

## 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Series

# Initiation Ceremony – Members

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The following ceremony is only a suggestion for the use of local 4-H clubs when they take in new members. The formality and the thoughts expressed will help impress members with the spirit of 4-H club work and inform them about its purposes.

### Setting

With the president, vice president, secretary and reporter facing the audience and the new members assembled as a group in the front of the room facing the officers, the following ceremony is carried out:

### Ceremony

**President:** To you who are about to become members of the \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club, we say, welcome! In order that you may have a full understanding of 4-H club work, it is necessary that you learn more about the purpose of our organization. The officers here assembled will help me in explaining the meaning of 4-H club work. Listen attentively as each speaks so that you will be able to carry out the obligations you are assuming as a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club.

**Vice President:** 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 the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. 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 between five and nineteen years of age, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender or disability, may become a 4-H member.

**Secretary:** (Exhibiting a 4-H club emblem) The 4-H club emblem is the green four-leaf clover with a white H on each leaf, symbolizing the four-fold development of Head, Heart, Hands and Health. Our motto is "To Make the Best Better."

**Reporter:** All loyal 4-H club members are willing to carry out their share of work. They attend meetings and contribute to the program when called upon to do so. They finish what they start. They win without boasting and lose without complaining. They help others and, in turn, receive assistance when needed. They complete a project during the year.

**President:** You have heard what 4-H means and what you must do to become a member. Are you willing to live up to the ideals symbolized by the four H's?

**New Member:** I am.

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

**New Member:** I do.

**President:** And now as a sign of your good intentions to live up to the meaning and opportunities of 4-H club



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membership, will you repeat after me the 4-H Club Pledge.

**New Member:** (Repeats after president)

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 the \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club. Please sign the roll of membership. May you ever be faithful in carrying out the pledge you have just repeated, always striving in your everyday relationships with your parents,

schoolmates and neighbors to live up to its high ideals. Fellow club members may I present the new members of our 4-H club: (give names of members). We will close this ceremony with the singing of the first verse of the song "America the Beautiful."

### **AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL**

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain.  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

This material was developed by Ann Brown, county Extension agent - staff chair, and Lori Mills, 4-H Volunteer, Searcy County. Updated by Beverly Hines, former 4-H program specialist.

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