Dear Parents/Legal Guardian,

Welcome to IORG, The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, the only youth organization that teaches what matters most – leadership, confidence, and citizenship. Members between the ages of 10 and 20 come together to laugh, share, and grow through fun events, workshops, and volunteer opportunities. Along the way, your daughter will develop invaluable life skills.

IORG was created in 1922 for daughters of Freemasons and their friends. Now, girls from all backgrounds are welcome in IORG. A Masonic Reverend founded the organization and drafted most of our lessons and ceremonies, and while the principles and practices have been modernized as our society has evolved, the teachings of Love and Service remain a cornerstone of this dynamic girl’s youth group.

There is something genuinely special about a girl who gives back to her community. Likewise, schools and colleges believe in nurturing service-minded generations and now require community service hours. Our advisors help girls collaborate with each other to plan service projects and missions they are passionate about, providing the means to have ownership in how they impact their local community. IORG at its heart is an organization where we make a conscious effort to ensure girls can take responsibility for their projects. This model fosters empowerment and confidence in our members.

Whatever your daughter’s aspirations may be, our members learn that they can accomplish anything and that they can make a difference. We strive to give girls the tools, training, and encouragement to let their individual talents shine bright!

Sincerely,

Anne Needham
Supreme Inspector,
Connecticut IORG
Formal Meetings

Each assembly usually holds at least one formal meeting a month. Though each assembly meets independently, our Assembly meets on the ______ & ______ ______________ of each month; with the exception of July & August. For most of these meetings, each girl is asked to wear a white dress and white dress shoes. Occasionally there may be different themes or spirit nights for the meetings and your daughter might be invited to wear or bring something to participate. (Crazy Hair Night, Funny Tie Night, Favorite Stuffed Animal Night, etc.)

Informal Meetings

Each assembly usually holds one informal meeting a month. At these meetings the girls engage in different supplemental activities planned and voted on by the membership during formal meetings. The members may decide they want to make Valentines for the local nursing home, bake pies for a local soup kitchen, host an event for prospective members, or learn a new skill like using power tools. For these meetings, each girl is asked to wear casual business attire, although exceptions are sometimes made depending on the type of activity.

Local Assembly & Statewide Events

Each local assembly hosts events throughout the year. Assembly fundraisers or service projects may occur on weekends or weeknight evenings. Examples are car washes, bake sales, food drives, charity dinners, community clean up days, 5K charity walks, etc. Other statewide events may occur on weekends as well, like our annual convention called Grand Assembly, our annual retreat weekend, and our statewide summer picnic.

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Your daughter's Initiation may likely be the first time you'll witness a formal ceremony performed by our members. This traditional practice will introduce you and your daughter to the mission of our organization.

Initiation is an exciting day for your daughter as she becomes our newest member! She will see and hear a great deal of new information, and it could be a little overwhelming at times. There will be many new experiences and new people who are excited to welcome you into the IORG family. Everyone in attendance is there to be welcoming and supportive, and as you enjoy the ceremony, know that everything that is said is available for later reference in our ceremonies book.

As Initiation is one of our most formal ceremonies, similar to collegiate sororities, we ask that your daughter wear a white dress and white shoes for the occasion. We recommend that her shoes are comfortable as there are times where she will be walking and standing. The members performing the ceremony and all other initiates will be dressed the same way, while other guests attending in the audience will be wearing suits and dresses to honor the event.

It is so impactful when girls are able to share this day with their families, and we encourage you to be present with your daughter for this special occasion. Parents/Guardians, grandparents, and any masonic affiliated family or friends are welcome to attend. However, siblings or other extended family members who are not IORG members & alumni or other Masonic affiliated members are not able attend closed ceremonies.

Congratulations & Welcome to our organization!
Community Service

Assemblies conduct many service projects annually whether that be collecting items to donate, spending time volunteering, or raising funds to support a wide variety of worthy charities and organizations.

College entrance requirements are becoming more competitive and many universities now want to see students who are involved in their communities and invest time volunteering. That’s why joining IORG is an incredible investment in a girl’s future.

IORG Membership provides:

- community service hours, which are now a graduation requirement for many high schools
- opportunities for community engagement
- exposure to different careers and real world, hands on skills through volunteering

Scholarships

Our Masonic sponsors love to support the dreams and aspirations of their youth groups, especially when it comes to education. Participation in IORG provides members and alumni with many scholarship opportunities for students pursuing college degrees which are only available to Masonic affiliated youth.

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Dues for Membership are collected annually. This allows the organization to support engaging programs within our own communities as well as at the state and national levels. Our annual assembly dues are $______.

As our dress code is designed to teach girls how to dress for success as adults, your daughter will need a few dresses or skirts, dress slacks/khaki pants, and a white dress for formal meetings and other ceremonies. Please let us know at any time if providing these items is a financial burden. We have many of these items in pristine condition we’d love to give a new home.

**Local Assembly Events**

Each local assembly holds events throughout the year that may require a nominal fee for participation such as trips to trampoline parks, holiday light tours, bowling nights, ice cream socials, etc. At times members may also be asked to bring a snack to share. These are always optional events but we will never turn a girl away from the experience due to cost.

