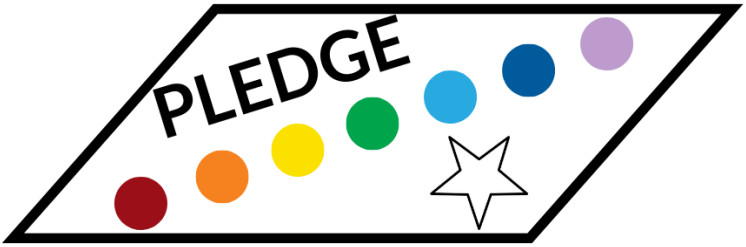
Pledge Meeting Ritual

For use in Canadian Rainbow Pledge Groups



Approved for use by
Amy Jackson, Supreme Deputy
October 2026

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Opening Ceremony
Pledge Ceremony (if applicable)
Roll Call
Unfinished Business
New Business
Good of the Order
Closing Ceremony

PLEDGE SONG

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

“Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above."

Tune can be found at:

MEANING OF GAVEL RAPS

One (1) rap seats everyone
Two (2) raps call the Pledge Officers to stand
Three (3) raps call up the Assembly

MEETING BENEDICTION

May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent,
one from the other.

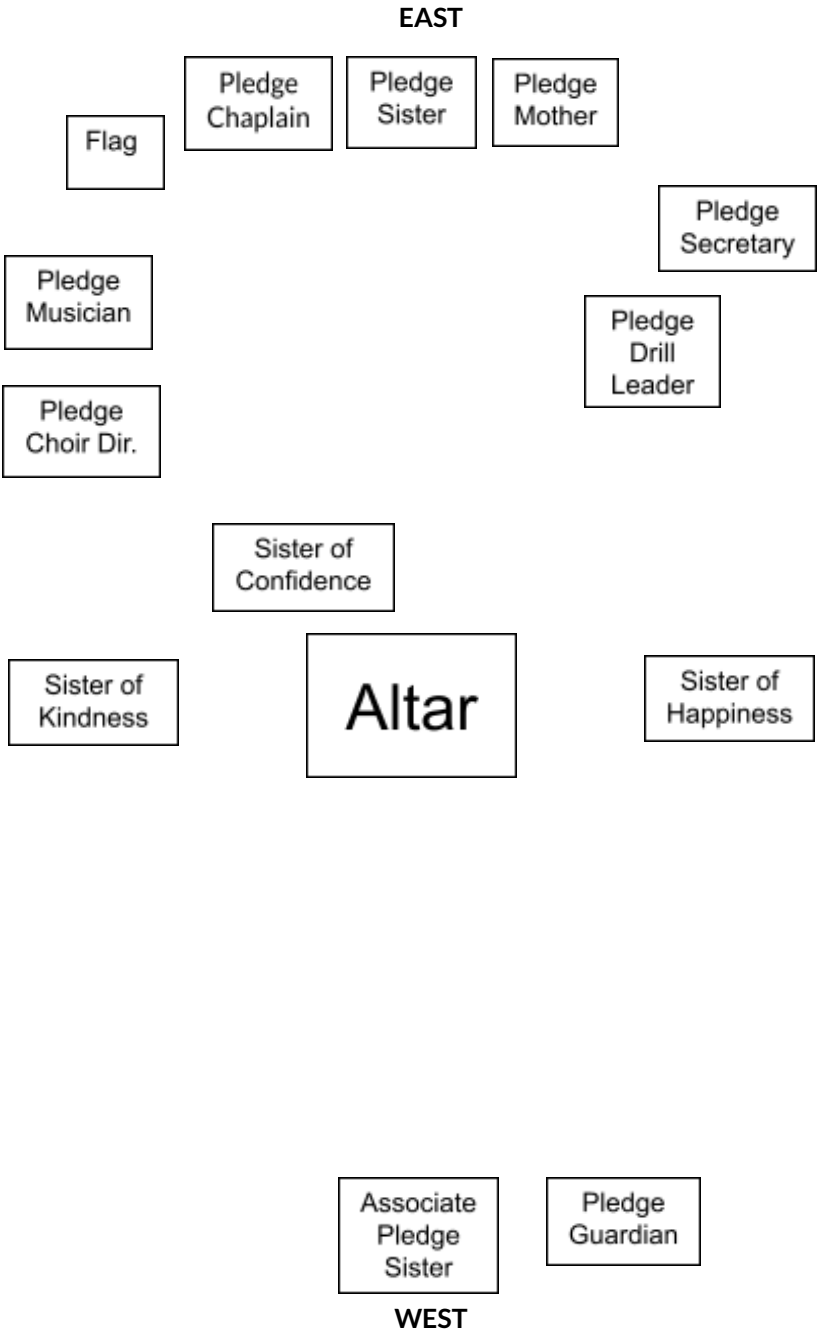
PLEDGE OFFICES AND SYMBOLS

Pledge Sister	Gavel
Associate Pledge Sister	Lamp
Sister of Kindness	Dove
Sister of Happiness	Heart
Sister of Confidence	Cross
Pledge Chaplain	Open Bible
Pledge Secretary	Pen
Pledge Guardian	Crossed Swords
Pledge Drill Leader	Spear
Pledge Mother	Pledge Mother's Pin
Pledge Musician	Music Note
Pledge Choir Director	Harp

PLEDGE ROOM PARAPHERNALIA

White Altar Cloth
Bible for Altar
Canadian Flag and Stand
A gavel for the Pledge Sister
A battery powered candle/light (Pledge Ceremony)
Small Bible on Altar (Pledge Ceremony)
Kneeling bench (Pledge Ceremony)

PLEDGE ROOM FLOOR PLAN



PLEDGE MEETING

OPENING

(Pledge Mother and Pledge Drill Leader enter from South door, Pledge Drill to left of Pledge Mother, taking left arm of Pledge Mother. They march east to Station of Happiness, then north to Altar, hence East. Pledge Drill Leader bows to Pledge Mother who assumes dais from south. Pledge Drill Leader marches south to station.)

