

Illinois Rainbow Ritual Competition

Dear Grand Deputies and Mother Advisors,

Ritual competition has been a successful and exciting part of Illinois Rainbow for many, many years. Over the years, our numbers may have gone up and down, the charities may have changed, but our ritual is the one thing that has remained constant; keeping us special and distinct among all the organizations a young girl can choose to be involved with. Our ritual is something to celebrate, perfect, and be proud of!

So it is in that spirit that I would like to tell you about Ritual Competition 2009! There are a few changes that I hope will encourage all our members to participate at some level, so please read carefully.

First, once I receive the registration forms from you listing all competitors, I will assign each girl a time slot and create a master schedule. This means that Mary Rainbow will know ahead of time that her slot is at 11:45 am on Thursday, so she doesn't have to hang out in the hallway waiting for a long time. This should also cut down on the outside noise for the other competitors and means that any girl not scheduled to compete in the next 30 minutes will not be allowed in the hallway near the judging rooms. Please note on your registration form if a girl is involved in a practice of some sort that day so I can schedule accordingly.

For the individual competition, I have enclosed copies of the ritual for all areas of competition. This is the most recent ritual, including changes made at Supreme. Please note the change from "Secret Work" to "traditions" in Charity's lecture. **Judging will be based on this ritual – please pass it out to all your girls and instruct them to learn their part from this paper, even if they have already learned it.** With so many recent changes, there are a lot of different editions of rituals out there; this way everyone can be judged using the exact same words.

We are tweaking the awards at the individual level a bit this year. Any girl who receives a word perfect ritual score will continue to be recognized with a Word Perfect award. The girl with the highest performance score will receive the Most Expressive award, and another girl with the highest overall score will receive First Place. This will allow more girls to be recognized for their talents. Also, any girl who reaches a certain number of points will receive recognition with a new award, much the same way the scrapbook competition works.

On the team level, we will be focusing on the opening & closing teams this year and will not be having a bow team competition. To properly perform the opening and closing ritual as a group requires dedication and a great sense of teamwork. Not every assembly has regular closed meetings, so this is an opportunity for everyone to brush up on the very basics of our business meetings. Also, you will no longer be required to set up and take down the paraphernalia during the competition. You should walk in and out as the ritual instructs. Remember that you can form a team across a district as well as an assembly if you only have a few girls.

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Also, we are introducing a new group award designed to recognize ritualistic excellence across a district, the District Achievement Award. The scores of each girl competing in individual competition will be added together and divided by the number of entries from each district. (Note that a girl who competes in three stations will have all three scores included and will add three to the number of entries.) The resulting number will be compared to the other districts and the highest will receive the award.

It is my hope that these changes will help keep Illinois Ritual Competition fun, challenging, and worthwhile for all of our members. As advisors, please encourage your girls to compete in some way and help them to practice by holding mini-workshops in your area. Positive feedback and constructive criticism can go a long way towards helping a girl feel prepared and confident before Grand Assembly rolls around!

Please return all registration forms to me postmarked no later than Friday, June 12th (they can be emailed!) and contact me with any questions. I look forward to a wonderful 2009 Grand Assembly and ritual competition!

In Rainbow service,

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Illinois Rainbow Ritual Competition 2009 Rules

General Eligibility

- All active Rainbow Girls in good standing may compete, including those who have requested an age extension through 21 years. A girl may not compete if she has attained her 21st birthday.
- No girl may compete in an office that she has held or currently holds at the state level.
- The Novice category is for girls ages 11 – 14, and they may compete in this category no more than two times.
- A girl may compete in up to three individual stations plus one team station.
- Proper Rainbow attire and shoes are required.

Individual competition

- Paraphernalia will be provided for each station, including pedestals, ribbons, and a pot of gold.
- A girl may not compete in any station that she has already won.

Team competition

- A team consists of 11 officers and a Mother Advisor.
- Paraphernalia will be provided and teams will NOT be required to set up the assembly room prior to competing.
- Paraphernalia will be reset by the judging committee after each team's performance.
- Teams will have a maximum of 30 minutes for the competition.
- Teams may be a combination of members from a district or members of one assembly. Please remember that all members must be given equal opportunities to participate.
- A district may enter more than one team if necessary, assuming no girl competes on both teams.

