

LOOKING LIKE A NEVADA GRAND OFFICER

Do you remember the first Nevada Grand Assembly you attended? Were you mesmerized by the Grand Officers - awestruck with their poise, confidence, and ability to float across the Grand Assembly room? Throughout the history of Nevada Rainbow, Grand Officers have taken great pride in the honor of serving as a Grand Officer, performing their work exceptionally well, and maintaining the distinct look of a Nevada Grand Officer – the elegance, grace, and appropriate attire. The opportunity to carry on this Nevada tradition now rests with you.

Grand Officers are expected to comply with the NV IORG Clothing Guidelines, which is found in the Members section of the NV IORG web site, at ALL times. Additionally, Grand Officers should ensure they are always dressed in clean and pressed dresses (short or formal) and wearing appropriate nylons and shoes. Grand Officers should also ensure their hoops are clean, keeping in mind that the bottom and underside of a hoop skirt are visible each time a Grand Officer bows.

MAKE-UP: Moderate amounts of make-up provide a finishing touch for all women and accentuate their natural beauty. That being said, please do not over do!

FINGER NAILS: During non-Grand Assembly Rainbow events, nail length, nail polish and nail decoration may be worn. At Grand Assembly, nail length should be conservative and only extremely moderate, very light pink or natural nail color may be worn. White on white nail designs are acceptable, if they do not draw attention to themselves. Other embellishments are NOT permitted during Grand Assembly.

JEWELRY: Appropriate jewelry may be worn to Rainbow meetings. During Grand Assembly, Grand Officers may wear one, small, pearl or diamond type earring per ear. Additionally, during Grand Assembly, watches, nose rings, and tongue rings may not be worn. Grand Officers agreed (in 2008 and subsequent years) that NO visible facial piercings are acceptable at ANY Grand Assembly event, in any jurisdiction. Stud-type nose jewelry is “ok” at our Official Visits and Receptions provided it is not offensive to anyone.

BODY ART: At Leadership 2011, Grand Officers agreed that ONLY at regular Rainbow meetings/events (that are not an “official” event), girls do not need to cover a tattoo that is smaller than silver dollar size, UNLESS asked to do so by an adult (Grand Deputy or Mother Advisor). The Grand Officers also agreed that if a Grand Officer is asked, even once, to cover a tattoo, she will gladly cover it at this and every future Rainbow event. Tattoos must not be visible during Official Visits or Grand Assembly (practices or Sessions).

HAIRPIECES: Grand Officers should wear their hair up (in a hairpiece) when dressed in formal Rainbow attire and at all Grand Assembly practices. This includes initiations, installations, official visits, receptions, and presentations at Grand Chapter or before a sponsoring Chapter or Lodge.

Ideally, hair (both your hair and your hairpiece) should be ONE color; obvious stripes or patches of “contrasting” colors are not acceptable, especially during Grand Assembly when one of the goals and Nevada traditions is for Grand Officers is to be uniform in appearance. If you choose to experiment with hair color during the year, remember your hairpiece, which you will wear nearly every month of the year, must MATCH your hair.

Keep in mind the length hair needs to be to wear a hairpiece. Please wait until after Grand Assembly to explore a shorter hair length, and be sure it will be long enough for a hairpiece by the August official visits.

Many believe the "best" hairpiece currently available is the "shake and bake" hairpiece, which is available for purchase from several companies, including California Merchandizing, Rosette Wiglet, and Easihair. (More detailed information can be found in the Line Officer section of the NV IORG web site.)

Gel is your friend. Always have some with you when you are putting your hair in your hairpiece, and USE it. Being more casual at an Official Visit or an Installation is NOT acceptable if that means your hair has fly-aways, wisps of hair hanging out by themselves, etc.

UNDERGARMENTS: Two words: WEAR THEM! Wear appropriate length and color nylons. Knee-high or thigh-high nylons are acceptable under hoop skirts because pantaloons are being worn; suntan, beige, and nude are acceptable nylon colors. Also, ensure you have the proper bra for the dress being worn. It is very unattractive to see bra straps hanging out of a dress or blouse or to watch someone constantly adjusting her clothing due to improper under garments. Do not wear dark undergarments with a white or pastel gown. Look in a full-length mirror to make sure your undies (color or style) cannot be seen through your skirt or waist gathering in your hoop.

Grand Officers are expected to purchase and wear a long line bra at Grand Assembly, regardless of the style of the Grand Officer dress. Grand Officers are encouraged to wear this bra throughout the year, maximizing the investment over the course of time.

