

MASONIC RIBBON CEREMONY

Who May Witness:	Open or closed meeting
Purpose:	To honor members of our Sponsoring Orders
Participants:	At least one Rainbow Girl Helper at end of ceremony, perhaps Charity or girl sitting near Charity's station
Paraphernalia:	Altar with white Bible <i>Ribbons about 7" long, 1 1/2" or 2" wide:</i> 3 ribbons, medium blue 3 ribbons, white 3 ribbons, yellow 3 ribbons, green 4 ribbons, red 1 ribbon, orange 1 ribbon, light blue 1 ribbon, indigo 1 ribbon, violet 1 ribbon, gold

This ceremony is designed to be given by an active Rainbow Girl on the occasion of a meeting with members of Sponsoring Order(s).

The member giving the ceremony should wear a formal. This ceremony must always be given by memory.

(The ceremony begins on the West side of the Altar with the Rainbow Girl facing East, after entering the Bow from South. She is holding the several ribbons in the proper order of the lecture.)

In the beginning, there was the Bible, the very center of life. We know the Bible on the Altar is always present in our Lodges, and is at the center of our Rainbow ceremonies. From this old, time-honored Book emanates the light of the Masonic precepts and it continually reminds us of God's perfect love.

Each member of our Masonic family plays an important role in promoting the lessons of faith, hope, and service that are found in the Bible and I will honor each organization this evening by placing their colors on our Altar.

(As the lecturer talks about each organization, she places their colors on the Altar in a circle around the Bible. The lecturer progresses around the Altar in clockwise fashion, ending by facing East in the starting position.)

First, we place the ribbons of **blue and white** to represent the Master Masons. It is fitting that they be the **first** to be represented because the Masonic Fraternity is the beginning. None of the other organizations within the Fraternal Family could have had their beginning without the Masons.

They have built and maintained a Temple in which we meet; they support us with their gifts and their service. Often we call them our "Dads" for it is from the Master Masons that we, of the Masonic Youth Groups, owe our heritage.

Let us next add the five colors representing the Order of the Eastern Star: **blue, yellow, white, green and red.** These are the rays of the Eastern Star from which comes the teachings of this Order and gives us guiding light on our path to right living. These are our mothers and other relatives in whose footsteps we are to follow.

The Order of the Amaranth, as a sponsoring order, has also given Rainbow a guiding hand, and with their support we are encouraged to reach for and maintain our goals. The colors of the Order of the Amaranth are **red and green.** We place the red to represent the crown and sword, and the green is for the amaranthine wreath.

The colors **yellow and white** represent the Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem. The White Shrine is a Christian order whose lessons of serving others are taught by the examples of the work of Christ and following in His footsteps.

The Rainbow Girls are represented by the seven colors of the Rainbow:

Red symbolizing love of home and family and others;

Orange representing having faith in a Supreme Being.

The color **Yellow** signifies respect for nature and the out of doors;

Green represents Immortality, the understanding of death as a part of life.

We add **Blue**, symbolizing Fidelity, and being honest and loyal and reliable.

Indigo represents Patriotism, being a good citizen and respecting our flag, and

Violet symbolizes Service to others and is the lesson that ties all others together.

Through these colors our Rainbow girls learn skills in leadership, confidence, and citizenship. They learn the joy of helping others and they learn the values that help them become the best daughter, sister, friend, student, and the best person they can be.

No family is complete without a son, and to complete our Masonic Family; we add the colors of DeMolay: **blue, red and gold.** They, too, play an important part in our family. The DeMolay youth are the future Masons on which the strength of our Masonic Family will depend in future years. No group could ask for better support than the assemblies of Texas receive from the DeMolay Chapters.

And now, as you behold the Altar, you will notice that a circle has been formed around the Bible. A circle is defined as an unbroken line. If even one small part is separated from the circle, the remaining part is no longer a circle, no longer strong and true, for it is broken. It has a gap in it. As it was once said, of a nation: "United we stand; divided we fall." Thus we compare our circle; we are strong and our future is bright before us, when we are united.

In our Masonic Family, at the center of our orders is the Altar, upon which rests our Bible, our Book of Faith. The center of our Fraternal Family circle is our belief in a Supreme Being, our God.

May these colors and this circle ever remind you of many things...friendship, love, unity, service, infinity and the blessings we enjoy as we are part of our Fraternal Family. Whatever word you choose to represent your part of the circle, there is always a center and that center is our God.

And, in the beginning there was the Bible.

(The Lecturer should take two steps back from the Altar, and another girl, perhaps Charity, or a girl sitting near Charity's station, should reverently gather the ribbons from the Altar and escort the Lecturer out of the Bow to the North.)