

# YMCA Leathers Program

## SQUARE CEREMONY

### Instruction Page

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 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 the leather recipients 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 with a maximum group size to 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

The next few moments will be spent in serious thought. (Pause) Think about your personal challenge to grow, become a better friend, and keep good friends.

## Counselor

Personal opening prayer

(Example: Dear God, be in our hearts and minds as we seek to grow in friendship with others. Amen.)

Remember as you accept the new challenge of the square to continue to grow in body, mind and spirit. Think about your body and how you have tried to take care of it over last year. Remember the Bible says:

“Don’t you realize that all of you together are the house of God and that the spirit of God lives among you in His house? God’s home is holy and clean and you are that home.”

1 Corinthians 3:16 & 17

## Counselor

With the challenge of the square leather you add a new challenge. The fourth and new side stands for your social side. This side helps you to be a good friend. To keep good friends you must remember to be honest with them and try not to hurt them. There might be people that you know that need a friend. Perhaps you can share some of your ideas about ways to become a better friend and how you can make new friends. Who would like to share?

(For example: What have you share with a friend this week? Sharing is an example of being a good friend.) By becoming a better friend you will become a stronger person. You will have gained something and given something at the same time.

## Counselor

Close your eyes and listen to the words of this poem:

## **A True Friend**

A true friend is a friend who shares  
Whatever comes our way  
Who helps by thoughtful words and deeds  
To brighten up our day.  
Who knows the little heartaches  
That live heavy on the mind,  
And tries to ease the hurt of each  
By, being extra kind.  
A true friend helps to bring the sun  
And take away the rain,  
And cheerfully convinces us  
Our dreams are not in vain...  
And if we traveled far and wide  
To where the rainbow ends,  
We'd find no greater riches  
Than the love of real true friends.

What are some ways you can be a true friend?  
(For example: A true friend will stop playing when their friend asks them for help.)

### **Counselor**

You have heard thoughts about friendship. We have also shared thoughts on the Square Leather challenges which are to grow, become a better friend and keep good friends. If you would like to accept the Square Leather please say, "Yes."

### **Counselor**

(It is now time to place the Square Leather around the neck of the recipient. You might ask them to sit quietly with their eyes closed and think about their 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 Square you will be working on the challenge throughout the year.

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**