Pledge Mother: "Sister Pledge Drill Leader, *(Drill Leader arises upon being addressed)* you will conduct the officers into the Assembly room."

Pledge Officers enter in the following order:

Pledge Drill Leader
Pledge Sister
Pledge Chaplain
Sister of Kindness
Sister of Confidence
Associate Pledge Sister
Pledge Guardian
Sister of Happiness
Pledge Secretary

(Once all Officers have reached their stations)

Pledge Sister: "The meeting of _____ Pledge Group is called to order."

(Rap gavel once. All are seated.)

Pledge Sister: "Sister Pledge Guardian, you will guard our meeting against all improper intruders and assist in maintaining order."

(Pledge Guardian closes the north door and south door and resumes station just inside the south door.)

(Raps gavel three times, all rise.)

Pledge Sister: "Sister Pledges, you will join with me in singing one verse of O Canada."

(All stand, face the flag, and sing the anthem.)

Pledge Sister: "Sister of Happiness, you will attend the Altar."

(Sister of Happiness goes to the Altar, opens the Bible slowly, gives Pledge sign, and returns to her station.)

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

Pledge Chaplain: *(from station)* "Our Father, we thank you for our homes, our schools, our place of worship and our country. Guide and direct our lives, helping us to do Your will. Bless our Group and the organization to which we are pledged. Amen."

Response By All: "Blest be the tie that binds."

(After response all give the Pledge sign.)

(Pledge Sister raps gavel once. All are seated.)

Pledge Sister: *(Raps gavel twice for officers to rise.)* "Sister of Confidence, what is the lesson of your station?"

Sister of Confidence: "To have confidence in our parents, and most of all, to have confidence in a Higher Power. Through this confidence, we will lead better lives."

