



Ceremonies for Girl Scouts

Volunteer Resource



2020



girl scouts of eastern missouri

Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout

Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri serves more than 40,000 girls with support from more than 13,000 adults each year. We are the premier leadership development organization for girls in eastern Missouri.

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Welcome!

BASICS OF A GIRL SCOUT CEREMONY

What is a Girl Scout ceremony?

A Girl Scout ceremony is one method used by members to express the ideals of the Girl Scout movement. It is also a symbol of honor recognizing a special event or circumstance.

When are Girl Scout ceremonies held?

Girl Scout ceremonies may be held at any time of the day or night; may be formal or informal; and may be held by a large or small group. They are used to recognize accomplishments, special events, or to signify the beginning or end of a meeting. They provide a means to express feeling, friendship, patriotism and service.

Who plans Girl Scout ceremonies?

Ceremonies for girls are planned by girl members with the guidance of adults. This is a time for the girls to express their ideas and feelings. They may invite guests or hold the ceremony for themselves. Ceremonies for adults are planned by the adults involved. Similar to the girls' ceremonies, this is a chance for the adult volunteers to express their feelings and ideas, as well as honor their accomplishments. Guests are optional and dependent on the nature of the ceremony.

How are ceremonies planned?

All people appreciate the inspiration and recognition that ceremonies give. For all ceremonies, it is important that each participant knows in advance what to expect. If the ceremony needs rehearsal, that should be included in the plans.

Girls participate in planning the ceremony by using the information in this guide. What follows are samples and ideas designed to inspire girls. There are very few "rules" for Girl Scout ceremonies, but *Volunteer Essentials* and *Safety Activity Checkpoints* should be consulted as appropriate.

When planning a ceremony, have girls keep the following questions in mind:

- What is the purpose of the ceremony?
- Who will be invited?
- Where will it be held?
- What equipment and materials might be needed?
- How will we begin/open the ceremony?
- What will be the focus of the ceremony?
- How will we close the ceremony?

Keep in mind that many of the ceremonies in this guide can be combined to form a lengthier program. For instance, a flag ceremony is usually part of an investiture or Bridging Ceremony.



Overview

TYPES OF GIRL SCOUT CEREMONIES

Opening and Closing Ceremonies

The opening and closing ceremonies for meetings should be short and simple. You could have a flag ceremony, read a poem, sign a favorite song, play a short game, or say the Girl Scout Promise and/or Girl Scout Law. The purpose of these ceremonies is to officially, not formally, signify the beginning or ending of the meeting or event. This will add structure to a meeting which is particularly important for Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Girl Scouts.

Flag Ceremonies

Flag ceremonies are held to honor the symbol of our country. The flag ceremony may be held independently or as part of another ceremony. There are many varieties of indoor or outdoor ceremonies: folding the flag, non-traditional ceremonies, and proper disposal of the flag—to name just a few. The ceremony may involve any number of participants, usually with a minimum of three—the Color Bearer (carries the American Flag), the Color Guard (protects the American Flag), and the Caller (gives the ceremony commands to the Color Bearer and Color Guard).

Investiture Ceremony/Rededication Ceremony

New members are welcomed into Girl Scouting with an investiture. This happens once in each individual's lifetime. Annually, a rededication ceremony can be held to rededicate members to the purpose and philosophy of the Girl Scout Movement. If some new members are being added to a troop with already invested members, the ceremony can incorporate both functions.

Fly-Up Ceremonies

This very special ceremony is when Brownie Girl Scouts receive their 'wings' and become Junior Girl Scouts. Only Brownie Girl Scouts fly-up in addition to a bridging ceremony. All other levels use a bridging ceremony only.

Bridging Ceremonies

A bridging ceremony is for girls when moving from one program level to the next. The bridging process begins long before the ceremony takes place.

Candlelight Ceremonies

A candlelight ceremony may be used to remind us of concepts and ideals such as the Girl Scout Promise and Law. There are many different candlelight ceremonies. This ceremony may be held separately or as part of another ceremony.

Court of Awards

This ceremony is held to recognize the achievements of all levels of Girl Scouts. It is at this ceremony that members receive the recognitions they have earned—badges, patches, membership stars and any other special awards or honors for girls and/or adults. Most frequently held at the troop/group level at the end of the year, it can be held anytime appropriate. For younger girls, a more frequent giving of awards is recommended.

Girl Scout's Own

The main focus of a Girl Scout's Own is based on a theme selected by the members of the group developing the ceremony. There are no specific guidelines for this ceremony except:

- It is a ceremony of sharing reflection and inspiration
- It is usually a private ceremony and personal experience for the Girl Scouts involved
- Each member has an opportunity to participate

Planning



HELPING GIRLS PLAN THEIR CEREMONY

With a little help, Girl Scouts can learn to plan meaningful ceremonies. You may use the following questions to guide them in the planning process. Remember, the possibilities suggested here are meant to stimulate thought; the final decisions about the ceremony should rest with the girls.

What kind of ceremony do we want?

- Flag ceremony
- Investiture
- Bridging

Should we invite guests?

- Family, including brothers and sisters
- Friends
- Adults in Girl Scouts
- Adults from the community
- Another Girl Scout troop

Where will it be held?

- Indoors or outdoors
- In a park or special building
- In a place with a view

What could be included in the ceremony?

- Girl Scout Promise & Law
- Song, dance, poem
- Candles, lights, campfire
- Flag, Girl Scout membership pins
- Footsteps, stair steps, bridge

When will it be held?

- During the troop meeting
- Weekend
- Weekday
- Evening

Will it be held on a special date?