**Grand Assembly**

CT IORG holds an annual convention weekend at a hotel for the girls and advisors in March. The Grand Officers (state officers) showcase our formal ceremonies, and there are at times talent competitions, alumni presentations, and merchandise for sale as well as some free time to spend with their local assemblies. Many assemblies will hold fundraisers to help defray the cost.

**Rainbow Retreat**

A weekend retreat for our members to spend time together learning new skills in advisor facilitated workshops, engaging in team building exercises, and making connections with girls from different assemblies. Look out for registration and deposit information in our monthly CT IORG newsletter.
With a focus of getting girls ready for life, IORG is implementing protective policies to prevent harm to our youth, and to provide them with guidelines about setting and keeping appropriate boundaries, respecting themselves and others, recognizing inappropriate behaviors, and knowing when to take action.

The Supreme Executive Board of IORG has adopted the position that no child should ever come to harm at the hands of another person. Realizing the necessity of vigilance to safeguard the wellbeing of the youth of our organization, the Supreme Executive Board of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls hereby reaffirms our commitment:

- To maintain and enforce a no-tolerance policy against all forms of maltreatment, and to promote positive interactions throughout all levels of the organization
- To develop and maintain a comprehensive program of training to inform and educate girls, their leaders, and parents about youth protection issues, and to provide them with knowledge and resources for prevention and protection
- To implement stringent screening processes, including full background checks, for leaders, and maintain vigorous disciplinary procedures for anyone who violates this policy
- To establish and require strong reporting protocols consistent with applicable local laws
- To continue to develop policy and practice which assures the safety and wellbeing of our girls and creates an environment in which they may thrive

Accepted by the Supreme Executive Board of The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls on April 10, 2014. A full copy of our youth protection policy is available online and upon request.

www.gorainbow.org    www.ctiorg.org
When I joined IORG as an 11 year old girl, I never would have realized that my experiences with this organization would teach me skills that would help me become a successful adult. I felt a real sense of belonging in IORG, which was incredibly important to me. We enjoyed traveling to other Assemblies, meeting other girls, and organizing fundraisers.

As I look back now, I realize that the work we did in IORG also gave me self confidence. It was the first time in my young life that I was given the opportunity to give input and have ownership of decisions I made which would, in turn, impact others. I felt important. Then, being elected as Worthy Advisor in 2001 and appointed to a Grand Office at the state level in 2004 presented me with the chance to be in leadership roles, which I found to be incredibly beneficial experiences.

In addition to learning about commitment, collaboration, and responsibility, there were other lessons that I still think about to this day. I learned skills in public speaking and memorization, as we were asked to perform parts in the formal ceremonies, and I remember having to make quite a few speeches to groups large and small. I learned how to project my voice and how to stay strong under pressure. Learning to think and speak that way has been such a great skill I continue to utilize.

If any parent were to ask me if their daughter should join IORG, I’d say absolutely! The way this organization functions is kid-centered and gives its members exposure to so many fantastic experiences. It provides a great support system, it’s developmental, and it’s fun.

Liz Plasky was an IORG Member with Milford Assembly #4 in Milford, CT. She is currently an Assistant Principal and is pursuing her Doctorate in Educational Leadership.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Day O’Connor</td>
<td>US Supreme Court Justice, 1981 - 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jazmine Fenlator</td>
<td>2014 Jamaican Olympic Bobsled Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renee Guerin</td>
<td>Broadway Performer; Voice &amp; Speech Dept Chair, American Academy of Dramatic Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee Meriwether</td>
<td>Emmy Award Winning Actress, Miss America 1955</td>
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<td>Bobbie Shunk Gaunt</td>
<td>First Woman President &amp; CEO of Ford Motor Co. of Canada</td>
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<td>Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger</td>
<td>Science Teacher turned NASA Astronaut &amp; Aquanaut</td>
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<td>Cheryl Lau</td>
<td>Attorney General; Secretary of State, Nevada</td>
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<td>Lily Tomlin</td>
<td>Comedienne; Tony, Grammy, &amp; Emmy Award Winning Actress</td>
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<td>Donna Reed</td>
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<td>Janell Berté</td>
<td>Bridal Gown Designer</td>
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<td>Judith Craig</td>
<td>Bishop, United Methodist Church</td>
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Have a Girl Who’s Ready to Join?

Prospective Member’s Name: ___________________________

Our organization’s mission is to get girls ready for life. So let’s get girls and their parents ready to join us! Follow this handy checklist to make sure the prospective member and her parent(s)/guardian(s) are ready.

Have you….

- Shown the girl the Assembly room?
- Explained responsibilities for all members, like memorization, attendance at events, respect for all members and adults?
- Explained the hierarchy of the assembly, with older girls being elected and making decisions with the younger girls’ input?
- Shared the Welcome Packet with the girl & her family?
- Explained that our members wear white dresses for formal meetings and this includes when they get initiated?
- Discussed the dress code expectations for different types of events?
- Described the differences between formal meetings (closed) and informal meetings (open)?

Once all of these criteria have been met, you’re ready to schedule a “Meet & Greet” with the prospective member and her family to help her submit a membership application and get ready for Initiation.

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