

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS



Nevada Grand Assembly: Let's Chase the Adventure!

Mother Advisors,

Our Absolutely Ambitious Alligator Grand Officers and the Grand Assembly Committee are putting the finishing touches on what will be an amazing Grand Assembly Sessions. As we begin our registration process, I want to offer some suggestions regarding Grand Assembly registration, housing and logistics.

DELEGATE

First, I would encourage each of you to delegate the responsibility for coordinating the Assembly's registration and housing process to an Advisory Board member or an Assembly adult (or two). You will have plenty to do in the next 100 days, without adding this additional work for yourselves.

BE TIMELY AND ACCURATE

Next, I would encourage you and your respective points-of-contact for Grand Assembly to review the information provided by the Grand Assembly Committee, paying particular attention to the deadlines that have been set. These deadlines are firm and necessary to ensure we meet the deadlines established by the Peppermill. Please note that missed deadlines and changes made after the deadline will result in financial penalties to the Assembly. So, it is important to be timely and accurate.

If for some reason your Assembly will be unable to meet the established registration and housing deadlines, please contact the Registration and Housing Chairman, Ms. LeAnn Cox, prior to the deadline. She may be able to offer alternatives, which could reduce or eliminate the financial penalties.

REGISTRATION

Because our Grand Assembly Sessions are held in public venues, the Grand Executive Board (GEB) and the Grand Assembly Committee are always concerned about the consequences of "unknown" people attending our Grand Assembly Sessions. This concern extends to both open and closed sessions. In light of these ongoing concerns, the GEB established the following policy, which we will continue to adhere to:

- Only guests registered with Nevada Grand Assembly (and wearing a registration badge) will be admitted to the Grand Assembly room.
- **Non-affiliated siblings** (under the age of 20) of Rainbow members may attend open sessions with a proper "guest" registration badge and without payment of the registration fee; these guests should be included on the Assembly's registration form.
- **Guests who will be attending ONLY the Grand Banquet on Monday and the Monday evening session** will pay \$40, which covers the cost of the Grand Banquet and registration for this single session. These guests should be included on the Assembly's registration form.
- All others guests - parents, grandparents, legal guardians or affiliated adults - must pay the registration fee, as well as the applicable meal fees, and will receive an appropriate registration badge.

Rationale -- We don't want to discourage attendance by younger siblings or Pledge members by assessing a registration fee. While Nevada Rainbow recognizes 20 as the age of Majority for its members, the age of majority for males is 18, because at that age they are eligible to become Master

Masons and would, therefore, behave in an adult manner, be entitled to attend all sessions, etc. An "affiliated" registration badge is required to ensure that all adults, and specifically young adult males, are easily identifiable and admitted to sessions appropriate to their status.

MEALS

When registering for meals, please keep the following in mind:

- once we arrive at Grand Assembly, we do not leave the property (except for Fun Night and in case of an emergency);
- the Grand Assembly Committee has meal quotas that must be met to ensure we receive discounted rates in other areas, such as the resort fee, hotel rooms and convention space.

Please remember that Grand Officers and Pages will attend the Friday night meal (Grandie Party) free of charge. The adults attending this meal cover the costs – for themselves and the girls.

The Grand Assembly Committee has added a lunch on Sunday afternoon and a post session meal (taco bar) on Sunday evening. These additional meals are intended to assist assemblies – by providing a meal option to girls and adults who are unable to attend the Grand Cross luncheon (chaperoning can be a challenge for this meal because many adults are the Grand Cross luncheon) and providing a hot meal following Sunday's session, as well as some additional time for the girls (and adults) to visit, as a family.

Please keep in mind that the **Grand Banquet on Monday night requires advance reservations; additional tickets for this meal are often not available following the registration deadline.** The Grand Officers should ensure that their escorting adults register and pay for this banquet by the registration deadline. In an effort to prompt the girls to make these arrangements early, the Grand Officers will be asked to identify their escorts by the end of March.

RAINBOW TRAILS

As a reminder, beginning this year, guests will pre-order Rainbow Trails. This will ensure that we don't buy more copies than we need, which will save money and reduce paper wastage. Please share this information with your girls and adults, so they understand this is a change to the way this has been done in the past. Additionally, please do encourage your girls to order a copy of Trails; they are available for \$5, and much like a school yearbook, Trails contains lots of great information about Nevada Rainbow throughout the state, including some great ads – many of which are for the girls.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Grand Officers will be housed together, four to a room, unless otherwise notified. Grand Officer rooming assignments will be made by the Director of Grand Officers and myself, shortly before Grand Assembly. Personal Pages will be housed together on Friday night; please add this additional night of housing to their fees.

When making room assignments, please be mindful of the ages of the girls who will be rooming together. It could be awkward to have one older girl in room with younger girls, or vice versa. While it is good to have diversity in each room – age, years in Rainbow, etc., it is also important to ensure the girls feel comfortable and included within their group.

If you book a room with fewer than four girls, the full cost of the room must be shared equally among those girls and/or the Assembly. The Grand Assembly Committee is not responsible for "filling" Assembly hotel rooms. If you make those arrangements among yourselves, housing forms must clearly note those arrangements when they are submitted. Remember a fee will be charged for all housing changes made after the registration and housing deadline.