- Feb. 22, World Thinking Day
- March 21, Girl Scout Birthday
- Oct. 31, Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday

SPECIAL MEANING

Archway: The entering of a different atmosphere or phase

Bridge: A crossing over, usually between program levels

Dove/Olive Branch: Peace

Eagle: Courage

Flag: The banner of Girl Scouting, troop/group, Council, state or country

Friendship Knot: Made by a friend

Friendship Circle: The unbroken chain of friendship

Feather: Nature

Handshake: Hello, welcome

Lighted Candle: A symbol of individuality, puts attention on a concept

Pebble: Nature

Planting a Tree: Conservation

Quiet Sign: Quiet

Strong/Yarn: The human line that binds us all together

Signing Your Name: Your own identity

Swaying Side to Side: Everyone agreeing to the same thought

Trefoil: The three parts of the Girl Scout Promise

Wishing Well: Hopes and dreams

Girl Scout Candle Colors:

Candles in a ceremony signify the spirit of Girl Scouting. The following is a list of possible candle colors with special significance:

- Silver: The beginning of a new day, Cadette level achievements
- Yellow: Daisy Girl Scouts, sunshine
- Pink: All girls in Girl Scouts and Girl Guides
- White: Purity
- Gold: Trefoil pin, Senior and Ambassador level achievement, highest level
- Turquoise: Water
- Brown: Earth, Brownie Girl Scouts
- Green: Plant life, Junior level Girl Scouts, all Girl Scouts in USA



Ceremonies

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

Opening Ceremonies

Every Girl Scout meeting or program should have an opening and closing. They provide a frame in which to work. An opening signals to girls the meeting has begun and it is time to get down to business.

A typical opening ceremony is very short and simple. It will mean more if it is made up by the troop and varied from meeting to meeting. Some of the following may be included:

1. Flag ceremony
2. Reciting of the Girl Scout Promise and Law
3. Sing a song or recite a poem
4. Discuss a Girl Scout concept—such as a part of the Law or the meaning of the World Association pin

It is important that all girls get a chance to plan and participate in all the aspects of the ceremony. Using a Kaper Chart with assignments for both the planning and the parts of the ceremony will ensure everyone gets a chance.

Closing Ceremonies

The closing ceremony allows girls a special moment to end the meeting and say good-bye. Allow enough time to clean-up and put away supplies and still have time for this important component to a successful meeting. There are a number of special activities that can conclude your meeting or event.

The Song “Taps” with Hand Motions

Day is done	<i>(arms are held extended with palms down, should level)</i>
Gone the sun	<i>(lower the arms slightly)</i>
From the lakes	<i>(turn palms up, raise arms slightly)</i>
From the hills	<i>(raise the arms higher)</i>
From the sky	<i>(raise the arms level with top of head)</i>
All is well	<i>(lower arms to shoulder height, place right hand on left elbow)</i>
Safely rest	<i>(cross left hand to right elbow)</i>
God is nigh	<i>(bow head onto crossed arms)</i>

Sometimes this is followed with an enthusiastic leap in the air with arms opened wide and a shouted “Good night, Scouts!” but others prefer to end quietly.

Friendship Circle with Friendship Wish

You may do Taps or another closing component first. For the Friendship Circle, girls stand in a circle with arms crossed right over left and grasping the hands of the person on either side. A designated person starts the passing of the friendship wish by thinking a silent wish and then symbolically passing the wish to the person on her left by gently squeezing her hand. That girl then thinks her own silent wish and continues the ‘squeeze.’ As each girl makes her wish, she should put her right foot slightly forward to silently track the ‘squeeze.’ This is repeated until the ‘squeeze’ has gone around the entire circle. When the originator receives the ‘squeeze’ she may say “God Bless the Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere” or a simple “Good night, girls.” The girls drop their hands and leave in silence.



Magic Tunnel

When girls are completely ready to leave (jackets on), the girls stand in two lines facing each other in a line to the door and making an arch with their arms. The farthest pair from the door goes under the arches, then the next two and so on, until the tunnel vanishes with the last two girls leaving. This entire process is usually done in silence.

Singing Our Way Out

A closing ceremony can be solemn or lively, silent or noisy. It's fun to try a variety of ways and here are some samples of fun ways to close a meeting.

Clean-up Song

This one is good for younger girls. The children skip about the room arranging everything neatly, singing to the tune of "London Bridge"

Weave the magic in and out, in and out, in and out
Weave the magic in and out, we are Girl Scouts.

We have tidied everything, everything, everything
We have tidied everything; we are Girl Scouts.

Then the girls line up before the leader:

Leader: Is everything finished?

Girls: Everything!

Leader: Is nothing left?

Girls: Nothing!

Leader: Then begone!

Leader can wave a special "good-bye wand" as girls leave

Good-bye Song

To the tune of "Good Night Ladies"

Can be sung while doing the Magic Tunnel.

Good-bye (name of program level) [repeat three times]
It's sad to see you go.

Another Good-bye Song

To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"

Now our Girl Scout meeting ends,
Say good-bye to all our friends.
To our homes we Girl Scouts go,
Singing songs to let you know
We are happy as can be,
Working, playing, merrily

Flag Ceremonies

FLAG CEREMONIES

Basic Outdoor Flag Ceremony

Flag/Color Bearer

The red sash, if worn, goes over the right shoulder and is tied with a square knot on the left hip.

Color Guards

Red sashes, if used are worn around the waist and tied on the left side. There may be any number of guards, but it is usually an even number.

Caller

The person who stands at the flagpole and gives the commands.

Formation

The audience forms a horseshoe around the flagpole and stands with empty hands at their sides. Color Bearer and Guards then advance with the Color Bearer surrounded by the guards, usually in pairs before and after. They take position in front of flagpole and stand at attention facing the pole during the entire event. After the ceremony, the Color Guard is dismissed before the other persons who are present.

Silence

There is absolute silence by the Color Guard from the time the caller starts the ceremony. The Color Guard is the official guardian of the flag, and does not sing, speak, or salute with others. The Color Guard salutes only when instructed.

Program

The program part of the ceremony takes place after flag has been raised or before it is lowered. The program varies, but often consists of the Pledge of Allegiance, the Girl Scout Promise and Law (pg. 2), patriotic or nature poetry, and songs. The Pledge of Allegiance should only be said once during the day.

Salute

When the flag is raised, salute the moment the flag starts up by placing hand over heart until it reaches the top. When the flag is lowered, the hand is over the heart from when the flag starts down until the last clip is unfastened.

Raising or Lowering

The clasps on the rope should be the same distance apart as the eyelets in the flag. All clasps should be fastened on the flag before it is started upward. All Color Guards may hold the flag as the Bearer attaches it to the rope before raising it briskly to the top. At the closing ceremony, the first two Color Guards may step forward to catch the flag as it is lowered so it does not touch the ground. The upper corner of the flag should be in the Color Bearer's hands before she unfastens the clasps.

