

Initiation Ceremony

Directions: A guide takes the candidate for 4-H club membership to the front of the room, where the officers are standing behind a table.

President: To you who are about to become an active member of _____ 4-H Club, we wish to explain the purposes of our organization.

Vice President: Our 4-H club is a part of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and is directly affiliated with the Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, in Washington, D.C. 4-H clubs are organized to help us become better citizens in a democracy by teaching us how to work and play together; by giving us an opportunity to learn about agriculture, family and consumer sciences, science and technology; by helping us to solve our own problems; by teaching us ways of giving service to others in our communities; and by giving us an understanding and appreciation of the American way of life.

Secretary: Our emblem is the green four-leaf clover, with a white H on each leaf which stands for the development of the Head, Heart, Hands and Health. Our motto is "To Make the Best Better."

Treasurer: This 4-H Club wants every person who joins to know that he or she is joining a national organization with headquarters in the United States Department of Agriculture. Our county and state Extension workers cooperate with those in all of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and other territories in making 4-H a worthwhile youth organization.

President: You are now familiar with the purposes of 4-H club work, the motto, and the emblem and what it symbolizes. Are you willing to try to live up to the ideals of the 4-H club organization?

Candidate: I am.

President: Do you now wish to become a 4-H club member?

Candidate: I do.

President: You will sign the 4-H club roll. (Candidate signs in secretary's book.)

President: You will repeat the club motto pledge after me. (Candidate repeats after president.)

In support of the 4-H motto, To Make the Best Better, I pledge -

My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to Larger Service, and
My Health to better living,
For my club, my community, my country and my world.

President: You are now a member of 4-H club. I welcome you into its membership. May you ever be faithful in helping to carry on the 4-H program work as a part of the general Extension program of your community and county in partnership with your parents and neighbors and in living up to its high ideals as expressed in the 4-H Club motto and pledge. (President may present membership card or other token of membership.)

Officer Installation Service for 4-H Clubs

Officers

Installing Officer

President _____
First Vice-President _____
Second Vice-President _____
Third Vice-President _____
Council Delegate _____
Secretary _____
Treasurer _____
Reporter _____
Parliamentarian _____

(As the ceremony begins, a large candle located in front of the installing officer is lit. Each officer holds an unlit candle.)

As elected officers of your club, you have been entrusted by your fellow members to faithfully execute your duties to carry out the business of the _____ 4-H Club. With this in mind, are you ready to receive your charge for your elected offices? (Response: "We are.")

(New President-Elect comes forward and lights candle.)

_____, as president-elect of the _____ 4-H Club, your fellow members have honored you by showing their faith in your leadership abilities. This honor, however, carries with it certain duties and responsibilities. Are you ready to receive these? (Response: "I am.")
Then repeat after me.

"As president of the _____ 4-H Club, (response) I will arrange with the assistance of the club manager a meeting place for my club. (response) I will remind and encourage each person on the program to be prepared for the meetings. (response) I will preside at all meetings and prepare planned agendas for each meeting. (response) I will appoint committees as needed; (response) and use basic parliamentary procedure to conduct effective orderly meetings." (response)
I will coordinate the activities of officers, leaders and committees to ensure maximum member involvement in club activities. (response) I will represent the _____ 4-H Club on the county council and fulfill the responsibilities of the council delegate. (response)

I now declare you officially President of the _____ 4-H Club.

(First Vice-President elect lights candle.)

_____ as First Vice-President elect of the _____ 4-H Club, your fellow 4-H members have displayed their confidence in your leadership abilities. Are you ready to accept your responsibilities? (response - "I am.")

Then repeat after me. As First Vice-President of the _____ 4-H Club, (response) I will preside at meetings in the absence of the president. (response) I will act as program chairman for my club to secure educational and interesting programs with assistance from the program committee advisor in my club. (response) I will assume all responsibilities of the president if that office is vacated. (response)

You are now officially the First Vice-President of the _____ 4-H Club.

(Second Vice-President elect lights candle.)

_____ as Second Vice-President elect of the _____ 4-H Club, your fellow members have recognized your leadership abilities. Are you ready to accept you responsibilities? (response - "I am.")

