

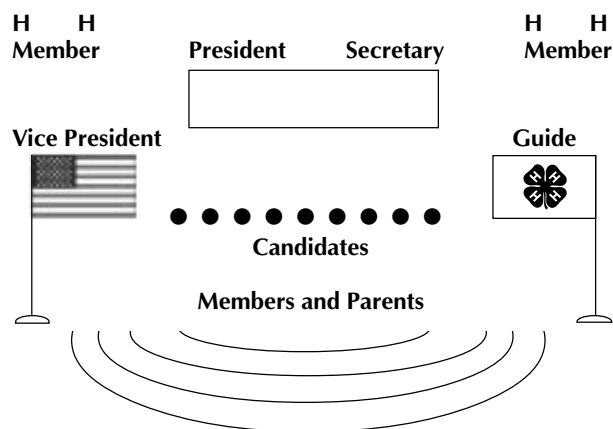
## 4-H SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

# 4-H CEREMONIES

## INITIATION CEREMONY

One way to welcome new members at the first meeting and to make them feel a part of the group is to have an initiation ceremony. It acquaints the members and their parents with the purpose and symbols of 4-H and what is expected of 4-H members.

*President:* We are happy to welcome \_\_\_\_\_ (name of new members) who want to join the \_\_\_\_\_ (club name) 4-H club. Would \_\_\_\_\_ (name of member) please present the candidates for membership for initiation? (A guide conducts the candidates to the front of the room where they stand facing the president and the participants.)



### Suggested Arrangement for Initiation Ceremony

*President:* Before you accept the responsibility of 4-H membership we want you to know about the purpose of 4-H and the meaning of the symbols which represent the 4-H program. If each of us as a 4-H member were asked what 4-H is, each one might have a different answer. Some might say, "It's fun," or "It's learning new skills," or "It's making friends by working and playing together." Someone else might say, "It's the opportunity to be part of a group which does interesting and worthwhile things."

4-H is all of these. The purpose of 4-H is to help us to be better citizens by teaching us how to work and play together, by giving us a means of learning worthwhile skills, by developing our talents, and by

encouraging us to set high standards and goals. The 4-H program is a part of Washington State University's Extension program. It is conducted in each county in the state under the guidance of county Extension agents working with local 4-H leaders. Any boy or girl age 5 and in kindergarten through 12th grade who has not reached age 19 by Jan. 1 of the current 4-H year, regardless of race, color, or national origin, may become a 4-H member.

*President:* \_\_\_\_\_ (name of member) will tell you about our 4-H emblem.

*Member:* The emblem of 4-H is a green, four-leaf clover with four white H's, one on each leaf, standing for the development of the head, heart, hands, and health.

*Member:* As the first "H," I represent the head or the mind. 4-H provides many opportunities for us to think, plan, and reason. As 4-H members we pledge our heads to think clearly.

*Member:* I represent the heart "H." 4-H members pledge their hearts to greater loyalty to their club, community, country, and world. A good citizen is concerned about others, is kind and sympathetic.

*Member:* I am the third "H." I represent the trained hand, dedicated to the development of my talents and skills and to the service of others. If we as 4-H club members were to do merely what the head and heart would have us do, but without learning to use our hands, most of our talents would remain undeveloped. Our education would be one-sided. We would be able to think but not do. Thus, the third H becomes a necessary part of our emblem and our lives.

*Member:* I am the fourth "H," health. Without health you cannot do the work the other three H's would have you do. Health represents one of the great powers in your life. With health the hardest task will be made easy and the heaviest loads light. With my help you will be able to think more clearly, you will be kinder to those about you, and you will do your work easily and well.

*President:* The green of the emblem symbolizes life, youth, and growth. The white is for purity and high ideals.

The 4-H motto, "To make the best better" encourages members to try continually to improve. \_\_\_\_\_ (name of member) will explain what is expected of 4-H members.

*Member:* Our 4-H club wants every member to feel that he or she is joining something worthwhile. You will gain the most from 4-H if you attend meetings regularly, participate in the program, and develop leadership and project skills.

*President:* Now that you have learned something about 4-H, do you wish to become a member?

*New Member:* Yes, I do.

*President:* You will sign the roll of membership, after which you will receive instructions in the club pledge. (Candidates move in front of secretary.)

*Secretary:* (Secretary offers membership roll and candidates sign it; then, hands each candidate a copy of the 4-H pledge.) This is our 4-H pledge. Each member should learn it in order that he or she may be able to renew it at each club meeting. This pledge is given as follows: (Secretary gives pledge in illustration.) You will now repeat the pledge in unison with the other club members. (President gives three taps; all rise and give club pledge. Candidates move over in front of president.)