HOOP SKIRTS: When wearing a hoop, make sure the hoop is not over extended and the bones do not show through the skirt fabric. While many hoop skirts are made with ruffles to hide the bones, it may be necessary to place a net overskirt on top of the hoop if the bones show. Again, be sure your slip is clean; the underside shows from the back every time you bow AND when you are sitting in a bow station. Many Grand Officer choose to replace the little string used to tie a hoop skirt, which prevents it from coming untied, breaking, or leaving a permanent impression on your waist! One option is to make a waistband for the hoop skirt that can be secured with a button/button hole. Another option is to remove the drawstring from the waist of the hoop and replace it with elastic and a button/button hole.

PANTALOONS: Pantaloons must always be worn under a hoop skirt; pantaloons may be worn with a shift; pantaloons may never be worn with a t-shirt. Pantaloons need to be ankle-length; pantaloons do not need to be expensive, fancy or even cute. Pantaloons may not be pajama bottoms or sweat pants! Pantaloons are undergarments! DO NOT arrive or leave a function wearing a t-shirt and pantaloons - that is tantamount to a t-shirt and panties in public!

SHOES: Grand Officers have agreed to wear a uniform shoe during all formal Rainbow events. As of 2014, the Grand Officers agreed to migrate to Bob or Tom style shoes by Grand Assembly 2015; the shoes are to be solid white (including the sole) and without lace or bling.

Please be advised: these shoes can become quite odoriferous, especially if worn without nylons or socks. Soiled and/or smelly shoes should be washed or replaced as needed. It may be wise to travel with dryer sheets, which may be placed inside the shoes when they are not being worn, reducing any unpleasant smells.

DRESSES: With rare exception, if a Grand Officer is required to wear formal attire to a Rainbow or Masonic event, that includes a formal dress with a hoop, pantaloons, hairpiece, Grand Officer pins and Grand Cross (if a Master).

The only exception to this guideline is for Guests of Honor at a Reception who may choose a more “adult” straight long dress for their reception; this adult dress must comply with the Clothing Guidelines of Nevada Rainbow: not too tight, not too revealing, not too slit, and **with all undergarments, including nylons!** The honoree may wear a reasonable special hairstyle and shoes appropriate to the dress.

Cleavage at Rainbow is never a good thing! Please have the necessary adjustments made before someone like the Supreme Officer gasps.... If a dress needs to be continually “hiked” up, then it is cut too low. Consider an enhancing ruffle or putting it in the Rainbow closet for a smaller busted girl. Halter dresses are acceptable if the halter is WIDE and SECURE! Please also ensure the underarm area fits close to your body so there is no peek-a-boo or fall-out disaster waiting to happen!

Keep in mind that formal dresses must be in pastel or primary colors, or white. Formal dresses may not be black, brown, burgundy, dark blue or a fabric that looks black from a distance. Be careful with velvets; they often appear black when viewed across a room.

If there are concerns about the length of a skirt or the coverage of a top, consider bowing as your mom stands BEHIND and IN FRONT of you. If she hesitates to tell you it is ok, go back to the closet and try again!

Please check the tightness of your skirt; if it clings to your body or you need to tug it down when you sit/stand or bow - - try again! AT ALL TIMES, all clothing should be clean, PRESSED and in good repair, without tears, missing buttons, pinned shoulders, **odors**, etc. Put your nose to the underarm of the garment you are about to put on - and take a deep breath... You will know if the garment needs to be laundered/cleaned before you wear it!! If your cotton type garments continue to have an underarm odor, spray that area with WHITE VINEGAR prior to washing it – white vinegar neutralizes offensive odor without leaving you smelling like a salad!!

Grand Officer Pins (and the GWA pin and Proficiency pin) are worn on the left, above your heart, on the pin-on the GWA will make for you. Traditionally Grand Officers don't wear all their other pins, but store them on their "brag" rag/ribbon. Wear your Grand Officer pin with pride to EVERY Rainbow meeting; check it occasionally to be sure the clasp functions properly. Contact the Supreme Officer immediately if you lose your pin; replacement pins cost \$20 each; checks are to be made payable to Nevada Grand Assembly. Store your pins with your Grand Cross and other Rainbow paraphernalia – then everything you need for a meeting will be in the same place!

Grand Cross Medallion: If you are a Master of the Grand Cross of Color, ensure the ribbon is clean, pressed, and in good repair. (A safety pin "clasp" is not acceptable!) Do not place anything on the ribbon other than the medallion. Wear your Grand Cross Medallion at all Rainbow functions, including meetings (formal or otherwise), official visits, receptions in this or any jurisdiction, and when visiting a Lodge or Chapter meeting representing Rainbow. Do not wear your Grand Cross to practices (other than at Grand Assembly), fun activities, or Rainbow Camp. Tuck it inside your blouse when going to and from Rainbow meetings.

Mascots have traditionally been a part of Nevada Grand Assembly and expect to be taken as Grand Officers travel. Don't be guilty of "mascot-abuse." Transporting your mascot ultimately is your responsibility, not your Trailer's (and not your mom's)! YOU will be doing the bowing if you forget your mascot!