



The mission of The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG) is to prepare girls for responsible and purposeful adulthood through character and leadership development, encouraging unselfish service and higher ideals in life, promoting teamwork and effective interpersonal communications. Founded in McAlester, Oklahoma in 1922 by Past Grand Master and Past Grand Patron Reverend W. Mark Sexson, IORG has long sought to teach the lessons of life to girls through meaningful and enjoyable activities. As girls engage in fun activities and beautiful ceremonies, they learn about citizenship, about family and friendship, loyalty, compassion, charity, ethics and fairness. Through their involvement in Rainbow activities, they learn confidence and improve their communication skills.

While serving as the Secretary of the McAlester Scottish Rite Bodies, Rev. Sexson also worked with the Red Cross in the war efforts on the home front during the First World War. Rev. Sexson opened the doors of the McAlester Scottish Rite Temple to the young girls of the community who assisted in these efforts. By the time the war was over, the Scottish Rite Temple had become a fraternal home for the girls, a place where they felt welcome and enjoyed visiting. With the support and encouragement of his Masonic and Eastern Star colleagues, Rev. Sexson created the Rainbow Ritual, and the degrees were first conferred by the members of South McAlester Chapter No. 149, OES, on a class of 171 girl on April 6, 1922.

Rainbow is based on the principles of Faith, Hope and Charity and centered on the teachings of Love, Religion, Nature, Immortality, Fidelity, Patriotism and Service which are represented by the seven colors of the Rainbow. Through bi-monthly meetings and activities, girls also learn standard meeting protocol and parliamentary procedure. Adults are always present to provide support and guidance. Members identify and commit thousands of volunteer hours working on service projects ranging from visiting children's hospitals, distributing school supplies to volunteering at pet rescue and adoption facilities.

IORG is a 501c3 non-profit service organization for girls between the ages of 10-21. Rev. Sexson sought to develop an organization where young women could build self-confidence and leadership skills, all while working in their community. The organization also promotes love and respect to their school, their family and to each other.

IORG also teaches girls to be part of a team, to successfully communicate with each other and to trust members. Rainbow groups are divided into assemblies with each assembly presided by a girl. Each assembly has an adult acting as their primary advisor with a board of interested adults to assist primarily with the adult business affairs of the assembly. It is a primary goal for our girls to have positive role models and mentors, so that our older girls can assist the newer members of the assembly as they grow and develop.

The Order prepares the girls of today to be the leaders of tomorrow. The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls teaches leadership skills and public speaking. It builds self-respect, confidence, poise, patriotism, fidelity, integrity and character, all while in a fun and safe

environment for girls to meet other girls and to build friendships throughout the world that will last a lifetime.