Folding

The flag is held by the Color Guard with the blue field nearest the flagpole. It is folded lengthwise in half, then again lengthwise in half, folding the blue field underneath toward the outside. The guards farthest from the pole begin folding the flag in a triangle. They fold until they can pass it on to the other members of the Color Guard. This continues until the entire flag has been folded into a triangle. *(Detailed drawings are on the next page.)*

Placing Folded Flag

The Color Guard resumes its original position. One member of the first pair steps up in front of the Color Bearer with the folded flag. She places it in the Bearer's outstretched hands so that it can be carried point forward, and then returns to position.

Return

The Color Guard may leave in the same formation as they entered, or they may change it. As they leave, the other Girl Scouts may fall in behind.

Flag Ceremony Commands

Opening Ceremony

Girl Scouts, *(refers to audience)*
Color Guard attention
Color Guard advance
Color Guard post the colors
Color Guard salute the colors
Girl Scouts, the flag of your country
We will now say the Pledge of Allegiance
(Girl Scout Pledge or anything appropriate)
Color Guard dismissed
(Possible announcements)
Girl Scouts dismissed

Closing Ceremony

Girl Scouts, attention *(refers to audience)*
Color Guard attention
Color Guard advance
(Taps or anything appropriate)
Color Guard salute the colors
Color Guard retire the colors
Color Guard dismissed
Girl Scouts dismissed



Flag Ceremonies

Folding the United States Flag

Special care should be taken that no part of the United States flag touches the ground. The flag is carefully folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat, emblematic of the hats worn by colonial soldiers during the war for independence. In the folding, the red and white stripes are finally wrapped into the blue, as the light of day vanishes into the darkness of night.

The custom of this special folding is reserved for the United States flag alone.



1. To properly fold the Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person (or persons) so that its surface is parallel to the ground.



2. Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise over the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.



3. Fold the flag again lengthwise with the blue field on the outside.



4. Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.



5. Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.



6. The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.



7. When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible. The Color Bearer carries it with the point forward away from her body.

Flag Etiquette

Citizens of the United States of America are justly proud of their rights and freedoms. The most obvious symbol of our country is the U.S. flag. As part of that pride, the U.S. flag must be properly displayed and handled at all times. The following is adapted from the US Code Title 36 Chapter 10 that covers Patriotic Customs.

For further details, go to <http://www.usflag/uscode36.html#36>

- The flag should not be raised before sunrise or allowed to remain up after sunset unless properly lighted
- It should not be displayed in bad weather
- The flag should never be draped in any form, used as a cover except over a coffin, used to carry other items, have anything placed upon it, nor displayed on a float unless flown from a staff
- The flag is not to be used for advertising, decoration on napkins, handkerchiefs or any other item intended to be used and discarded. Nor is it to be worn as a costume
- Red, white and blue bunting may be used as draping and decorations
- The flag should always be permitted to fall free. It may be attached to a pole or hung by one edge only
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it—ground, floor or water
- It should be kept clean and fresh. When soiled, it should be laundered with care. When it becomes tattered or torn, it should be retired with dignity, preferably by burning.

The right side of the flag is considered the side of honor. Since honor is shown to the flag – not to the Color Guard or the audience—it is the flag’s own right that must be remembered. When displayed with other flags, the flag of the United States should be on the right side. When carried in a procession with other flags, the Flag of the United States is always at the right or carried in front of the centerline of flags.

Height, too, is considered a mark of respect. When state, troop or other flags are used, the flag of the United States is raised first and lowered last so that no other flag is ever above it. This holds true when flags are picked up and posted—for the flag of the United States is picked up first and posted last.

When flags of two or more nations are being displayed, they must be flown from separate poles of the same height. The flags should be the same size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above the other in time of peace.

When carrying the flag, the bearer holds it directly in front of her with the heel of the staff in her left hand. Holding the staff with the right hand, from the upper side, not underneath, supports the weight of the flag.

A salute to the flag (*Girl Scouts use the civilian salute of placing the right hand over the heart*) is given when the flag is being raised or lowered. During an outdoor flag ceremony, all persons present should salute the flag when the first loop is fastened to the flag rope and hold the salute until the flag reaches the top. At retreat, the salute begins when the flag starts down and is held until the second loop is loosened from the flag rope. When the flag is passing in a parade or in a review, all present should face the flag, stand at attention and salute. When saluting, nothing should be in the person’s hands.

When the flag is flown at half-staff, it should be hoisted to the top for an instant and then lowered halfway. At sunset, it should be raised to the peak again before final lowering.

When the National Anthem is played or sung and the flag is displayed, all present should stand and face the flag, giving the salute. If the flag is not displayed or within view, everyone stands at attention while the anthem is played.

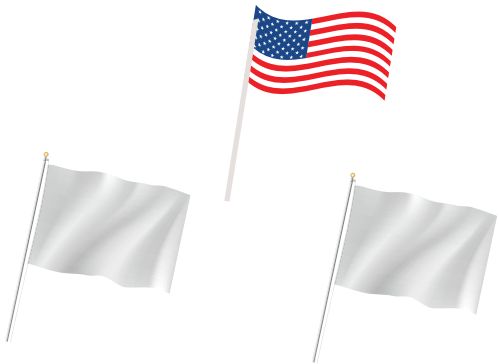
Flag Ceremonies

Correct Flag Positions for Displays and Carrying

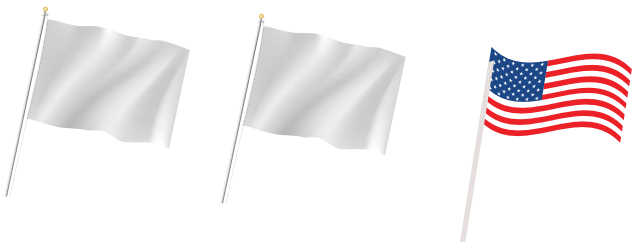
When carrying two flags, the U.S. flag is on the right.



