# PLEDGE CEREMONY (Initiation)

**Pledge Sister:** "Sister Pledge Secretary, do we have initiation?"

**Pledge Secretary:** "Pledge Sister, (Names of Pledges) are awaiting to become Pledges."

**Pledge Sister:** "Sister of Confidence, you will see if there are any girl(s) waiting to become a Pledge to Rainbow."

**Sister of Confidence:** *(Walks north to Kindness station, west, south and stops in front of Pledge Guardian)* "Sister Pledge Guardian, are there any girls waiting to take upon themselves a pledge to Rainbow?"

**Sister Pledge Guardian:** "Sister of Confidence, the following girls are ready to be pledged to Rainbow: (Names of Pledges) "

**Sister of Confidence:** (*Walks north and stops in front of Associate Pledge Sister facing east to report to the Pledge Sister.)* "Pledge Sister, (Names of Pledges) are in waiting to be pledged to Rainbow."

**Pledge Sister:** "Sister of Confidence, with the assistance of the Pledge Guardian, you will escort the Pledges into the room."

*(Sister of Confidence goes back to the south door.)*

**Sister of Confidence:** "Sister Pledge Guardian, you will assist me with these friends."

*(Sister of Confidence will take the first Pledge by the Pledge's left arm and the rest will follow in two's, with Pledge Guardian taking the last Pledge by the Pledge's right arm, if there is one left over; if not, Pledge Guardian will follow the line alone. Confidence will escort Pledges to the East by going north, east and south, assuming her position at the north end of the line and Pledge Guardian on the south end. They will have to countermarch.)*

**Pledge Sister:** "My friend(s), I welcome you and want you to know that the Order of Rainbow for Girls is the friend of all girls who are your age. You have come here to pledge yourself(selves) to the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, with the promise that when you are 11 years old, you will become (a) Rainbow Girl(s). Before you make that pledge, I shall ask the Sister of Confidence to take you on a make-believe journey, so that you may realize that your life will be made up of lessons you will learn now and during your years as a Pledge to Rainbow.

You have many things in which you believe. You have trust and belief in a Supreme Being. You believe that if you are good, you will have good things come to you. We call your guide on this make-believe journey Confidence, because she knows you will have confidence in her, and she is confident that you will make good Rainbow Girls and have happy lives.

Sister of Confidence, these Pledges depend on you to guide them on their way; you, therefore, accompany them to the station of the Associate Pledge Sister. I would admonish you to protect them on their travels."

*(Confidence goes south, then west, then north to the station of the Associate Pledge Sister in the West.)*

**Associate Pledge Sister:** "In your make-believe journey, my friend(s), you will be looking for a way to understand the world in which we live. You are now like the bud of a flower, but before long your life will grow until you are no longer a bud, but a flower in full bloom in the form of a lovely young lady.

We shall try to help your life to be a beautiful one, like a gardener would tend to his flowers to make them the most beautiful of all blossoms, by guiding you as a big sister and serving you now and caring for you while just a bud, so that when you are a Rainbow Girl you will have friends and happiness.

In order that you may remember that the Rainbow Girls want you as a member, I will give you this light to carry on your make-believe journey, so that it may light your way while you are a Pledge, and make your travel bright.

*(Gives light to first Pledge)*

Sister of Confidence, continue on. I have lighted the way for these Pledges and may their journey to the Station of Happiness be a successful one."

*(Confidence goes north, east, south, and west to the station of Happiness in the South.)*

**Sister of Happiness:** "My friend(s), as you journey around this room, you stop before my station which represents Happiness. The lesson of this station tells you that in life there will be some days that are not as nice and pleasant as others; but in your girlhood, always remember to be happy and laugh away those bad days.

Also, remember that hope is your greatest friend in life. Everyday, you hope or wish for something; and not only do you do this, but your parents and everyone in the world does so. Keep Hope and Happiness in your heart, and let the light that you carry lead you to these things for which you hope.

Sister of Confidence, continue on your journey."

*(Confidence goes west, then north, then east to the station of Kindness in the North)* .

**Sister of Kindness:** "You have now reached the station in your make-believe journey which we call Kindness. Here we must tell you to be charitable always.

This does not only mean to share with the poor, but to be kind and unselfish to the people around you. You should be respectful and considerate to older people and make those you love happy.

The first stop in your make-believe journey told you that the Rainbow Girls will always help you as a big sister. In order to have happiness forever, you must hope for the better things and have faith in those who will help you grow into a lovely young lady.

Sister of Confidence, you will journey on. The Pledge Sister awaits you."

*(Confidence goes east, south, assuming her position at the north end of the line by countermarching.)*

**Pledge Sister:** "You have come before me at the end of this make-believe journey. You have stopped to visit Happiness and Kindness. Confidence has guided you on a lighted and bright pathway with the aid of the light given you by the Associate Pledge Sister. I want you to try and remember what they have told you, for if you will hope for the good things and be kind and unselfish, you will be very happy.

