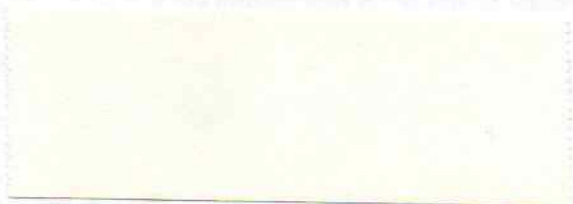


*Congratulations
Your Daughter Is Going
To Be
A Rainbow Girl*



Handbook for Parents



*California 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 four months we have an Installation of Officers and occasionally an Open IORG meeting to which friends and prospective members may be invited. We also have receptions for Grand Officers (state leadership positions held by the girls) that are public and open to invited guests. 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 night 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 night 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 the 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 know 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 to 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 special night and membership ceremony, we ask that she wear a nice tea length dress or floor length formal

that reflects the ultimate goal of becoming a lady. The dress should have a traditional top, spaghetti straps or other attached straps. Plunging necklines (front or back), strapless or halter tops are not a part of our Rainbow dress guidelines. Formals with slits in the back are fine as long as the slit does not extend above the knee. 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, approve and pay the bills 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 are payable by the first meeting in January. 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 compliments 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 Deputy/Inspector 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 California 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 or Grand Deputy. Either of these ladies is available to you for questions or clarification. You, as a parent, may be called upon to help with the transportation or to chaperone.

We always need drivers. We hope you will assist when you can or when called upon. All of our drivers are required to follow our Youth Protection Policy.

Service Projects – Each Worthy Advisor selects a community service project for the four-month term. These may include making tray favors, food for needy families, visiting convalescent homes, volunteering for MDA, Cancer Society, Heart Association or March of Dimes. 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.

Fund Raising 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 approval of the Advisory Board, plans the activities for the term. They will plan a variety of activities so there will be something of interest to every girl. There should be at 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 the other parents.

Service Awards – California 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 various committees, and many other projects. Ask your daughter to see her Merit System sheet (commonly called a point sheet) so you may become 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 accept 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 | 150 points |
| 7 Service Bars | 100 points each |
| Pot of Gold | 150 points |
| Wreath | 150 points |

In addition to our merit system above, most Assemblies have additional awards after all awards have been earned. These can include an IORG Bible, bracelet and charms or other items as determined by the Advisory Board.

This system also assists the girls learn responsibility. If they sign up to participate in an event or activity and can't attend, they need to call the Worthy Advisor or Mother Advisor prior to the event. If that does not happen, they may have points deducted.

Officers and Elections – It is recommended that a new member be a member for at least one term before she is appointed to be an officer. This gives her time to become familiar with our Rainbow ceremonies, traditions, our songs, Assembly etiquette and the opportunity to get to know the other girls.

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 Grand 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.

If the Assembly has a large membership, it is possible that your daughter will be a choir member or hold an honorary office for a term. This is no reflection on her ability to be an officer. Often there are not enough offices to go around and we want each girl to have the opportunity to hold an office. If she can't attend a meeting we ask that she contact the Worthy Advisor or Mother Advisor so that a substitute can be used to fill her station.

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 16 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 all qualifications that the girls will consider at the election meeting.

A Caucus Committee is appointed for the Election meeting and they will meet just prior to the regular meeting. The Mother Advisor brings the records of all the girls to this meeting showing the service each girl has given to IORG. After all candidates have been discussed, the final selections are made by secret ballot. These are the names that are presented to the entire membership for consideration.

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.

As the Election meeting nears, and your daughter feels the committee may propose her name, please discuss this with her. Family support is an asset to the girls. If your daughter should be fortunate enough to be considered for the office of Faith and should the girls elect her, she will have an opportunity to telephone you on election night for your permission to start this journey. It is an honor in all Assemblies for a girl to have her name presented for any of the elective Assembly offices. It shows that the members and adults on the Caucus Committee feel this girl is capable of excellent Ritual work, shows leadership capacity and is devoted to Rainbow.

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 Grand Deputy.

Grand Assembly Event – Grand Assembly Event is our annual convention usually held the week prior to Easter. It begins on Saturday and ends on Tuesday. Years ago this week was the traditional Spring break for schools, but today many school districts choose other weeks for their Spring break. We hope that you and your daughter will be able to attend. It is usually held in Fresno since that location is centrally located within the State of California. It is a week filled with fun, excitement and the opportunity to meet girls and adults from all over the state and even girls and adults from other states and countries who come to visit our Grand Assembly. Each Assembly selects a fabric and makes matching dresses for this event. If you don't sew, there are women within the Assembly or District that will help out with extra dresses. The girls in each Assembly also select a mascot to bring with them. There are many contests such as Arts and Crafts, Sew and Show, Poetry and Talent. Awards are given for each of these contests. There is a spirit award for the assembly showing the best spirit. During the Grand Assembly Event, the scholarship recipients are announced.