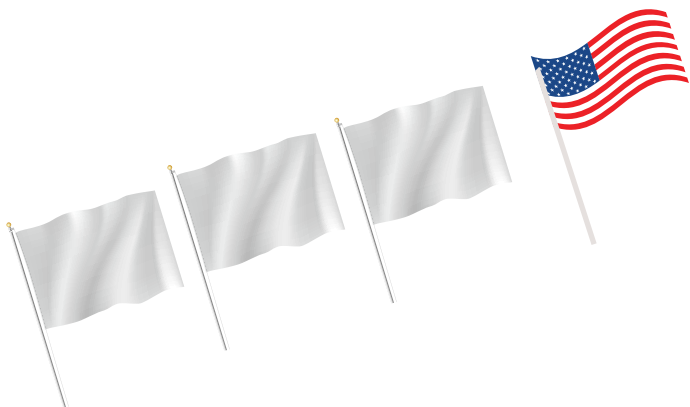
When carrying three or more flags, the U.S. flag can be in the center front.



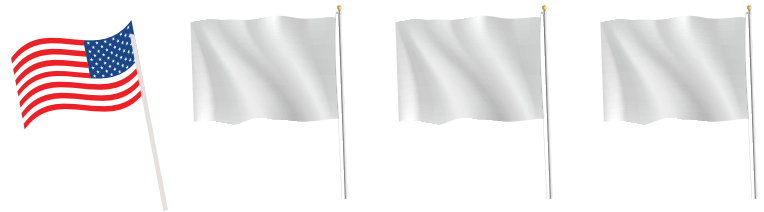
Or with multiple flags in a straight line, the U.S. flag is on the furthest right.



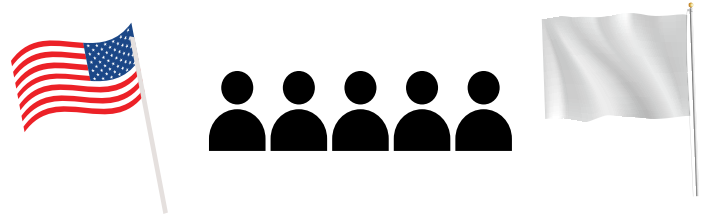
When carrying many flags down a narrow aisle, the U.S. flag is first.



When standing in a line, the U.S. flag is to the right and at the same level as other flags. If the Pledge of Allegiance is said, the bearer steps to the center in front of the other flags.



When posting the flags at the same level not on a platform, the U.S. flag is right of audience.



On a platform, the U.S. flag is on the right of the speaker.



Against a wall, the U.S. flag is to the right of the audience.



Basic Indoor Flag Ceremony

The Flag Ceremony is a tribute to the flag we honor. The ceremony should be well planned, performed smoothly and with dignity. Practice the ceremony so it will be conducted with pride and confidence.

Participants

- **Caller:** The individual in charge of the ceremony. The Caller gives the commands.
- **Color Bearer(s):** The individual(s) that hold the flag(s). One Bearer per flag.
- **Color Guards:** The individuals who guard the flag(s). The Color Guards may walk on either side of, or in front and behind the Color Bearers.
- **Color Guard:** When given in the singular text, this is the group of bearer(s) and guard(s) together. When only the American Flag is to be used: there is a minimum of three members of the Color Guard—the Color Bearer and two Color Guards. If an additional flag is added, another Color Bearer is needed. For large events, plan to have at least two guards for each bearer. Additional Color Guards may be added to allow for the use of more girls.

Arrangements

The participants should form a horseshoe formation with the open end for the Color Guard to enter and exit. The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guards enter with the flag and face the horseshoe. Reminder—the United States flag is to its own right. That means that the person holding the U.S. flag is to the right of any other flags. Another option is to have the other flags follow the U.S. flag in and out of the formation. More specific details are on pg. 14.

Order of Ceremony

Posting the Colors: The Caller gives the following commands:

1. Girl Scouts, attention (*The audience stands with empty hands at sides*)
2. Color Guard, attention (*The Color Guards and Color Bearer(s) stand at attention*)
3. Color Guard, advance (*The Color Guards and Color Bearer(s) enter with the flags*)
4. Girl Scouts, the flag of your country. Please join me in saying The Pledge of Allegiance (*The Color Guards and Color Bearer(s) stand silently at attention. Everyone else recites the Pledge*)
5. Let us sing _____ (*At this point a song may be sung, patriotic or otherwise, and/or a reading may be done.*)
6. Let us now say the Girl Scout Promise (*Can add the Girl Scout Law and anything else appropriate*)
7. Color Guard, post the colors (*The Color Bearer(s) place the flags in the stands. Post other flags first; American Flag last*)
8. Color Guard, honor your colors (*The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guards step back and salute the flag by placing their hands over their hearts*)
9. Color Guard, dismissed (*The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guards return the way they entered*)

Announcements and the rest of the program or meeting begin after the Color Guard has exited.



Flag Ceremonies

All formal meeting or program activities should be complete before Retiring the Colors. It is last formal activity.

Retiring the Colors: The Caller gives the following commands:

1. Girl Scouts, attention (*The audience stands with empty hands at sides*)
2. Color Guard, attention (*The Color Guards and Color Bearer(s) stand at attention*)
3. Color Guard, advance (*The Color Guards and Color Bearer(s) move forward to stand in front of flags*)
4. Let us _____ (*At this point a song may be sung or a poem read. The Color Guard remains silent*)
5. Color Guard, honor your colors (*The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guards step back and salute the flag by placing their hands over their hearts*)
6. Color Guard, retire the colors (*The Color Bearer(s) pick up the flags from the stand(s) with the U.S. Flag first*).
7. Color Guard, dismissed (*The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guards return the way they entered with the U.S. flag in front of any other flags*)
8. Girl Scouts, dismissed (*Everyone departs the formation. The formal program or part of the evening may be followed by an informal part such as refreshments or collecting of paperwork*)



BEYOND THE BASICS

The Making of the Flag (Older Girls)

The ceremony could be part of a longer ceremony and is appropriate for older girls. Girls can use the following suggested words and music or create their own words and select their own message. You may also want to divide or share parts to accommodate more girls participating

Equipment:

- U.S. flag, folded
- Large Pot
- Long spoon
- Pieces of red, white and blue paper and white stars

Arrangement:

- Hide flag in large pot on table in center of area

Ceremony:

- Girls enter humming “America the Beautiful”

Girl Scout #1: Red is for Valor. For the courage of all women who, with a dream in their hearts, crossed the oceans to begin life anew in a free land. For the bravery of women who, with hope and faith, crossed the prairie and mountains of our vast land. For the steadfastness of those women who, through all adversities, shouldered the country’s burdens to emerge as strong individuals. *(put red paper into the pot)*