You stand before me, my friend(s), so that I may give you your final lesson. In your early girlhood, there comes that desire for better things. All the members of the Order of the Rainbow want to help you be prepared to do greater things, for in this way your future life will be happy and

worthwhile. Your life from this moment on can be an inspiration to your friends, if you want to make it so.

To your parents, you owe a great deal. The watchful care that they have given to you must not go unnoticed. Your debt to them must be repaid by being obedient, kind and courteous to them.

You should be loyal to our country and our flag. You should be studious, attend school regularly, and take part in the traditions and communities that matter to you.

By doing these things, you will find happiness in your future life. May the years to come hold much joy for you."

*(Pledge Sister takes the light from Pledge.)*
Sister of Confidence, you will conduct our friend(s) to the Altar and before the Holy Bible, place her (them) in a kneeling position. Have her (one girl) clasp the Holy Bible in her hands. "

*(Confidence takes Pledges to the Altar in twos, going south, then west, to Happiness' Station and north into the Altar, cutting square corners at all points. Pledges kneel, forming a straight line behind the Altar. Confidence stands to the north of the first Pledge and Pledge Guardian to the south of the first Pledge on a straight line with Confidence, to make a cross. Pledge Sister gives three raps of the gavel and goes to the Altar for the Obligation.)*

**OBLIGATION:**

*(Pledge Sister should break up the Obligation into small parts for Pledges to repeat.)*

**Pledge Sister:** "You will pronounce your name and repeat after me.

'I, _____, promise that I will always obey my parents, realizing that they know what is best for me.

I promise to try to let my values and beliefs guide my actions.

I promise that I will be unselfish and share my things with those who do not have as much as I.

I promise that I will always love the Canadian Flag and my Country.

I will try to do a little service every day so that I may be like the girls in the Order of the Rainbow.

I will try to come to all the parties and meetings of the Order of the Rainbow to which I am invited.

I will learn the song "Blest Be The Tie That Binds", which will be my Pledge song.

I promise that I will become a member of the Order of the Rainbow for Girls on my 11th birthday, and will keep my promises and wear my pledge pin always, so that the girls will be anxious to have me for a member."'
*(Pledge Sister returns to the East and sounds the gavel once. Pledges arise and stand in a straight line at the Altar.)*

"I shall now invest you with the Pledge sign and password. You will make the same movements that I do, so that you will be able to do it in the future. The sign is given by placing the fingers of your right hand on your left shoulder with the fingers extended, then extend the hand with palm

upward to the full length of your arm as though you were referring to the Pot of Gold in the distance. Drop the hand to its natural position. If a girl makes this sign to you, you will answer 'Blest Be The Tie That Binds'. When you make the sign to a girl, she should respond with those same words. If there is no response, you will know that the girl to whom you made the sign is not a Rainbow Pledge."

“Sister of Confidence, you will now invest our new Pledge Sister(s) with their membership pins."

**Sister of Confidence:** *(as she pins on the membership pins)* "On this pin you will find the word Pledge, and seven colours, which represent seven colours of our Rainbow. When you become a Rainbow Girl, these colours will have much meaning for you in your future Rainbow life.

In the corner of the pin, you will find a star, which is the emblem of the Eastern Star, and it reminds us that the Rainbow Girls are sponsored by the Masonic, Eastern Star, Amaranth and White Shrine organizations, and that we are all a part of this great body of people. Wear this pin always, so that it may be known that you are a pledge to the Order of the Rainbow for Girls."

*(The Pledge Guardian may help pin on the pins, when there are several Pledges.)*

**Pledge Sister:** "Sister Pledge Chaplain, you will offer the prayer."

*(Pledge Sister gives three raps. All rise. Pledges kneel at the Altar.)*

**Pledge Chaplain:** *(From her station)* "Our Heavenly Father. we ask Your blessings to rest upon these Pledges at our Altar. May their actions and their words ever have Your Divine Guidance. We pray that they may ever be loyal and true to those teachings. Amen."
**Response By All:** "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

*(After response, all give Pledge sign.)*

(Pledge Sister raps gavel. Everyone is seated and Pledges stand. Confidence returns Pledges to the Station of Pledge Sister by going from the Altar north, then east, then south, assuming her position on the north end of the line by counter marching.)

**Pledge Sister:** "It is with a great deal of pleasure that I present Mum _____, who is the Pledge Mother of this Pledge Group.”

**Pledge Mother:** "I am pleased to welcome you as Pledges to the Order of the Rainbow for Girls and to assure you that we are interested in you and all girls your age. I hope that you have benefited by the ceremony you received and that your life will be better. When you reach 11 years, I hope you will remember your pledge and become a member of the Order of Rainbow for Girls."

**Pledge Sister:** "This concludes your pledge ceremony. Hereafter you are to be known as Rainbow Pledges and may you be better and do better. Sister of Confidence, you will seat our new Sisters in the Assembly Room."

*(Confidence escorts Pledges to their seats in the north, by going north, then west to the seats. Confidence and Pledge Guardian assume their stations, by going west, then south to their stations.)*