Judges

- The Ritual Competition Director will appoint judges for each event. An instructional meeting will be held at Grand Assembly prior to competition for all judges.
- For individual competition, the participant will face the performance judge only; word judges will be seated off to the side.

Scoring

- Ritual: Every word will be checked. Points are deducted for inserting and deleting words, prompts and interruptions.
- Performance judges score the participant in: appearance (confidence & posture), emphasis, enunciation, eye contact (except Chaplain), pacing and volume.

Illinois Rainbow Ritual Competition 2009 Rules

- A girl or team must meet a minimum number of points in order to be eligible for any award.
- Additional scoring information will be available at Grand Assembly.

Floor Work

- Floor judges will follow a score sheet with a breakdown of all floor work. Any deviation will result in a deduction of points.

Performance

- Each participant should perform her lecture the same way she would give it to a candidate. Eye contact and sincerity will be considered. Deductions will be made for nervous habits.
- Score sheets will be available after the awards have been announced.

Spectators

- Open rituals are not allowed in any competition room except by the appointed prompter.
- Spectators will not be allowed to observe any individual competitions.
- Spectators are encouraged to observe the team competition; however, no two people may sit immediately next to each other and the room will be kept strictly silent during competition.

Advanced Ritualist

- Participants must come prepared to recite any three of the seven bow stations. She will randomly choose three stations from a hat at the time of competition and must recite all three consecutively.
- This is a great category for older girls to compete in!

Contact the Ritual Competition Director with any questions. Good luck!

Illinois Rainbow Ritual Competition Registration Form Team Competition

District number: _____

Please note: No girl may compete in an office that she has held at the state level.

Station	Name of Competitor	Assembly
Worthy Advisor		
Worthy Associate Advisor		
Charity		
Hope		
Faith		
Chaplain		
Drill Leader		
Confidential Observer		
Outer Observer		
Musician		
Choir Director		
Mother Advisor		

Grand Deputy's signature: _____

Email address and phone number: _____

CHAPLAIN

Our Father, we pray thy blessings to rest upon the members of this Assembly and upon our homes. In all our deliberations, may we ever keep in mind gentleness and kindness, chief characteristics of womankind. May we endeavor to exemplify these virtues in our lives, and reconsecrate and rededicate ourselves anew to Thee. Bless the girlhood of our Nation; may it feel and know its responsibilities and especially may it have Thy divine guidance through the early years of life. Bless, we pray Thee, the members of our Sponsoring Orders; bless our Masonic homes and the people therein; keep us from evil, teach us reverence, teach us to give to Thee each day a portion of our time. Then we shall have Victory, and praise thee forever. Amen.

Our Father in Heaven, we implore Thy blessings on this Sister at the Altar. We pray thee to bless each kneeling suppliant before Thee. Give them fully of Thy blessings, Gracious Lord, for they need Thee. Father, these are Thy children and we pray that they may come a little closer to thee in these ceremonies. Bless all the girls of America, Gracious Father, at this hour. They have many hard battles to fight, but Thou, our Father, can sustain them through these trials. Give unto them high ideals; may they be reverent and modest before Thee, and the World. Give them power in their homes for righteousness. Make their young lives an inspiration to every member of their family, and to all their friends, that those who shall know them shall be impressed with their lives of obedient service. Go with this sister every step of this initiation. Show her that we teach Thy Truth, not only for this moment, but for life eternal. Amen.

Our Great Creator, Our Father, we thank Thee for the deliberations of this Assembly, and for its lessons. Implant them in our hearts that we may heed in our life their principles. That the lessons taught at our stations, symbolized by the colors of the Rainbow, shall ever be the seven cardinal truths in our lives, and that we may be rededicated to them and strengthened by them to meet whatever responsibilities the girlhood of our nation must meet. Bless us, we pray Thee, Bless our fathers and our mothers, our homes, our schools, our Church, our Nation, Bless those who are less fortunate than we are, and help us to help them every moment we can. Fill our hearts with sympathy and in living kindness may we give ourselves to our country for service and Thine shall be the Praise forever. Amen.