Pledge Sister: "Sister of Happiness, what is the lesson of your station?"

Sister of Happiness: "To keep happy thoughts in our hearts and bring happiness to those we meet."

Pledge Sister: "Sister of Kindness, what is the lesson of your station?"

Sister of Kindness: "To always be kind and considerate of everyone, and help others every way we can."

Pledge Sister: "Associate Pledge Sister, what is the lesson of your station?"

Associate Pledge Sister: "To have happiness forever, we must hope for better things and have faith in those around us."

Pledge Sister: "We are looking for a way to understand the world in which we live. By heeding these lessons, we will be helped on our journey through life."

(Raps gavel once, officers are seated.)

CLOSING

Pledge Sister: "If there is no further business, the meeting of _____Pledge Group will now be closed."

(Raps gavel three times, all rise.)

"Sister of Happiness, you will attend the Altar."

(Sister of Happiness goes to the Altar, gives the Pledge sign, closes the Bible, and returns to her station.)

Pledge Sister: "Let us sing our Pledge Song, Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

All In Unison: *(After song - Benediction)* "May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other."

(Raps to seat sidelines. Rap two times for Officers to stand.)

Pledge Sister: "Officers, you will retire with me."

(Pledge Sister goes North (toward Kindness' station), followed by Pledge Chaplain, with the rest of the officers falling in line as it passes. Pledge Sister must go around a second time to pick up everyone and then out the south door. Pledge Mother will be the last person in the line and will wait until the Pledge Sister has come around a second time.)

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.)

INCOMING DRILL (Installation)

The Pledge Mother and Installing Pledge Officers enter in the following manner:

North Door	South Door
Installing Pledge Sister	Pledge Mother
Installing Pledge Chaplain	Installing Pledge Marshal
Installing Pledge Musician	Installing Pledge Secretary

Both lines march east to Station of Happiness, turn to Altar, then east, forming one line in east, facing west. Pledge Mother assumes dais and introduces Installing Officers.

Upon instruction of Installing Pledge Sister, the Installing Pledge Marshal invites the Pledge Officers to enter. They enter in the following order:

Pledge Sister
Associate Pledge Sister
Sister of Kindness
Sister of Happiness
Sister of Confidence
Pledge Chaplain
Pledge Secretary
Pledge Guardian
Pledge Drill Leader
*Pledge Musician
*Pledge Choir Director

The Installing Pledge Sister leads the line from the south door dropping off at her station the Pledge Sister leads the line around the room until she reaches the Station of the Sister of Happiness the second time. They then form a single line back of the bow to be seated in chairs provided there. Pledge Sister will be on the south end of the line.

Officers remain standing until their name is called by the Installing Pledge Secretary, at which time they will be seated.

PLEDGE INSTALLATION

(*The Installing Officers and Pledge Mother enter the room per drill instructions.)*

Pledge Mother: "I have the honour of introducing the Installing Officers:

Installing Pledge Sister: _____
Installing Chaplain: _____
Installing Marshal: _____
Installing Secretary: _____
Installing Musician: _____

(After introductions, the Installing Officers will assume their stations.)

Installing Pledge Sister: *(The ceremony is opened by one rap of the gavel)* "I declare this meeting of the _____ Pledge Group open for the Installation of Pledge Officers."

"Sister Installing Chaplain, you will attend the Altar."

(Raps gavel three times, all rise. Installing Chaplain goes to Altar, entering from North, bows, opens Bible, gives the Pledge Sign, and returns to her station, leaving Altar from the North. If the Installation is open, the sign is not used.)

Installing Pledge Sister: "Sister Installing Marshal, you will invite the Pledge Officers to enter."

(Officers enter. See Drill Instructions.)

Installing Pledge Sister: "Sister Installing Secretary, you will read the names of the Pledge Officers to be installed."

(Installing Secretary reads the names of the Pledge Officers, each of whom bows when her name is read and is seated.)

