

YMCA Leathers Program CIRCLE CEREMONY

This is not part of the ceremony and is not to be read aloud, but it should be studied carefully by the counselor(s) who have parts in conducting the ceremony.

In the presentation of a Leather there is a very close interpersonal relationship with a strong emotional impact. Your sincerity in what you are doing and saying as you take part in the ceremony is a strong element which helps make a meaningful experience.

Materials

Leather for each participant

Each camper should have their own

Study card.

Lanyard for necklace (Tie square knot so it rests on front of leather.)

Extra ceremony cards as needed

Inspirational material – perhaps a poem book or Bible.

Setting

The counselor can decide the place to have the ceremony. The following are some examples of places to have the ceremony: Build a special leather's point and use as cabin devotion time, at Chapel, at your cabins own special place, while on overnight trips. This is a serious time, so make sure that the place that is picked is free from distractions and sets the proper atmosphere.

Reading

Persons with special parts should speak loudly, clearly and slowly. As you prepare, if there are words which are unfamiliar to you, ask about them. Remember to speak in a warm personal tone. Be sure to read your part over in advance several times so that you **know** what you are saying.

How We Learn

We learn best by the "feeling" that moves between us, rather than just what we say. Show a deep feeling of affection for those campers involved in the ceremony. Explanations during the ceremony appear in parenthesis and are not to be read aloud.

Ceremony Organization

The ceremony is most effective when done with a maximum group size of no more than ten.

- Personalize – use names
- Read over parts ahead of time
- Organize who does what – make assignments
- The ceremony can be done by one counselor or with assistance of two or three other people.

Ceremony

Opening

You are leaving the noise and activities behind you and will now enter into a ceremony that will increase your awareness of God through the nature around you. We want you to listen quietly as we read to you the challenges of the Circle Leather. Remember that this is a serious time spent with God, friends and nature. The Circle challenges you to become close to God through your appreciation, love, and concern for the earth that He has created.

Let us pause now for a short prayer.

(Example: Dear God, be in our heart and minds as we seek to understand and love our world. Amen.)

Counselor

The first part of the Circle challenge is to show concern for the way you lead your life. Close your eyes and listen to the following poem.

The World Needs

A little more kindness and a little less creed,
A little more giving and a little less greed;
A little more smile and a little less frown,
A little less kicking a man when he's down;
A little more "we" and a little less "I",
A little more laugh and a little less cry;
A few more flowers on the pathway of life,
And a little love at the end of the strife.

What are some ways you can become a more concerned and giving person?
(Example: Helping a friend with their homework or helping with housework.)

Counselor

The second part of the Circle challenge is to show concern for all living things; the trees, the plants, the insects. The following poem talks about living with nature.

There's a part of the sun in the apple,
There's a part of the moon in a beautiful rose.
There's a part of the rain in a leafy tree;
There's a part of you in each of those,
Out of the universe comes nearness,
For the God whose love we sing,
Lends a little of his Heaven,
To every living thing.

What are some ways that you can help preserve the beauty of where you live and play?
(Example: We can pick up our trash and leave our campsite clean.)

Counselor

You have heard thoughts about how to show concern for the way you lead your life. We have also shared thoughts about showing concern for all living things. If you would like to accept the Circle Leather please say, "Yes."

Counselor

(It is now time to place the Circle Leather around the neck of the recipients. You might ask them to sit quietly with their eyes closed and think about their own personal challenges. Place the leather around each recipient's neck and take a moment to say something personal and offer your congratulations.)

Now that you have received your Circle you will be working on the Challenges throughout the year at home and at school.

Let's all join together in the Lord's Prayer and close with the Leathers Creed.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Leathers Creed

I would strive to grow
By keeping my body healthy and clean,
By keeping my mind open and free,
And by letting my Spirit guide me.
I would strive to do all three
Because each is equally a part of me.

Revised 5/2014