

Sworn-Again America Ceremony Script

Choose someone to lead your Sworn-Again America ceremony, then choose three people to be readers. Give a copy of the readings to each reader.

Ceremony Leader:

We have gathered here together to sing a song of great citizenship.

If we were a group of naturalizing immigrants about to become new Americans, we would have a ceremony. We would hear words of meaning about America. We would reflect on those words and then we would join together in an oath.

Well, that is what we are here to do together now. Today, no matter how long we've been in this country we will renew our vows and become sworn-again, as Americans and as citizens in the deepest, most human sense.

We'll begin by recalling a promise this nation makes to itself.

(Introduce reader one) From [insert hometown of reader], [insert name of reader]

Reader One:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

These truths did not start out self-evident and they are not self-renewing. It is up to us to make them so; every day to live up to the American proposition.

(Introduce reader two) From [insert hometown of reader], [insert name of reader]

Reader Two:

It is for us here to be dedicated to the great tasks before us...that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Ceremony Leader:

What does it mean for us to govern ourselves? It means for us to take ownership, to solve problems without waiting for someone else to come along. It means reminding ourselves, not only of the content of our *character*, but of our *citizenship*.

(Introduce reader three) From [insert hometown of reader], [insert name of reader]

Reader Three:

I have a dream today. I have a dream that all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, *"My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!"*

Ceremony Leader:

In this room it does ring, it rings loud and true. And that promise – that proposition – comes not from on high, but from inside us... *“We The People!”*

So, let us now make our voices heard. Please stand, if you are able –wherever you may be from, whatever brought you here today – raise your right hand and repeat after me this simple oath: *(The oath should be delivered as call and response)*

I pledge to be an active American

[audience repeats]

to show up for others

[audience repeats]

to govern my self

[audience repeats]

to help govern my community

[audience repeats]

I recommit myself to my country’s creed

[audience repeats]

to cherish liberty as a responsibility

[audience repeats]

I pledge to serve and to push my county

[audience repeats]

when right, to be kept right; when wrong to be set right

[audience repeats]

Wherever my ancestors and I were born

[audience repeats]

I claim America

[audience repeats]

and I pledge to live like a citizen

[audience repeats]

Congratulations, we are now all Sworn-Again Americans. Let’s go out and live like citizens!