Scoring:

Name: _____ Assembly: _____ Novice Regular

Word Insertions _____ Word Deletions _____ Prompts _____ Interruptions _____ Judges Initials: _____

CHARITY

My Sister, we now receive you as a member of this Assembly. I will explain to you our traditional lesson. Ever since you were a little child you have heard the ancient tradition that at the end of the Rainbow is a Pot of Gold. Across the plains and over the mountains, where the end of that mystic symbol seemed to touch the bosom of Mother Earth, countless hundreds have gone in search of its hiding place. None have ever discovered the actual spot where the Rainbow touches the earth. It always vanishes as the searcher approaches, or its position changes, and it is seen farther on. Those who have sought the truth of this legend have grown weary and tired and have fainted along the journey. To us, the Pot of Gold is none other than the heart of the Rainbow Girl, deeply impressed in early life with its responsibilities. On the station before you is a vessel representing the traditional Pot of Gold, and you are now entitled to know its contents.

It is filled with the treasures of life and we have accepted you into our Assembly with the hope that you will always regard them as truly sacred to you personally in your future life. The Pot of Gold has been hidden from the eyes of many who have searched for it in the past. It is yours today if you will accept it.

One of the treasures contained in it is the Holy Bible, the Sacred Book of our Faith. Guard it always as a most precious treasure, for it will teach you how to live, and knowing how to live you will know how to die. Another treasure is the Flag of our country, the symbol of American Liberty and Independence. It is your duty to be true to it in every thought, word and deed, and to defend it with your life if necessary.

Another treasure is the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, the great Charters of American Civilization, both of which were written by Freemasons. Read and study them for they are priceless to the American girl.

Another treasure we find in the Pot of Gold is a list of names of Masonic Presidents of the United States. The first on the list is George Washington, who was first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen - Father of his country. Not only was he great as a soldier and statesman, but he was great as a Freemason. As such, he laid the chief cornerstone of the Capitol of our country. Last, but by no means least, we find this miniature lambskin apron, in the center of which is a star. I give it to you as your own. It is a sacred symbol that binds. To your father, if he were a Mason, the Lambskin Apron was sacred, and though you may never fully know its meaning, it will be dear to you because he loved it, and to him it was priceless. Keep it always.

There are other treasures in the Pot of Gold that you find in a life of Service. The ones we have discovered are only a few of the many contained in it. Keep in mind that the great Fraternity which has sponsored this Assembly has preserved them for you.

You will now be conducted to the station of the Worthy Advisor, who will be pleased to instruct you in the **traditions** of the Order.

Scoring:					
Name: _____	Assembly: _____	Jurisdiction: _____			
Word Insertions _____	Word Deletions _____	Prompts _____	Interruptions _____	Judges Initials: _____	

FAITH

I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the Glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

And I saw no Temple therein; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb, are the Temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it, for the Glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it, and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.

Now abideth Faith, Hope and Charity, these three, but the greatest of these is Charity.

Scoring:						<input type="checkbox"/> Novice	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular
Name:	_____	Assembly	_____				
Word Insertions	_____	Word Deletions	_____	Prompts	_____	Interruptions	_____
						Judges Initials	_____

FIDELITY

My Sister, the fifth station in your travel is Fidelity. Its color is blue, in all ages the symbol of loyalty. I entrust you with this color for safekeeping. Great confidence has been placed in you by selecting you as a member of this Assembly. Your father, your mother, your girl friends, all have the utmost confidence in you. They believe in your fidelity. Those who have been true to each other and to their work have been the greatest heroes or heroines in all ages. Your word when given should be sacred, and under no circumstances should you ever create distrust by violating it. Fidelity is the greatest manifestation of the strength of human character. Even the plan of the Infinite One, although possessing all power and all authority, involves the individual in whom we may have absolute trust and confidence. For God gave His promise to many like you in the ages past and it was loyalty and faithfulness to Him that has given us our beautiful story of the Christian Religion. If you would lay a foundation for true happiness every day you live, heed the lesson of this station and begin at this moment to be true to every vow. Do you begin that foundation now?

Candidate: *I do.*

Take, then, this color and carry it to the Altar of the White Light and lay it thereon.

