



The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Rainbow Girls and Freemasonry: The Ties That Bind

www.gorainbow.org & www.ohiorainbow.org

What is Rainbow?

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is an organization for girls between the ages of 11 and 20 that builds poise, confidence, and character. Girls learn leadership skills, the value of service to others, and the importance of citizenship. Assemblies meet monthly to perform ritualistic work, engage in service activities, and socialize.

Rainbow's Masonic Heritage

Rainbow was founded in 1922 by Rev. W. Mark Sexson. Rev. Sexson who was a devoted Master Mason and very active in many Masonic Orders. He served the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma as its Most Worshipful Grand Master in 1928-29. During his Masonic activities, he became familiar with the Order of DeMolay and believed that an Order for girls that was also based on the truths of Masonry was necessary. In the spring of 1922, he wrote the Ritual of the Order; the degrees were first exemplified on April 6, 1922, when 171 girls were initiated in the auditorium of the Scottish Rite Temple in McAlester, Oklahoma.

Rainbow has maintained its close ties with Masonry. Most assemblies meet in Masonic Temples, and our Supreme Statutes require that each Assembly Advisory Board must contain at least two Master Masons. However, girls do not need Masonic relationship to join Rainbow. Rev. Sexson saw the wisdom of allowing girls from outside the Masonic family to be exposed to Masonry's teachings and good works. As long as a girl is sponsored by a member of a Masonic Order, she may join Rainbow. This membership policy has benefited Rainbow, and Masonry as well; more than a few men have become Masons because their daughters were Rainbow Girls. The youth are both the present and future of our fraternal organizations.

Rainbow's Teachings

Rainbow teaches seven core lessons: Red represents love of family, friends. Orange encourages membership in the church of your choice. Yellow represents a love of the great out of doors and asks we spend time in Nature. Green represents immortality and an understanding of death. Blue represents fidelity, loyalty and friendship. Indigo represents patriotism and honoring our Country's flag. Violet represents Service and what it means to help one another. The words of the Sisters of Faith, Hope, and Charity give added meaning to these lessons. While the examples of Rainbow's lessons come from the Holy Bible, a girl needs only to believe in a Supreme Being to join Rainbow.

Rainbow in Ohio

While our core lessons have remained the same since Rev. Sexson wrote our ritual, Rainbow's practices have changed slightly over the years to reflect contemporary issues. As do many churches and youth organizations, Rainbow has a Youth Protection Policy to protect both the girls and adult advisors. In particular, approved advisors chaperone all Rainbow activities. At our annual Grand Assembly, the girls enjoy three days of ritualistic work, various competitions and awards, and lots of fun and fellowship.

Our commitment to service is stronger than ever. Girls can be involved in service projects at both the state and local levels. For example, recent statewide service projects have included: Operation: Thank You, Honor Flight, Fisher House at Wright Patterson AFB, Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, Miracle Flights, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Local assemblies participate in various aspects of these projects, as well as service related to their own communities and churches. Ohio Rainbow also provides college scholarships to deserving Rainbow Girls from throughout the state.

For More Information Please Contact:

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