Then repeat after me. As Second Vice-President of the _____ 4-H Club, (response) I will preside at meetings in the absence of the president and first vice-president. (response) I will serve as recreation chairman for my club and plan recreation for each club meeting. (response) I will also plan special social activities for the club. (response)

You are now officially installed as Second Vice-President of the _____ 4-H Club.

(Third Vice-President elect lights candle.)

_____ as Third Vice-President elect of the _____ 4-H Club, you have been selected as a leader in this club. Are you ready to accept your responsibilities? (response- "I am.")

Then repeat after me. As Third Vice-President of the _____ 4-H Club, (response) I will serve as membership chairman and recruit and enroll new members. (response) I will also serve as a member of the executive committee and plan programs and activities of interest to all members. (response)

You are now officially installed as Third Vice-President of the _____ 4-H Club.

(Council Delegate lights candle.)

_____ as Council Delegate elect, you have been chosen by your fellow 4-H members for your leadership. Are you ready to accept your responsibilities? (response - "I am.") Repeat after me. As the Council Delegate of the _____ 4-H Club, I will attend all county council meetings (response) and report local club activities and recommendations at the county council meetings. (response) I will report back to the _____ 4-H club on county council activities, recommendations, and reports. (response) I will serve on county-wide committees as appointed by the county council chairman. (response) I will also recruit other club members for county-wide committees. (response)

You are now officially the Council Delegate of the _____ 4-H Club.

(Secretary elect lights candle.)

_____ as secretary elect of the _____ 4-H Club, your fellow members have put their faith in your talents and skills. Are you ready to accept your responsibilities? (response - "I am.") Then repeat after me. I will keep the _____ 4-H Club secretary's guide and keep an accurate

up-to-date roll with attendance records for each member. (response) I will record complete and accurate minutes of all meetings and read the minutes of each meeting. (response) I will handle incoming and outgoing correspondence for the club. (response)

In receiving the secretary's guide of the _____ 4-H Club you now officially hold the office of secretary.

(Treasurer elect lights candle.)

_____ as treasurer-elect of the _____ 4-H Club, your fellow 4-H members have put their faith and trust in your abilities to handle their financial matters. With this honor, certain responsibilities must be fulfilled. Are you ready to accept these? (response "I am.") Then repeat after me. I will keep accurate, up-to-date records of all receipts and expenditures of club funds (response) and the balance on hand in the club treasury. (response) I will pay bills as approved by the club (response) and give a report of the _____ 4-H Club's financial condition at each meeting or as requested by the president. (response) I will with the aid of the club manager arrange for money to be kept safely. (response)

With the presentation of the treasurer's book, you are now officially the treasurer of the _____ 4-H Club.

(Reporter elect lights candle.)

_____ as reporter elect of the _____ 4-H Club, your fellow 4-H members have honored you by putting their faith a trust in your abilities. Are you ready to receive your duties? (response - "I am.") I will report club news to the county Extension office to be included in the 4-H newsletter. (response) I will keep the community informed about our club activities. (response)

You are now officially installed as the reporter of the _____ 4-H Club.

(Parliamentarian elect lights candle.)

_____ as parliamentarian elect of the _____ 4-H Club, your fellow 4-H members have honored you by putting their faith and trust in your abilities. Are you ready to receive your duties? (response - "I am.") I will provide advice to the presiding officer on parliamentary procedure. (response) I will instruct the members in correct parliamentary procedure. (response)

You are now officially installed as the parliamentarian of the _____ 4-H Club.

Now that you have been officially installed as the 20__ - _____ 4-H Club officers, I challenge each of you to accept the duties and responsibilities of your office willingly. Your club's progress or failure now rests upon your shoulders. It is your choice as to what your club's direction will be. I trust that each of you will perform your duties to the best of your abilities and will make yourself worthy of others as you work together as the executive committee of this club and strive "To Make the Best Better."

Would the club managers please step forward? As club managers, you have the responsibility of working together with these officers in recruiting project and activity leaders, and leading the club during the coming year. You serve as a link between the 4-H club and the county 4-H program. I challenge you to keep your club informed and motivated about the 4-H program.

Congratulations!