Girl Scout #2: White is for Purity. For the integrity of all women whose fortitude wove the strands of diverse cultures into an integral national heritage. For the piety of all women whose faith formed the foundation upon which our country was built and continues to grow. *(put white paper into the pot)*

Girl Scout #3: Blue is for Justice. For the foresight of all those women who created an atmosphere in which their children could develop to their fullest potential. For the perseverance of all those who contributed their talents to further the development of our country. *(put blue paper into the pot)*

Girl Scout #4: Stars are for Dreams. For the dreams of the future so that the generations of tomorrow may fulfill the promise of the past 200 plus years; so that the visions of our forebears will be revitalized, and the future will hold hope and promise for all generations to come. *(put stars in the pot)*

Girl Scout #5 (stirring the pot): Stirring are the stories of my Stars and Stripes. I symbolize the soul of America, typifying her ideals and aspirations, her institutions and traditions.

Girl Scout #6: *(remove the flag and hand to two girls to hold up in display):* This flag, which we honor and under which we serve is the emblem of our unity, our power and purpose as a nation. Please join me in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone, except two girls holding flag, say the Pledge of Allegiance in unison.

This is followed by the singing of a patriotic flag song, such as “You’re a Grand Old Flag.”

Flag Ceremonies

The Making of the Flag (Younger Girls)

Equipment:

- Large container
- Colored poker chips (red, white and blue) sorted by colors into clear cups
- Stars
- One stir stick or magic wand
- Flag (hidden in bottom of pot with an edge accessible to pull out)

Arrangements

- Girls stand in a semi-circle behind a chair or stool holding a container and facing the audience

Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: We are going to fix a treat for you that is really grand; and make a recipe—greatest in the land.

Girl Scout #2: In first, we will put a heaping bunch of red for courage true (*pour in red chips*).

Girl Scout #3: And then we will add for justice—dash of heavenly blue.

Girl Scout #4: For purity, we now include a layer of snowy white.

Girl Scout #5: We will sprinkle in a pinch of stars to make it come out right.

Girl Scout #6 (*stirring with spoon*): We will stir and stir and then you will see what we have made is...
(pull out flag) Old Glory! Our flag is the most beautiful flag in the world; let us always be loyal to it.
Please stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Variation: For very young girls, a leader may be a narrator while the girls perform the actions. You could also assign two girls to each part, one to read and one to add the ingredient.

Old Glory Flag Ceremony

Equipment: Ahead of time, place a U.S. flag floating upon a staff or hanging from above (use a fan to get the flag to 'wave'); spotlight the flag from the back of the room; use a microphone for the speakers, if necessary. Have the four speakers out of sight, if possible.

Arrangement: Audience facing a stage or the front of the room with the flag displayed along.

Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: I am the flag of the United States; the symbol of a nation that has loved, above all else, its freedom, justice, rights and equality.

Girl Scout #2: I am the country's glowing Stars and Stripes. Red is for endurance, courage and strength; white is for purity of high ideals; and blue is for loyalty, truth and faith.

Girl Scout #3: I am Old Glory—flag for which people serve; flag for which people strive for better and higher ideals.

Girl Scout #4: I am the flag of the United States of America. Let us rise and pledge allegiance to our flag.

Pledge Ceremony

This is an example of how girls can reflect upon the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. The girls can use these words or create their own.

Equipment:

A United States flag prominently displayed (could have been brought in earlier with a flag ceremony).

Formation:

Girls form semicircle facing audience. If fewer girls are available, go back around the semicircle. This ceremony can be held indoors or outdoors.

Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: We often recite the Pledge of Allegiance without really listening or understanding the meaning of the words we are saying. Each of us is going to say a word or phrase from the Pledge and then say what it means to us.

Girl Scout #2: I—me, an individual, a committee of one...

Girl Scout #3: Pledge—dedicate all of my worldly possessions to give without self-pity...

Girl Scout #4: Allegiance—my love and devotion

Girl Scout #5: To the Flag—our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, “Freedom is everybody’s job!”...

Girl Scout #6: Of the United—united—that means we have all come together...

Girl Scout #7: States of America—states—individual communities that have united into fifty great states all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united in a common purpose... love for country....

Girl Scout #8: And to the Republic—republic, a state in which power is given to representatives chosen by the people to govern; and the government is for people; and it’s from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people....

Girl Scout #9: For which it stands—this is what our Flag represents: Our United States...

Girl Scout #10: One Nation Under God—meaning so blessed by God...

Girl Scout #11: Indivisible—incapable of being divided...

Girl Scout #12: With Liberty—which is freedom, the right to live one’s own life without threats or fear of retaliation

Girl Scout #13: And Justice—the principle or qualities of dealing fairly with others...

Girl Scout #14: For all—everyone. It’s as much your country as it is mine.

Flag Ceremonies

Choral Reading of the Pledge of Allegiance

You can use the suggested words below or develop your own.

Equipment:

- Copies of script
- U.S. flag on display (could have been brought in with a flag ceremony first)

Arrangements:

Girls are divided into two groups. The first group reads the words on the left side below and the second group responds with the words on the right. This can be followed by the audience joining in a group Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of a patriotic song.

Ceremony:

Speaker Group

I pledge

Allegiance

To the flag

Of the United States of America

And to the republic for which it stands

One nation

Under God

Indivisible

With liberty

And justice

For all.

Response Group

I find myself by a solemn promise

To be loyal

To the symbol which represents

The fifty states in our nation

And to the form of government for which it stands, where the supreme power rests in the citizens who elect their representatives

A people with a common territory, economic life, distinctive culture and language, united by a single government

Under the Supreme Being

Which cannot be divided

With freedom from a dictatorship form of government or control

And the equal protection and administration of the law

For everyone who is a part of it

Four Freedoms Flag Ceremony

Equipment:

- U.S. flag
- Five candles and one flashlight (or six flashlights)
- Spotlight
- Taped patriotic music (optional)

Arrangement:

Four girls hold the U.S. flag by its corners. They hold the flag at an angle so it can be seen full face. Each of the four holds an unlit candle (or flashlight) in her other hand. A fifth girl stands to left of flag holding a lit candle. The narrator is on the right with a flashlight. Music, if used, plays softly before the flag appears. The room lighting should be dimmed.