Scoring: Name: _____ Assembly: _____ Jurisdiction: _____ Word Insertions _____ Word Deletions _____ Prompts _____ Interruptions _____ Judges Initials: _____
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IMMORTALITY

My Sister, the fourth station in your travel is called Immortality. Its color is green and I entrust you with this color for safekeeping. It may seem strange that we should direct your mind to the thought of death, you so young, so fair, your years so tender, every hope and every ambition just begins to bud and bloom in your life. But, however fair, however hopeful, we would teach you the lesson that death is no respecter of persons. It lays its hands upon the flower and tree; it takes the babe and the mother; it regards not youth, nor youth's ambitions. Death, my young woman, with all its solemnity may come to you, but your soul is immortal. Even though your body may die, you shall live forever. It is well to plan and build and imagine for these are a part of your life. But in the midst of all of them, remember that whatever your plan may be, or whatever fruit it may seem to bear, the wise girl is one who ever remembers that the last enemy is death.

It was 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.' Do you begin now to prepare for Life Eternal?

Candidate: *I do.*

Take, then, this color and carry it to the Altar of the White Light and lay it thereon.

Scoring: Name: _____ Assembly: _____ Jurisdiction: _____ Word Insertions _____ Word Deletions _____ Prompts _____ Interruptions _____ Judges Initials: _____
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LOVE

My Sister, the first station in your travel is called Love, its color is red and I entrust you with this color for safekeeping. Ever since the first ray of light shone into the face of Woman, love has been a silken cord, strong as a chain of steel, binding creation together.

St. John said: 'For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.' And Jesus said, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself.'

Love is the fulfillment of every law. Love your Father and Mother; love your home and every member of your family and above all love your Creator. Love will open to you the beauty of every virtue. It will help you see in sorrow and bereavement that which you can never see unless you abide in Love. Love cannot die. All else may forsake you, but on the very threshold of death, when every ray of light is about to be extinguished, Love's ray will linger. My young woman, if you would begin to be immortal even while you live in mortal flesh, remember that Love is of God and when you love you are like Him. Will you remember this?

Candidate: *I will.*

Take, then, this color, symbol of woman's love and devotion, and carry it to the Altar of the White Light and lay it thereon.

Scoring:

Name: _____ Assembly: _____ Jurisdiction: _____

Word Insertions _____ Word Deletions _____ Prompts _____ Interruptions _____ Judges Initials: _____

NATURE

My Sister, the third station in your travel is called Nature. Its color is yellow and I entrust you with this color for safekeeping. It represents Nature when she is in the very height of her glory and the transforming power symbolized by this color, begins her process of turning the landscape into gold. Nature is out-of-doors and you must not forget that a portion of your time belongs there. In the quietness of the field, under the shade of the trees, among the wild flowers that bloom, or where the birds sing their sweetest songs, these must all be made a part of that gentle life of devotion that you are to live. For it is in the freedom of field and out-of-doors away from the crowds that you may commune with God. Get His lessons there, let them be impressed upon your young life. Drink them into the very depths of your soul, for you will need them in the after years of responsibility. Do not let you social activities or any other claim deprive you of the joy of the open field and the out-of-doors. Nature has a great healing power. She has wonderful secrets and she has them for you. Will you try to learn her secrets while in your girlhood?

Candidate: *I will.*

Take, then, this color and carry it to the altar of the White Light and lay it thereon.

Scoring: Name: _____ Assembly: _____ Jurisdiction: _____ Word Insertions _____ Word Deletions _____ Prompts _____ Interruptions _____ Judges Initials: _____
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PATRIOTISM

My Sister, the sixth station in your travel is Patriotism. Its color is indigo and I entrust you with this color for safekeeping. It is an intensified color because it demands even your life on the altar of sacrifice, if need be, for your country. The world is too prone to think, when we speak of the battles fought, that the manhood of the nation must form its first line of defense, but equally strong and true, has always been that line of defense formed by Womankind. Hers is the first battle, and hers is the first victory. It is the sister that kisses the brother good-bye, placing her sweet benediction upon his lips. He marches away under flying colors to the sound of martial strains; but she, in the silence that follows, fights the first battle. Womanhood stands back of the ranks and holds up the flag at home, for if it were not for Womanhood and the love that is centered in her realm, there would be nothing to incite him to deeds of bravery on the field of battle. Reverend W. Mark Sexson wrote this lesson of Patriotism when he founded our Order in 1922. Today, both women and men serve our country and protect our Nations' flag.