Installing Pledge Sister: We will stand with bowed heads while the Installing Chaplain leads us in prayer."

(Raps gavel three times.)

Installing Chaplain: "Our Father, bless these new officers as they assume their responsibilities. Guide them to do Your will always. Be with all Rainbow Pledges, Dear Lord, and help them to do better and be better. Amen."

Response By All: "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

(After response, all give Pledge sign. Give one rap of gavel and all are seated.)

Installing Pledge Sister: "Sister Installing Marshal, you will present the Pledge Officers to be installed."

(Installing Marshal leaves her station, goes west to where the Pledge Sister is seated. Bows to the officers, all follow her west. then north, then east and then south into the Altar. Pledge Sister will be on the south end of the line. All kneel.)

Installing Pledge Sister: "My Sisters, you have been selected by the Rainbow Pledges of _____ Pledge Group, to lead the affairs of this Pledge Group for the ensuing term. Before you may assume your duties, I must ask you to take these vows:"

"Do you promise to keep your Rainbow Pledge promises?"

(Answer: I do.)

"Will you at all times act with fairness and consideration towards others?"

(Answer: I will)

"Do you agree to accept the guidance and direction of the Pledge Mother, so that our affairs may be conducted properly and with peace and harmony?

(Answer: I do.)

“Arise my sisters."

(Each girl should step forward as her station is announced.)

"Sister Pledge Sister, you have been selected as the chief officer of _____, that of Pledge Sister. It will be your duty to lead the meetings of the Pledge Group and see that all the business is properly conducted. See that you are a good example for all Pledges to follow."

"The symbol of your office is the gavel. A symbol of power and authority: But remember, even though you are the leader now, you too must return to the ranks and follow."

"Sister Associate Pledge Sister, you have been elected to the second highest Pledge Office. If the Pledge Sister is absent, you will preside. Be helpful to her whenever possible. At your station you will light the way for our new Pledge Sisters as they start their journey to a happier and brighter life. The symbol of your office is the lamp, a symbol that shows the way to a happier and brighter life."

"Sister of Kindness, your office reminds us to help others and be kind and courteous always. The symbol of your office is a dove, a symbol of peace and harmony.”

"Sister of Happiness, your office reminds us to bring joy to others and keep happiness in our hearts. The symbol of your office is a heart, a symbol of happiness and joy.”

“Sister of Confidence, your office reminds us that to inspire confidence, we must first have confidence in others and especially in a higher power. "The symbol of your office is the cross, a symbol of eternal love."

"Sister Pledge Chaplain, you will lead the prayers of the pledges at their meetings as they ask Divine Guidance. The symbol of your office is the open Bible, a symbol of right living and guidance for all."

"Sister Pledge Secretary, the duties of your office are to keep the roll, the minutes of our meetings, and to conduct any correspondence for the Pledge Group. The symbol of your office is the pen, reminding you that you must keep accurate and legible records for those who follow in the future."

"Sister Pledge Guardian, your office is a very important one in our Pledge Group. It will be your duty to guard the pledge meetings against improper visitors and to see that the candidates are ready for their initiation. You will assist the Sister of Confidence during the Pledge Ceremony. The symbol of your office is the crossed swords, a symbol of security and protection."

"Sister Pledge Drill Leader, the duties of your office are to lead the drills and do the floor work with grace and dignity. The symbol of your office is the spear, the symbol of direction."

"Sister Pledge Musician, the duty of your office is to fill the air with the joy of music. The symbol of your office is the music note, a symbol that music is always needed to be happy."
"Sister Pledge Choir Director, the duty of your office is to lead the music of happiness. The symbol of your office is the harp, a symbol that when words fail, music will answer

"Sister Installing Marshal, you will conduct the Pledge Officers to their respective stations."

(Installing Marshal leads officers from the Altar, advancing east, north and west around the room, each officer dropping off as she reaches her station. Then, Installing Marshal resumes her station, but remains standing.)