Ceremony:

Narrator: Our country is more than two centuries old and it is fitting we reflect on its past years... *(pause)* ... Our country grew out of struggle and desire ... unjust government ... internal problems ... and the desire for Freedom and peace!

What you see in front of you represents the Past... the Present... and the Future. The stars and stripes of our flag stand for the thirteen colonies which began the great crusade (or march) for Freedom... and the Past!

The fifty stars stand for the fifty great states...The Present!

The girls are the women of tomorrow... the Future!

The girls on the side hold a light that stands for the fire of Freedom that burns in every person's soul. It was this fire that inspired our forebearers to fight for the guarantee of our Freedoms!

The first of these Freedoms is the Freedom from Fear... *(girl moves over and lights candle at upper right of flag)*... then, Freedom from Want... *(girl moves over and lights candle at upper left of flag)*... Freedom of Speech ... *(lights candle at lower left)* ...and Freedom of Worship ...*(lights last candle at lower right, then returns to position at left of flag)*

But suppose we lost these Freedoms ... suppose there was no Freedom from Fear *(girl at upper right blows out her candle)* ... no Freedom from Want *(girl blows out candle at upper left)* ... no Freedom of Speech *(candle at lower left blown out)* ... and no Freedom of Worship *(last candle blown out)*

The lights of freedom would go out all over the world ... *(girl on side blows out her candle)* ... This country would be cold and dark.

(Girls holding the flag move it to a more vertical position and a spotlight is put on the flag)

But here in our country, the Freedoms do exist! Because of these Freedoms, the United States of America stands as a shining symbol of liberty throughout the world.

Would you all please rise and join me in our Pledge of Allegiance?

(Can add a patriotic song and any other components of a flag ceremony. Don't forget to dismiss the patrol.)

Flag Ceremonies

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONIES

The correct way to dispose of a ragged or permanently stained U.S. flag is to hold a solemn ceremony while burning the flag and then burying the ashes. There is no single ceremony, but dozens of variations are available on the internet. The American Legion is a good source of information, as well.

What follows here are sample ceremonies for retiring of one flag. Additional flags can be carefully draped over the fire without cutting into pieces or further words.

Make sure the fire is very hot so the flag(s) is consumed completely and reduced to ash. Old cotton flags burn best, but newer synthetic ones can be done also as long as fire is very hot.

After the ashes have cooled, they should be buried. Sometimes the grommets that remain in the ashes are given to those present as souvenirs. They can be put on a cord as a keepsake necklace.

Please remember, this is a very solemn ceremony and should be done with the utmost respect and reverence for the flag(s) to be retired. It might also be noted that you need to explain this to the girls so they don't go home and tell their parents they burned a flag at Girl Scouts, without giving an explanation as to why it was done.

Flag Retirement Ceremony #1

Equipment:

- Flags needing retirement
- Shovel
- Bucket of water
- Scissors
- Matches or lighter
- Wood for fire

Arrangements:

Audience in a horseshoe formation at a safe distance from the fire, flag disposal unit behind the fire. The fire should already be burning well. As stripes are cut, you can have a girl step forward to take it and place it on the fire. Instruct the girls to drape the pieces, not drop them onto the fire.

Ceremony:

Group can begin with the Pledge of Allegiance and a patriotic song such as "America" or "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Narrator (with flag on display):

Remember as you look at your Flag, which is the symbol of our nation, that it is red because of human sacrifice. It is blue because of the true-blue loyalty of its defenders. It is white to symbolize liberty – our land of the free. The stars are symbols of the united efforts and hope in the hearts of many people striving for a greater, nobler America.

(Optional: At this point, each person in the audience or participating in the ceremony, may state what the Flag means to them.) Another appropriate song could be sung.

In silence, take the flag and unfold it. Place stars *(as audience sees it)* in the upper left-hand corner. *(One minute of silent meditation may be inserted if desired.)* Then either cut or tear the position of the blue containing the stars from the flag. Have one person hold the blue in her arms until the end of the ceremony because the blue and stars are the

last part of the flag to be burned. Now tear one stripe off at a time, burn it in the fire by laying it across the flames; not in a lump. Burn each stripe thoroughly before tearing off the next stripe to be burned. After all the stripes have been burned, one at a time, then the blue and stars are ready to be burned. Before the blue and stars are spread across the fire, the blue portion can be kissed for respect by the person holding the blue throughout the ceremony. That portion is then laid, as a whole piece and not torn in any way, across the fire and all it quiet until the last speck of blue turns to ash.

You can now sing the “Star Spangled Banner” or another appropriate song.

The end of the ceremony should be a silent dismissal.

Flag Retirement Ceremony #2

Equipment:

- Flags needing retirement
- Shovel
- Bucket of water
- Scissors
- Matches or lighter
- Wood for fire

Arrangements:

Audience in a horseshoe formation at a safe distance from the fire, flag disposal unit behind the fire. Two girls hold the flag while one girl cuts the flag into strips (except for the blue and stars—it is cut in one piece, separate from the stripes).

Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: When the U.S. Flag becomes tattered or worn, it should be disposed of by burning. Remember as you look at the flag, it is the symbol of our nation.

(The girls holding the flag step forward with the stars in the upper left corner as the audience sees them. The girl with the scissors cuts the blue field from the stripes and hands it to Girl Scout #1. She then cuts each stripe from the “whole” and lays each piece across the flames. As each stripe enters the flames, the following thirteen readings can be spoken).

Girl Scout #2: The thirteen stripes stand for the original colonies, which are: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina and Rhode Island.

Girl Scout #3: The white stands for purity.

Girl Scout #4: The red stands for courage.

Girl Scout #5: The blue stands for loyalty.

Girl Scout #6: “Give me liberty or give me death.”

Flag Ceremonies

Girl Scout #7: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Girl Scout #8: “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Girl Scout #9: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

Girl Scout #10: “... or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.”

Girl Scout #11: “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Girl Scout #12: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

Girl Scout #13: “... Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”

Girl Scout #14: “One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

(After all the stripes have been burned, the field of blue is laid on the fire. All are silent until the entire piece burns to ash. Out of respect, nothing should ever be added to the ceremonial fire after the flag has been retired except additional flags. The ceremony ends with everyone departing in silence.)



