

## Masonic Ribbon Ceremony

(Room is darkened as lecture begins back of the Altar facing East)

In the beginning, there was the Bible. It is the center of life, and we will represent this center of life by placing a light on our altar (altar light is turned on), which is the center of our Masonic organizations. Each member of our Masonic family plays an important part. I will represent each organization this evening by placing their colors on our altar.

(Place each colored ribbon approximately 3-4" in length, with a pause, on the altar in a circle around the bible, using pauses and deliberate speech for effect. The lecture progresses around the altar in clockwise fashion, ending by facing East in the starting position.)

First, the blue and white to present the Master Masons. It is fitting that they be the first to be represented for they are the beginning. None of the other organizations could have begun without them. They have built and maintained a Temple for all of us to meet in. We call them our "Dads", for it is from the Master Masons that we of the Masonic Youth Groups owe our heritage.

Add the colors of the Royal Arch Masons: blue, purple, scarlet and white. The organization meeting in the temple is giving us their loyal support, and in return, we will give them our love.

Let us next add the five colors representing the Order of the Eastern Star. Blue, yellow, white, green and red are the rays of the star and a star gives us guiding light. They are our mothers, in whose footsteps we are to follow.

The Order of the Amaranth has given us a guiding hand, and with their help we maintain our goals. Add now the colors of red and green. The red represents a crown and sword, and the green is for the amaranthine wreath.

We add now the colors of the Job's Daughters: purple and white. There is great work for Job's Daughters to do. They must strive to learn, and as they learn, they teach others the ways of God. They are the daughters whom the Masons have faithfully guided through the years. Job's Daughters look for a worthy inheritance that they may truly say: "We hope to be known as the Fairest in all the Land."

The Rainbow Girls represented by the seven colors of the Rainbow. Red symbolizing Love, Orange symbolizing Religion, Nature symbolized by Yellow, Immortality represented by green, Blue symbolizing Fidelity, Indigo representing Patriotism and Service symbolized by Violet. A Rainbow Girl learns to dedicate her current and future life to one of active service as exhibited by the culmination of the Great White Light which rests upon the Altar of her Assembly. The Rainbow Girls enrich their communities by their outstanding volunteerism and contributions to those in need.

No family is complete without a son, and to complete our Masonic Family, we add the colors of DeMolay: blue, red and gold. They, too, play an important part in our family. They are the future Masons on which the strength of our Masonic Family will depend in future years.

And now, as you behold the Altar, you will notice that a circle has been formed around the Bible. A circle is defined as an unbroken line. It is also made up of arcs. If one arc is separated from the circle, the remaining part is no longer a circle, for it has a gap in it. It was once said of a nation: "United we stand; Divided we fall."

So may we compare this nation and this state with our circle. A circle means many things...friendship, love, unity and infinity. Whichever word you choose to represent your circle, it must have a center, and that center is God.

(Bow slightly and depart South toward Hope's station back to your place in the room)