*President:* I wish to congratulate you and advise you that the leader and officers of your club will always be willing to assist you in your 4-H activities. (To guide) Please conduct the new members to their seats. (Guide takes new members to their seats.)

## CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

Lights will be out except for lighted clover. Music will be playing softly as members enter the area. When all are in place, ceremony leader begins.

*Ceremony Leader:* Candlelighting is always associated with the beautiful and sublime. There is connected with it much of idealism and inspiration.

If we were asked to express what 4-H means to us, each of us might tell a different story. Many would find it difficult to put into words their real feelings.

This is often true of things that mean a great deal to us. When words seem inadequate, we symbolize as beautifully as we can that which we want to express. It is such a symbolic description that we are about to present tonight.

*Ceremony Leader:* From a small beginning, near the turn of the century, 4-H has spread throughout the United States and to many other countries.

4-H can be compared to a magnificent fire that is constantly being nurtured with the work of young men and women like us. The growth, expansion, and betterment of 4-H is world-wide since many nations now share in it.

I now light the flame which represents the spirit of 4-H. (Light large candle on table in front of Ceremony Leader.)

Head "H," would you approach and light your candle?

*Head:* I pledge my head to clearer thinking. (Lights candle from leader's candle and returns to place.) I would study and observe with an open mind in order that I may learn from life and books to speak with knowledge, act with good judgment, and grow in wisdom.

*Ceremony Leader:* Heart "H," would you approach and light your candle?

*Heart:* I pledge my heart to greater loyalty. (Lights candle from that held by Head and returns.) I would be loyal to my family, my friends, my country, and my ideals.

In my relations with others, I would be sympathetic and kind, thus enriching my own life with understanding, faith, and confidence in mankind.

*Ceremony Leader:* Hand "H," would you approach and light your candle?

*Hand:* I pledge my hands to larger service. (Lights candle from that held by Heart and returns to place.) May I so train my hands that difficult tasks will find me deft and skillful, that routine duties will be done well and efficiently, that I may serve others and find joy in my work.

*Ceremony Leader:* Health "H," would you approach and light your candle?

*Health:* I pledge my health to better living (lights candle from that held by Hand and returns to place) that I may be a useful citizen, doing my part fully and well. I would guard as a valued possession my good health.

*Ceremony Leader:* That the 4-H light may spread and grow, the four "H"s will bring the light to you. Cherish your light and spread it to others near you until all the candles are aglow.

(While the candles are being lighted, an appropriate song may be sung, or music played softly as "I Am 4-H" is read.)

*Ceremony Leader:* Lift high the 4-H candle which you have made alight as we repeat the 4-H pledge in the stillness of the night.

I pledge my head, etc.

You have now received a 4-H light. I charge you to guard and protect it that it may ever light the way to better understanding. May the knowledge and inspiration which you have received become an important part of your life and those with whom you share it.

As you now leave, carry your 4-H light in your hearts. Share it with other boys and girls so that they may have the privileges of 4-H.

### **I Am 4-H**

I am 4-H.

I am symbolic of the quiet valleys and the gentle meadows in which I was born.

I am a four-leaf clover, in verdant green on a pure white field.

I was an idea that germinated and threw out its first green roots around the turn of the century.

From a small beginning, I blossomed into the four-fold development of head, heart, hands, and health.

I drew my first breath in the resolve of responsible men and women to help American youth.

Nurtured by the farm, I now embrace the busy city. My goal is to learn, and my testament—to learn by doing.

I am 4-H.

Over 5 million boys and girls are under my wing. Almost 40 million alumni sing my praises and have walked my way in by-gone years.

More than 500,000 volunteer leaders help me guide

today's youth in 200,000 organized 4-H groups. My voice is heard in Congress and the President of the United States knows my name.

I am democracy in action, I am a citizen in the making. I am 4-H.

I am old, yet I am forever young.

I am local, I am state, yet my philosophy has gone around the world.

I am the International 4-H Youth Exchange, a worker in the Peace Corps.

I am an explorer of careers and a student of public affairs.

I am hand-in-hand with the United States Department of Agriculture, the land-grant university, my county government, my unselfish local volunteer leader, and the great industries of our nation.

I am 4-H.

I am a girl with a lamb, a boy with his 4-H garden project.