If your adult chaperone-to-girl ratio will be challenging, please partner with another assembly to ensure adequate coverage. If you are sharing chaperoning responsibilities with another assembly, please note that on your registration forms. This will alert the Registration Committee that it would be helpful to have your assemblies located in close proximity to each other (if the hotel can accommodate that request).

VISITING GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

If your Grand Representative's counterpart is attending our Grand Assembly, she should be invited to be housed with your assembly and included in all assembly activities during Grand Assembly, including meals, housing, and fun. Please remember our Grand Officers will be busy during Grand Assembly and will be relying on her Assembly to host her guest/s, ensuring she/they feel welcome and a part of our Nevada Rainbow family.

REFUNDS

Refunds are not available for registration fees. Refunds for unused meal tickets can be processed through the Grand Assembly Committee, only if those tickets are re-sold to other Grand Assembly guests. Hotel refunds are limited by the terms of our contract and amounts; full refunds are not available.

TRANSPORTATION

It is the responsibility of each Assembly to arrange its own transportation to and from Grand Assembly. If you are flying to Reno, the hotel does provide shuttle service to and from the airport, from 4 a.m. until 11:45 p.m.

All events will be held at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, with the exception of Fun Night, which will be held at the Aces Ballpark. If you are flying to Grand Assembly, please notify the Chairperson of Registration and Housing, so transportation assistance to and from the Aces Ballpark can be coordinated.

RELEASE FORM for GRAND ASSEMBLY

Mother Advisors and Grand Deputies must ensure this revised, single form is completed by all girls **and** adults attending Grand Assembly. These forms must be in the physical possession of the Mother Advisor (or designated adult) at all times – from the time you leave for Grand Assembly until your group returns home. This form is available on our website.

Additionally, please encourage your girls, as necessary, to prepare a list of medications they will be taking during Grand Assembly and place it in a sealed (confidential) envelope. This additional information may be useful to medical professional in case of an emergency. Once home, please return this envelope unopened to your member; she can then be responsible for disposing of it.

Grand Officers are to submit ONE COPY of their Release Form (and confidential envelope) to me upon their arrival at Grand Assembly on Friday afternoon, BEFORE practice starts. A SECOND copy must be provided to their Grand Deputy (or designated adult) with whom they are traveling. The Grand Deputy may transfer these documents to the Mother Advisor upon her arrival at Grand Assembly.

Members between the ages of 18 and Majority fall into a unique status – in the eyes of Rainbow, they are girls and their parents must complete and sign their release form. However, in the eyes of society (law/health insurance), these members are adults; therefore, these members must also sign a second set of (adult) authorization and release forms.

Girls and adults who are taking prescription medications during Grand Assembly should be traveling with those medications in their original containers, with the prescription label affixed. This will provide the accurate information to medical personnel.

COMPETITIONS

Scrapbooks are an important part of each Assembly's history. Assemblies should complete theirs and bring it to Grand Assembly to be enjoyed by others. *Specific information about when and where the judging will be completed will be announced prior to Grand Assembly.*

Entertainment is also a special part of Grand Assembly. Each assembly has been allocated three minutes for their presentation; the clock starts ticking as soon as the Assembly is announced, so please plan accordingly. Music for each assembly must be submitted to the Director of Music, Ms. Rachel Silver, **by April 1**. Changes to music at Grand Assembly are not acceptable. Ms. Silver will provide approval, via email, to each assembly through their adults once she has had an opportunity to carefully READ the words.

Skits, dances, presentations, COSTUMES, etc., must be presented and approved by each local Advisory Board and Grand Deputy prior to Grand Assembly.

Individuals who wish to share their **talents**, i.e., musical instruments, voice, dance, are encouraged and welcomed. Those who wished to share in this way should have contacted and tried out with Ms. Silver during RAINBOW CAMP. Individual talent presentations will be utilized as they fit into the overall program of Grand Assembly. Again, words to music, script for a monologue, costumes, etc. must be submitted and approved by Ms. Silver (at Camp); extemporaneous presentations will not be allowed.

Historically, **Assembly Banners** have been brought to Grand Assembly as a way of identifying each Assembly. Additionally, Assembly **posters** have been used to show support to Grand Officers, Pages, Grand Choir Members, and others. The Grand Assembly Committee has established the following guidelines for posters:

- ✓ No larger than 4' x 6' each
- ✓ Materials must be butcher paper or poster board
- ✓ No limit to the number each Assembly may display
- ✓ Must not use tacks or duct tape to hang
- ✓ Must be removed from the Grand Assembly Room following Tuesday morning's Session

WAYS AND MEANS

Many new and exciting Rainbow items will be available at the Ways & Means booth. And, beginning on Tuesday morning, items will be available with the NEW mascot. Please watch for additional information about Ways & Means in future updates and blast messages and please encourage your girls to bring some spending money so they can shop.

ADULTS: The Grand Assembly Committee will, as always, be seeking your assistance in terms of manpower for Ways & Means. Every assembly will need to provide adults; please be sure to pitch in when its time. This is a great spot for some of our Majority members who are not yet serving on the Advisory Board, etc.

SUGGESTIONS

If you have questions about Grand Assembly, please email, fax, or call me or the points of contact identified below. We are constantly striving to make our sessions fun, informative, entertaining, and not too long.... If you have suggestions – contact me now; we cannot make adjustments to the program or schedule after May 1st.

Forever Faithful,

Heidi