Investiture Ceremonies

INVESTITURE AND REDEDICATION CEREMONIES

When a girl or adult becomes a Girl Scout for the first time, she is welcomed with an Investiture Ceremony. As new girls are added to existing troops, they must be invested, but the other girls may participate as a Rededication. In addition, a Rededication can be held at any new level to acknowledge the change of program level.

Families should be sent invitations well in advance of the ceremony. Evening or weekend ceremonies are suggested to give families an opportunity to attend. Try to give each girl a Kaper (task) such as opening/closing flag ceremony, greet guests at door, hand out programs, and show guests to seats. The ceremony may be followed by refreshments.

During this ceremony, new members, both girls and adults, make their Girl Scout Promise, adopt the Girl Scout Law as their own, and receive their membership pins. Traditionally the pins are first put on upside down, to be turned right side up when the first good deed is done. New Leaders, of course, have already done a good deed – they have agreed to be a Girl Scout Leader!

In planning an investiture, you must remember that it can be done in many ways. The ceremony can be held indoors or outdoors. A candle lighting ceremony is most impressive for an investiture, and a brief flag ceremony usually begins the program. The interpretation of the Trefoil, World Association pin, or Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law are nice additional to the basic investiture.

Basic Investiture for Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts

This is a basic sample that should be adapted by the girls. There is no ‘correct’ or ‘required’ component beyond a pledge to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Equipment:

- Girl Scout pins (one for each person to be invested, left unclasped)

Arrangements:

The troop forms a horseshoe and stands fairly close together. The new members stand off to the side. Multiple troop leaders should split the speaking parts as appropriate.

Ceremony:

Girls in Troop: Why have you come here?

Joining Girls: To be (*insert level*) Girl Scouts.

Leader: As Girl Scouts you will be expected to uphold the meaning of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Do you know what it means when you say, “On my honor”?

Joining Girls: Yes, we do.

Leader: May I trust you, on your honor, to try to serve God and your country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law?

Joining Girls: Yes, you may.

Investiture Ceremonies

Girls give the Girl Scout Sign and repeat the Girl Scout Promise.

At this time, the adults and current troop members may also give the Girl Scout Sign and repeat together the Girl Scout Promise as a form of rededication.

Leader pins the membership pin to girls' clothing.

Leader: This pin tells everyone you are a Girl Scout. I know you will wear it proudly. The three leaves of the trefoil represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. May you find joy in working together, fun in playing together, and excitement in discovering together.

The leader then gives the Girl Scout Handshake to each new Girl Scout.

Leader: Welcome to Girl Scouting and (level) Troop #_____.

Flowers of Friendship Rededication Ceremony

Appropriate for both adult and girl member ceremonies.

Equipment:

- Table
- Ten bunches of flowers, as specified in ceremony
- Large container to set flowers in
- Small containers for each girl's flowers, if desired

Arrangements:

The troop forms a semicircle around the back of a table upon which the items are placed.

Ceremony:

Leader: Welcome to our rededication ceremony. Tonight we are here to reaffirm our belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law. The Girl Scout Promise and Law are the foundation of all Girl Scouting. The Promise is like a basket that holds flowers. Flowers have always played an important role in human life. From the very earliest times, they have been given as tokens of love and respect, and have served in ceremonies and rituals of all types. The flowers we mention in this ceremony symbolize the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law.

Please join me in repeating the Girl Scout Promise (*everyone recites the Promise*).

And now, we will dedicate ourselves to living the Girl Scout Law (*As each part of the Law is read, the corresponding flower is placed in the basket or vase*).

Girl Scout #1: I will do my best to be honest and fair... This part of the law is represented by the white chrysanthemum. It shows truth, honor, trustworthiness, equality and fairness.

Girl Scout #2: friendly and helpful... The zinnia represents thoughtfulness about friends, baby's breath represents generosity.

Girl Scout #3: considerate and caring... Together, a red and a white rose stand for a warm and caring heart.

Girl Scout #4: courageous and strong... The garlic plant grows anywhere and has a strong flavor. It represents courage and strength of character and body. The Indian Paintbrush shows cheerfulness even in difficulty.

Girl Scout #5: and responsible for what I say and do... The gladiola symbolizes strength of character, maturity and responsibility. Binding it with straw, we show that we honor our word and keep our agreements.

Girl Scout #6: and to respect myself and others... The white zinnia shows that we hold ourselves worthy and good. Wintergreens symbolize the harmony we try to keep between ourselves and others.

Girl Scout #7: respect authority... The daffodil represents careful thought, attention and concern. With the daffodil, we are saying we hold others in high regard.

Girl Scout #8: use resources wisely... The foxglove shows thriftiness. When we use our resources wisely, we are being thrifty.

Girl Scout #9: make the world a better place... The cattail represents the peace we are trying to bring to the world when we help others. The caladium shows the great joy and delight we take in the world around us.

Girl Scout #10: and be a sister to every Girl Scout. With the striped carnation, we are saying we think about those Girl Scouts and Guides who are not here with us. It helps indicate our love for our fellow Girl Scouts and Guides.

Leader: This arrangement of flowers symbolizes our dedication to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Flowers alone do not last. This bouquet, a combination of color, texture, shape and aroma of each of the symbolic flowers, will always remind us of our commitment. A gift of fragrance is a gift of remembrance.

Following the ceremony, one of each type of flower could be made into a bouquet for each of the girls. Other flowers may be substituted for any mentioned in this ceremony, depending on the season and availability.

I Am a Girl Scout Rededication Ceremony

Equipment:

- Girl Scout Promise and Law printed in a program and/or upon a poster.
- Microphone, depending on the venue

Ceremony:

Leader: Girl Scouting is strengthened by our love and dedication to our Girl Scout code of living--the Promise and Law. They are the cornerstones upon which we have built a program that will develop each one of us to assume the responsibilities and accept the privileges of citizenship, and to develop a set of true values. Let's join together to say our Promise.

All: *(All Girl Scouts present make the Girl Scout Sign and say Girl Scout Promise in unison).*

Leader: We will repeat the Law.

