time out of my busy young life to smell the roses.

IMMORTALITY: We as young people believe at times that we are immortal, that nothing can hurt us. I have learned that no matter how young and tender our years may be, death can come to any of us. It takes the baby and the mother, the son and the father. Death will come to each of us, but our soul is immortal. I have learned to plan for a life eternal and to remember the last enemy is death. Above all, I have learned to appreciate life.

**FIDELITY:** I had always heard the phrase "True Blue" without understanding its real meaning. Through Rainbow I have learned the meaning of loyalty and trueness to my family, my sisters and my friends. They have confidence in me. I try not to create distrust because of any act of mine. The color blue is a symbol of fidelity and loyalty and I will always remember this.

**PATRIOTISM:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands. I remember trying to say this pledge when I was just a little girl. Rainbow has taught me the meaning of Patriotism. I always thought it was the sister who fought the battle at home while the brother went to war, but this is no longer true as they fight the battles side by side now. Our flag and all it represents is sacred and I will defend it always.

**SERVICE:** Be of some service each day. I heard those words the night I was initiated. Since that time I have had an opportunity to put those words into practice by serving at coffee stops and dinners, working in our fireworks stand, working with the disabled, and earning money to donate to many worthy projects. Thus far my life has been good and by being of some service each day, I am in some small way repaying the community for this reward.

**RECORDER:** I have learned the importance that the written word has in the world in which I live. I do not wish to be misunderstood, so by the careful recording of our Assembly's business, I prepare myself to take an important place in my community. I will rise to the confidence my sisters have placed in me by writing my accurate records in the books of history of this Assembly.

**TREASURER:** As Rainbow girls, we also learn that we have a financial responsibility to operate our Assembly much like the responsibility each family has to maintain their own budget. We learn that we must work for what we have and keep careful records. Monies we earn are spent not only for month to month operations, but also for worthy charities and for our own fun activities. I will remain true to the trust my sisters have placed in me.

**CHAPLAIN:** The Lord's blessings rest upon the members of the Assembly and upon our homes and families. Kindness and gentleness are chief characteristics of women. The lessons I have learned are to think about and care for others. I have come a little closer to God in my own individual way and, as Chaplain, try my best to help remind my sisters of our spiritual needs each time we meet.

**DRILL LEADER:** Remember the awkward little girl who first started wearing high heels and long dresses? That was me. Rainbow has helped me to learn to walk without tripping and to sit gracefully. It has taught me to stand tall, walk with confidence and be proud of who I am. These lessons will be with me the rest of my life and will help me in whatever endeavor I may pursue.

**CONFIDENTIAL OBSERVER:** I have learned that not all people in the world want to understand the charity and service work that our organization performs. It is important that we show the world what good things we do, what good people we are becoming, and what good leaders we will soon be. I have learned to do this through my own individual actions.

**OUTER OBSERVER:** I have learned to carefully guard my innermost thoughts so I try only let the good things in and keep the bad things out. I am trying to be the best person I can be by keeping the philosophy that if I practice what I learn, I will be of service to my community.

**CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Music occupies such an important place in our daily lives. Sometimes music is the only way I can communicate. And sometimes music is where I take my refuge when my feelings and frustrations overcome me. In Rainbow I am encouraged to seek expression through music, whether it be singing or playing an instrument.

**FAITH:** Faith in God, faith in our fellow man, and faith in ourselves. We all need something to hold onto as we travel through life. Rainbow has made me understand that we all need faith. We may find life difficult at times, but if we hold firmly to the hand of faith, we will be strong and make it to the end of our journey.

**HOPE:** Hope awaits all of us. I have learned that hope never sleeps, hope never dies. No matter where I may go in life, as long as I have hope, I can succeed. Hope represents the noon day when the rays of the sun are the brightest. No matter how discouraged we become with our life's circumstances, we must always have hope.

**CHARITY:** Faith, Hope and Charity, these three, but the greatest of these is Charity. I believe there IS a Pot of Gold at the end of the Rainbow and even though it always seems to disappear or move to a different place as we approach, I have learned that I will find its immeasurable contents through a life of giving and loving.

W.A.A.: Our ability to succeed in life depends on our own ability to understand and apply the many lessons we have learned. This applies not only to Rainbow but to every other challenge we may undertake. By letting me join Rainbow, you helped open the door to womanhood, and life, for me. I have just begun my journey, but if I apply even part of what I have learned, I will become the caring, loving, successful, happy person you would love to see me be.

W.A.: To our wonderful parents, board members and friends, tonight we have tried to show you why Rainbow is so very special to each and every one of us, why we try so hard to fit it into our busy schedules, why we want to share this special feeling with our Rainbow sisters throughout the world, why we have a special bond with our Rainbow sisters young and old, and why Rainbow is not just another organization but a "Way of Life". Thank you for letting us become members of this very special group of people. Please keep the rose you received as a symbol of our love for our parents, and someday we hope to find the rose in some special place you placed it as a remembrance of this evening and what it meant to all of us.

W.A. raps gavel and members quietly leave bow and return to their stations.