At this station you re-dedicate your life to your country and its Flag, the stars and stripes, symbol of American civilization, enlightenment and Liberty. Ever lift your voice in its defense and if, in the years to come, you should be the wife and mother of a home, let the lessons of the Flag be sacred, and let them be taught therein, that whether the future shall have war or peace, it shall have patriotism, for to that program you dedicate your life. Will you be true to your Flag and defend it always?

Candidate: *I will.*

Take, then, this color and carry it to the Altar of the White Light and lay it thereon.

RELIGION

My Sister, the second station in your travel is called Religion. Its color is orange, symbolizing the heroic in religion. It resents the practice of those who make religion a form of slavery and encourages those who teach religion as Love and Service. I entrust you with this color for safekeeping.

Religion is defined in the New Testament by St. James: 'Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world.' It is a life that finds its greatest exemplification in purity of living and in purity of action. Religion is found implanted in the hearts of all people, even though they have not received direct revelation from God. We would impress upon you the beauties of Religion as exemplified by its Great Author, whose life was one of gentleness and kindness. He never brought a tear to the eye, nor an ache to the heart of any one because of any act of His. He was gentle and forgiving. Finding those who were troubled or who had sinned, He forgave them, for He came not to call the righteous but the sinner to repentance. You should be religious. You should be identified with some Church. You cannot fight the battle and win the Victory and have the promise unless you heed well this lesson. Will you heed this lesson?

Candidate: *I will.*

Take, then, this color and carry it to the Altar of the White Light, and lay it thereon.

Scoring: Name: _____ Assembly: _____ Jurisdiction: _____ Word Insertions _____ Word Deletions _____ Prompts _____ Interruptions _____ Judges Initials: _____
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SERVICE

My Sister, you have arrived at the seventh station in your travel, that of Service. Its color is violet and I entrust you with this color for safekeeping. It is the only ray of light that has healing power. Learn this lesson early in your life that they who give themselves to service are the crowned queens of every Assembly, not only in this institution, not only to this assembly, but to every organization with which you shall be identified. In your church, your school, or any social activity, be reminded that it is the service you perform that will turn into pure gold, and for it and it alone, you will receive just recompense of reward. Be of some service each day. Let it grow with you as the days pass. Let it become a part of your movements to and fro, for you can never know the meaning of Love, Religion, Nature, Immortality, Fidelity, or Patriotism, until you have offered yourself as a living sacrifice. This very day there is some one you can help. Every day of your life, before the sun goes down, you can find a girl who needs your help. Will you try to make your life one of service?

Candidate: *I will.*

Take, then, this color and carry it to the Altar of the White Light and lay it thereon.

Scoring:

Name: _____ Assembly: _____ Jurisdiction: _____

Word Insertions _____ Word Deletions _____ Prompts _____ Interruptions _____ Judges Initials: _____

RAINBOW FLAG ODE

The bluest of skies, a flood of sunlight, a soft spring shower – then the rainbow bright. Is it not inspiring to behold our flag in all its splendor and majesty, as it is placed in dignity to grace our Assembly Room? May it's beautiful presence and significance ever remind us of the debt of loving gratitude we owe to those who have culled from the treasure house of all ages its inspiring lessons. When we behold this flag, your flag and my flag, may we ever be reminded that this gratitude can only be expressed in pure lives, brave hearts, charitable thoughts, and service, the fulfillment of love.

Our flag, with its many hues, symbolizes the beautiful lessons exemplified by the heroines of our Assembly. We love each color true, we love the red of you. The orange, yellow, green and blue, indigo and violet, too. Into every heart every ray must fall.

Love, the fulfillment of every law, a religion of love and service. Nature, the greatest amphitheater of God. Immortality and Fidelity, loyalty to our country and God. Patriotism and Service, the fulfillment of love.

No matter where our journey may take us, so long as we keep close to this flag, and it's sacred teachings, we may confidently believe that we will come safely to the end of the Rainbow.

Scoring:

Name: _____ Assembly _____ Novice Regular

Word Insertions _____ Word Deletions _____ Prompts _____ Interruptions _____ Judges Initials _____