

# TOPS Bread Makers

*A Ceremony for Officer Installation*

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Room setting: Arrange a small table at the front of the room and cover with an attractive cloth. Place on this a fine loaf of home-baked bread and the symbols of the office to be used in the ceremony; a package of yeast, a bottle or jar filled with water, a box or small sack of flour, a small can or stick of shortening and 2 loaf pans. You will also need flowers – Blue, Red, Yellow, White, and 2 black or dark purple.

*Outgoing Leader gives a brief departing speech.*

Installer: JUST FOR TODAY

Just for today, I will live through the next 12 hours and not tackle my whole life's problems at once.

Just for today, I will improve my mind. I will learn something useful.

Just for today, I will be agreeable. I will look my best, speak in a positive manner and be courteous and considerate.

Just for today, I will not find fault with friends, relatives, or colleagues.

Just for today, I will have a program. I might not follow it exactly, but I will have it.

Just for today, I will exercise my character in 3 ways. I will do a good turn and keep it a secret, if anyone finds out, I won't let it count.

Just for today, I will do 2 things I don't want to do just for exercise.

Just for today, I will be unafraid. Especially will I be unafraid to enjoy what is beautiful and believe that as I give to the world, the world will give to me.

*(Leader-elect approaches table, installer hands her a blue flower)*

Installer: As we begin a TOPS year with our new officers, let us think of our fellowship as being a delicious, nutritious loaf of home-baked bread. Our chapter, like a loaf of bread, will be only as good as the quality of the ingredients we use and the care we take in its preparation.

The primary ingredient in bread making is yeast. It starts the action. The leadership of our leader is like the yeast; he/she keeps the group growing and going. Yeast also gives the loaf flavor, just as our Leader's personality and leadership are reflected in all of our activities.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Leader name), will you agree to be the yeast for this chapter for the coming year? (Reply). I present to you, our new Leader, this package of yeast as a symbol of your office.

*(Co-leader-elect approaches table, installer hands her a red flower)*

Installer: We need to think next of the liquid with which our yeast is combined. The Co-leader supports the leader for the growth of the chapter, as the liquid in bread works with the yeast to initiate the activity of the bread. The Co-leader works closely with the leader in all areas, fluidly adjusting the actions taken throughout the year.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Co-leader name), will you agree to be the liquid in our chapter for the coming year? (Reply). I give to you this bottle of liquid as a symbol of your office.

*(Secretary-elect approaches table, installer hands her a yellow flower)*

Installer: Each homemaker is extremely particular about the kind of flour used to make bread, as the flour greatly influences the final quality and flavor of the product. The accurate records of our meetings as kept and reported by the secretary, are an important ingredient to a smooth running organization.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary name), will you agree to be the flour in our chapter for the coming year? (Reply). I ask you to accept this flour as a symbol of your office.

*(Treasurer-elect approaches table, installer hands her a white flower)*

Installer: Another ingredient is necessary is necessary to make a loaf of bread elastic and smooth – the shortening. The work of the treasurer corresponds to the shortening in bread. We hope that the treasurer can stretch the budget when necessary, keep the financial books as needed, and will report clearly so all members know the financial standing of our chapter throughout this year.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Treasurer name), will you accept the responsibility of being the needed shortening in our chapter for the coming year? (Reply). I give you this shortening as a symbol of your office.

*(Weight Recorder & Assistant(s) approaches table, installer hands them dark flowers)*

Installer: After we have all the ingredients mixed together, we must still work and knead the dough well, shape and mold the loaves carefully, and then watch. So, too, we must work at building a chapter. Bread cannot be pounded and beaten into shape; only with gentle, constant kneading can the loaf be molded into shape, placed in a pan and given exactly the right temperature to bring it to perfection.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Weight Recorders names), will you accept the responsibility to be the needed hands to mold the bread for the coming year? (Reply). I give you this pan as a symbol of your offices.

Installer: Basic as all of these ingredients may be, there are others which are essential to a good, nutritious loaf of bread. The sugar, eggs, herbs, spices, nuts and fruits add flavor

and variety. These are the programs that the officers and members carry forward together under the controlling action of salt of the constitution and by-laws of our chapter.

After all the ingredients are combined, the dough is kneaded. The more the bread dough is worked, the better it becomes. In the same manner, the harder the members work this year, the better our fellowship will be.

After our bread is kneaded and molded into the kind of loaf we want it to be, we will bake it in just the proper atmosphere of love and cooperation. Our year will then come out toasty and brown and good enough to eat, a matter of joy and pride for all concerned.

The rainbow is a sign of love, a symbol of hope, and a token of promise. As we go forth into another year of TOPS work, may our officers not forget their colors from the rainbow, and the symbols they stand for.