(Once the new Officers are standing at their stations, one rap will seat them.)

Installing Pledge Sister: "Sister Installing Marshal, you will present the Pledge Mother at the Altar for Installation."

Installing Marshal: "Installing Pledge Sister, I present Mum _____who has been selected to serve _____ Pledge Group as Pledge Mother."

Installing Pledge Sister: "My Sister, your responsibility is a unique one in the life of your Grand Assembly and your Pledge Group. At the impressionable ages from six to eleven, our Rainbow Pledges see their first glimpse of the Rainbow in the clouds. You will have an opportunity to give these Pledges a feeling of what Rainbow can mean to every girl. We hope you will regard this honour and trust as most important, as the future of our Grand Assembly and local Rainbow Assemblies depends greatly on the impression you make at this time."

"The symbol of your office is the Pledge Mother's pin, which denotes protection and enlightenment. "

"Sister Installing Marshal, you will conduct the Pledge Mother to her station in the East."

(Installing Marshal leaves the Altar from the north, goes west, south and east to the Pledge Mother's station, then resumes her station, but is not seated.)

Installing Pledge Sister: "I now proclaim the officers of _____ Pledge Group duly installed for the ensuing term."

"Sister Installing Marshal, you will present our flag."

(This may be skipped if done on the same day as the Rainbow Installation. Installing Marshal goes around the room; west, north then east to the flag by the Chaplain, bows, picks up the flag and steps down in front of Pledge Sister.)

(Raps gavel three times as Marshal approaches the flag.)

Installing Pledge Sister: "You will join with me in singing one verse of O Canada."

(All stand at attention and sing the anthem. Marshal returns the flag by reversing the floor work.)

(After the flag is returned to its position, give one rap to seat everyone.)

Installing Pledge Sister: "Sister _____, I now hand to you the gavel; use it with fairness and justice to all."

(Newly installed Pledge Sister should share remarks that includes:

- *Acknowledgement of the Installing Team*
- *Introduction of family & friends*
- *Exciting plans or theme*
- *Other announcements*

She should consult the Pledge Mother regarding arrangements for this Installation.)

Pledge Sister: Are there any presentations to be made at this time?

Pledge Sister: *(three raps)* "Let us sing the Pledge song, 'Blest Be The Tie That Binds'."

(All join in song.)

Pledge Sister: "Sister Pledge Chaplain, you will attend the Altar."

(Chaplain goes to the Altar entering from the north, gives the Pledge Sign, closes the Bible, bows and returns to her station, leaving from the north. If the installation is open, sign is not used.)

Pledge Sister: "Please join with me in the Benediction."

All: "May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent, one from the other."

CROWNING CEREMONY

Installing Officer: "My dear girl, you stand here as a newly installed Pledge Sister, the leader of our Pledge Group. You are a role model for your fellow Pledges and will inspire them to follow you as you all give your time and talents to help others. As your Pledge Mother places the Crown on your head, always remember to be true to yourself and willing to help others. May you sparkle and shine with this Crown on your head and wear it with pride as you lead your Pledges in your meetings this term."

(Crown is placed on Pledge Sister's head by the Pledge Mother.)

MUSIC

Music is recommended at all Pledge meetings. Music creates a fun, upbeat, and welcoming atmosphere throughout the meeting, including and especially during Ritual ceremonies.

Appropriate songs might be:

- Pop songs or classic hits
- Songs with uplifting or positive messages (especially female empowerment ones!)
- Instrumental music
- Songs the girls enjoy
- Songs that relate to the meeting's theme
- Songs chosen by the Pledge Sister or Worthy Advisor
- Songs found on our website

Simple Bluetooth speakers can be loud enough to add this element to your meetings.

Not interested in making your own library? We've got some you can use today from any smartphone/device with wifi or data! Visit the link by using the QR code.