

Club Ceremonies

New Member Induction

This ceremony can be used to induct one or more new 4-H members during the new business portion of a club meeting. The new member(s) will receive a membership card.

President: Today we are happy to welcome (name-s) as a new member(s) of our 4-H club. Will our new member(s) please come forward?

New member(s): Walk to front of room and stand next to President facing the rest of the club.

President: 4-H members set high goals, think things through and carryout their plans enthusiastically. We care about others and strive to serve our communities in any way we can. 4-H members enjoy working on projects and learning new skills. We protect our health and follow safety rules in all our activities.

4-H members are loyal to one another; we respect our leaders and follow the 4-H code of conduct.

Are you willing to uphold these standards of 4-H membership?

New member: Yes

President: Do you promise to take an active part in 4-H meetings and activities, to pay your dues and complete jobs you agree to do responsibly and on time?

New member: Yes

President: Since it is your intention to be an active and reliable 4-H member I welcome you into the (club name) and present you with this membership card and 4-H button. Congratulations!

Installation of 4-H Club Officers

This ceremony may be adapted as appropriate for your club. The club's Organizational Leader usually installs 4-H Club Officers. However, larger clubs may want to invite a special guest with close ties to 4-H to preside.

Supplies needed: five candles about six inches long, your club's 4-H Flag, an American Flag
(At the beginning of the ceremony, the leader lights the candles and returns to the center.)

Leader: "This flame of leadership is burning brightly and it is now time for this light to be passed to the new leaders of our club. New officers, the success of our club during the coming year lies largely in your hands. If you sincerely try to live up to the 4-H club motto 'To Make the Best Better' as you learn and carry out your duties, you will become good leaders and our club will have a successful year. Will the

president-elect step forward to receive his (her) candle?" (The retiring and new presidents walk to the center in front of the leader. The retiring president hands his candle to the new president.)

Retiring President: "I present you with this candle as a symbol of your office. I hope that it will give you light as you lead this club. Will you attend and preside at meetings regularly, appoint committees, and give all members a chance to take part in club decisions and activities? Will you work under the direction of our leader to plan and carry out a program all members can enjoy?"

New President: "I will." (The new president returns to his original position. The retiring president walks to a seat in the audience. The same procedures are followed for all officers. Scripts for the remaining retiring officers follow.)

Retiring vice president: "As vice president, you will serve as program chairman. You will preside at meetings when the president is absent and assist the president when needed. I present you with this candle to light your way as vice president. Will you accept these responsibilities?"

Retiring Secretary: "As secretary you will help the president prepare for club meetings, keep the membership roll, compile an accurate set of minutes for each meeting and fulfill all other duties listed in the Secretary's Handbook. I now pass on to you the 4-H candle of loyalty, and devotion. Will you accept the responsibilities of this office?"

Retiring Treasurer: As treasurer you will keep accurate records of our club's money and how it is spent. You will collect and record dues paid and pay bills approved by the membership. You will be ready to report on our income and expenses at all meetings. This candle represents the trust we have in you. Will you accept the responsibilities of this office?"

Retiring Reporter: Keeping the public informed is important to the life of our club. Your news stories will be windows through which they will look at 4-H. Will you make a report of each meeting for the newspaper promptly, being sure that all names are spelled correctly and proper credit is given to all persons taking part in the program? Will you accept this candle as a symbol of your duties as reporter and carry them out to the best of your ability?"

Retiring Recreation Leader: Some work and some play must balance each day. As recreation leader you will help us achieve that balance. I present you with this candle as a symbol of fun and friendship. Will you be prepared to lead games enthusiastically at each club meeting? Will you learn new games and find other ways for our club to enjoy fun times together?

Leader: "I now declare the new officers of the _____ 4-H Club to be duly installed and ready to serve. I congratulate you on your choice and remind you that it is your duty to support and encourage them. You must work with them at all times for the good of the club. They cannot carry out their duties as officers unless they have your cooperation. Our new president will now lead us in the 4-H Pledge."

The ceremony concludes after the club recites the 4-H Pledge.
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