The Grand Worthy Advisor, the Rainbow Girl leader for the year, presides at this session along with her Grand Officers. Girls who are Past Worthy Advisors and who have "set the example" and exemplified the lessons of Rainbow in their actions and behaviors, are recommended by the Advisory Board each year to be a Grand Officer and serve in this capacity for one year, if appointed by the Supreme Deputy/Inspector. 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. We also have the Pot of Gold Staff (our state newspaper) and the Grand Executive Committee. In total there are approximately 28 girls selected each year.

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 funds raised for the Grand Service Project, as well as, the appointment 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 Deputies/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 Sessions are 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 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.

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 and approved by the Supreme Deputy/Inspector.

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 California 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 California 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 or dress pants are appropriate. We appreciate the support that our adults give the girls by setting the right example also.

Parents Club – Some Assemblies have an active Parents Club. These parents are interested in the girl's welfare and work with the girls on various projects. Be sure to ask if your Assembly has a Parent's Club.

Traveling and Driving Guidelines – All drivers must turn in their DMV records and be certified to drive girls. Rainbow's Guidelines for girls driving their own cars requires that the passenger have written permission of her parents/guardian to ride in a car that is being driven by a non-adult driver. If you do not wish your

daughter riding with a girl driver, let the Mother Advisor know and she will ensure that she always rides with an adult driver. She will handle this confidentially, so that your daughter will not be embarrassed.

The same policy holds true when an Assembly has a Grand Officer and she is driving her own car. She may take other Assembly girls with her to Official Visits and Receptions provided the parents/guardians have given their written permission.

No girls should travel alone to any Rainbow function. Any activity announced in the Assembly room at a meeting, will be chaperoned. It is up to the Mother Advisor and the Advisory Board to see that this is strictly enforced. If girls decide to go visiting, and telephone each other, making arrangements in this manner, the Mother Advisor and Advisory Board have no control or responsibility. We leave it up to the parents/guardians good judgment.

The Mother Advisor is required to have on file a list of all certified chaperones and a form listing Driver's License number, expiration date, insurance carrier, policy number and expiration date, plus current vehicle information on all adults and girls driving within the IORG program.

All members need to have a current medical insurance form and a current copy of their insurance card on file with the Mother Advisor as well.

RAINBOW GLOSSARY

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

Area Grand Deputy: Liaison between Supreme Deputy/Inspector and Grand Deputies within a geographical location.

Bow Girls: Seven girls representing the seven color stations and teachings of IORG.

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

Gallopig Gavel: At a District-wide meeting, Assemblies are in competition to win the gavel, with the host Assembly being ineligible. The number of girls in attendance, with proper number of chaperones, determines the winner at that meeting.

GEC: Grand Executive Committee is the governing board of adults and girls for the State of California.

Gold Book: Instructional Book issued by Supreme Assembly.

Grand Assembly: California's state convention.

Grand Deputy: Liaison between Area Grand Deputy and the Assemblies within a geographical district. She is the Instructor for ritual and floorwork presentation.

Grand Officer: A Past Worthy Advisor in California who has been appointed by the Supreme Deputy/Inspector to serve California IORG on a state level as an officer.

Green Book: The rules and regulations for IORG, California Jurisdiction.

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG): A premier youth group for young girls between the ages of 11 and 21. 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 life long friendships, all while having fun.

Mother Advisor: 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 21, or married. With a Majority Certificate she may attend Assembly meetings throughout the world for the rest of her life.

Mystery Trip: A fun activity planned by the Worthy Advisor (approved by Advisory Board). The event is a surprise to the girls.

One Rap of the Gavel: Those standing are seated. Also used by the Worthy Advisor in conducting business during meetings.

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

"Rainbow Dreams": Song sung at the close of all meetings.

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: Adult who is in charge of IORG in the State of California.

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-month period of time the girls are in a particular office (except Recorder and Treasurer who serve in their elected office for one year).

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

Two Raps of the Gavel: Only the officers stand.

One Rap of the Gavel: Everyone sits down

Uniform Code of Bylaws: The bylaws for the IORG from Supreme Assembly.

Worthy Advisor: The girl responsible for the activities of the Assembly for a four-month period.