I am a youngster spending his or her first night away from home at county camp, listening in wide-eyed excitement to a story at the campfire.

I am a knock at the door to get out the vote, A future scientist, or a little girl's first cake.

I am a boy giving his award-winning demonstration in state competition.

A 4-H girl, preparing to be a future homemaker by displaying her yeast rolls, her canned fruits, and her sewing ability.

I am a boy with a service dog.

Vesper services at county camp, or candlelighting ceremony at State 4-H Conference.

I am a 4-H'er teaching others by doing.

I am a boy attending 4-H Congress.

A girl preparing to leave Pullman after a hectic, but inspirational week at State 4-H Teen Conference on the Washington State University campus.

I am a 4-H horsewoman turned 4-H hostess for a county luncheon. A livestock 4-H'er winning that coveted purple ribbon on her champion 4-H steer.

I am a 4-H club urging everyone to conserve our natural resources.

I am 4-H.

I am a growing thing, planted by great educators, cultivated by parents and leaders, nurtured by 4-H club members.

My roots go deep, my ideals high.

I have faith in youth, I shall spend my future in serving youth.

In quest of the pattern of life, I bow my head in

church and with confidence look to the days that lie ahead of me.

To this end I have pledged my head, heart, hands and health—to greater loyalty, larger service, clearer thinking and better living for my home, my club, my community, my country, and my world.

And, with God's help I will be a finer woman or a better man.

I am 4-H.

## OFFICER INSTALLATION CEREMONY

### **PRESIDENT:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Past President, present you, \_\_\_\_\_, newly elected President, with this (officer pin, red carnation, etc.) as a sign of your office. As presiding officer of the \_\_\_\_\_ (club name) 4-H Club, many obligations and responsibilities will be yours. You will preside at meetings and will be ready at any time to give your services for the best interests of your Club. You must protect its good name and strive always to further its ideals and purpose. Do you accept the responsibilities of this position?

I, \_\_\_\_\_, President of the \_\_\_\_\_ (club name) 4-H Club. present you, \_\_\_\_\_, Past President, with this (officer pin, white carnation, etc.) as a token of our appreciation for a job well done.

### **VICE PRESIDENT:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Past Vice President, present you, \_\_\_\_\_, newly elected Vice President, with this (officer pin, red carnation, etc.) as a sign of your office. As Vice President, you will familiarize yourself with the duties of the presidential office and will be ready to act in that capacity at any time in the absence of the president. You will strive in every way to aid in promoting our 4-H program. Do you accept the responsibilities of this position?

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Vice President of the \_\_\_\_\_ (club name) 4-H Club, present you, \_\_\_\_\_, Past Vice President, with this (officer pin, white carnation, etc.) as a token of our appreciation for a job well done.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
 EXTENSION

Issued by Washington State University Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in furtherance of the Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin; physical, mental or sensory disability; marital status, sexual orientation, and status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Trade names have been used to simplify information; no endorsement is intended. Reprinted June 2004. Subject code 839. A.

### **SECRETARY:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Past Secretary, present you, \_\_\_\_\_, newly elected Secretary, with this (officer pin, red carnation, etc.) as a sign of your office. As Secretary, you will keep the membership roll and a complete record of what takes place at each meeting. Do you accept the responsibilities of this position?

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary of the \_\_\_\_\_ (club name) 4-H Club, present you, \_\_\_\_\_, Past Secretary, with this (officer pin, white carnation, etc.) as a token of our appreciation for a job well done.

### **TREASURER:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Past Treasurer, present you, \_\_\_\_\_, newly elected Treasurer, with this (officer pin, red carnation, etc.) as a sign of your office. As Treasurer, you will be entrusted with all money of the Club and will keep an accurate record of all receipts and expenditures. We will depend on you to have this important data available whenever it is needed. Do you accept the responsibilities of this position?

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer of the \_\_\_\_\_ (club name) 4-H Club, present you, \_\_\_\_\_, Past Treasurer, with this (officer pin, white carnation, etc.) as a token of our appreciation for a job well done.

**TO ALL OFFICERS:** As Club officers you have been chosen to guide and direct the \_\_\_\_\_ (club name) 4-H Club. I know that you will live up to the trust that has been placed in you. You will be largely responsible for the Club spirit, for its progress, and its faithfulness to the principles and ideals of 4-H Club work.

**TO CLUB MEMBERS:** You Club members have as your responsibility to assist and aid, in every way possible, these officers whom you have chosen for your organization.

Follow up with introduction of new members and the presentation of member pins.