All: *(All Girl Scouts present recite the Law in unison).*

Investiture Ceremonies

Girl Scout #1: I will do my best to be honest and fair... *(small pause)*

I am a Girl Scout. You can trust me with your innermost thoughts. I tell the truth and do my work honestly. I show no favoritism to those with whom I share experiences.

Girl Scout #2: I will do my best to be friendly and helpful... *(small pause)*

I am a Girl Scout. It shall be my personal privilege to do all I can for others whether it be with my hands, words spoken to a friend in need, or the offering of an understanding heart.

Girl Scout #3: I will do my best to be considerate and caring. ... *(small pause)*

I am a Girl Scout. It is my deep desire to be courteous to those about me beyond the daily need and to search for little thoughtful things to do, not just for the praise I might receive.

Girl Scout #4: I will do my best to be courageous and strong... *(small pause)*

I am a Girl Scout. I am true to the things I think are right and good. I will respect and protect the rights of every individual.

Girl Scout #5: I will do my best to be responsible for what I say and do... *(small pause)*

I am a Girl Scout. I will wear a friendly smile and willingly do each daily task. I will remember that when I speak, others judge all Girl Scouts by me.

Girl Scout #6: I will do my best to respect myself and others... *(small pause)*

I am a Girl Scout. I will direct my thoughts to worthwhile things so I may be a positive influence on those around me.

Girl Scout #7: I will do my best to respect authority... *(small pause)*

I am a Girl Scout. It is my special duty to respect the laws of my community and to respect those who are responsible for me. By respecting authority, I set an example for others to follow.

Girl Scout #8: I will do my best to use resources wisely...*(small pause)*

I am a Girl Scout. I will not misuse materials, time or energy. I use resources wisely so I may have more to share with others and assist our supplies to outlast time.

Girl Scout #9: I will do my best to make the world a better place... *(small pause)*

I am a Girl Scout. I will care for all living things. I will take an active interest in my environment.

Girl Scout #10: I will do my best to be a sister to every Girl Scout... *(small pause)*

I am a Girl Scout. I extend a helping hand to those about me in our sisterhood. I think not in terms of color, race or creed, but of the common bond shared by all Girl Scouts.

An appropriate song could be used to wrap up the ceremony.



Leader Ceremonies

LEADER RECOGNITION CEREMONIES

Welcoming Ceremony for New Leaders

Arrangements:

Participants form a horseshoe. There are four speakers.

Ceremony:

Leader #1: As I welcome you to your new position as a Girl Scout Leader, I give to you:

the adventure of seeing a girl try something new;
the joy of seeing a girl smile at you as she sings around the campfire;
the pride in seeing her progress in understanding herself, her troop, her community and the world;
the friendship and trust of friends, the heritage and future of a great movement, and the gift of a young spirit.

All Speakers: I am a Girl Scout Leader.

Leader #2: I have the courage to teach girls in the time-tested foundations of the Girl Scout Movement and how to stand by their values in a changing world.

Leader #3: I try to teach girls to take responsibility for their actions and make a positive difference in their world.

Leader #4: The Promise and the Law are a commitment for all persons in Girl Scouting to do their best.

All Speakers: I am a Girl Scout Leader.

Leader #1: I can help them be their best by a sincere desire to bring out the talents in every girl.

Leader #2: I can help girls to seek opportunities for service and to develop skills for going service well.

Leader #3: I will lead girls by example.

Leader #4: I hope girls can learn to recognize and appreciate the likenesses as well as the differences among human beings.

All Speakers: I am a Girl Scout Leader

Leader #1: Everyone, please join me in reciting the Girl Scout Promise.

Leader Ceremonies

Recognition of Leaders Ceremony

Arrangements:

Three leaders and four girls stand facing the audience.

Ceremony:

Leader #1: Thought I heard a girl call.

Girl #1: I need a leader.

Leader #2: She called for a leader. You answered her call. The challenge is truly yours.

Girl #2: “The Challenge of the Children” by Joan McEniry

Girl #3: We are the present... and the future, too! Remember, when we turn our eyes to you to point the way that we must learn to walk these paths ourselves against the day when you no longer lead us by the hand.

Girl #4: Teach us the meaning of the code we need, for soon there will be those whom we must lead in ways which you have shown.

Girl #1: And, having taught us, show us you are not afraid for us to walk alone.

Girl #2: The present is in your strong hands. The future is ours. Teach us to love the beauty of our land.

Girl #3: But help us too – to reach for stars! To gather to ourselves the dreams that beckoned once to you.

Girl #4: Teach us those things that we must know to make your dream – our dream come true!

Leader #3: You did hear the call. Not from one girl, but from a thousand. You answered that call. Each of you perhaps only for a few girls, each in your own best way.

Leader #1: Your answer was firm as you offered your hand to help. You do not try to do everything. Parents, teachers, clergy, friends, all help to mold her life. But you offer her something beyond—not to replace, but to expand.

Leader #2: For you have given her a place to put all she has learned into practice, a place where she can experiment on her own without fear of mistakes; where you can help her find laughter and joy in what she tries to do; and show her things she may never have seen – a campfire at night, a forest stream.

Leader #3: And help her to know, and learn to love, all kinds of girls who, like her, are trying to find their places in life. The hand you have offered has been steady and sure. With you, girls have found hope and trust.

All Leaders: Your grateful Council thanks you for responding to the call of thousands of girls, past and present. You leaders are a vital link in their Girl Scout Circle of Friendship.

All Girls: You heard the call. You accepted the challenge. You have made your Promise. Will all leaders present join us in singing, “When E’er You Make a Promise.”

Nobody Told Us, We Learned

This can be used for an adult recognitions ceremony. Feel free to modify as appropriate for the situation.

Arrangement: Nine adult volunteers in line or shallow horseshoe facing audience.

Ceremony: The first part of each person's reading should be read lightly and in wonderment, with the refrain "You will learn, I was told" read rather solemn and ponderously.

Girl Scout #1: When I started as a volunteer in Girl Scouts, nobody told me I would really feel part of something so big, so wonderful, that when we said the Promise together tonight that I would mean every word. I wondered if I would ever know all the words.
You will learn, I was told.

Girl Scout #2: When I started as a volunteer in Girl Scouts, nobody told me that while I worried and fretted about "doing the right thing at the right time," I would now be looked upon as "knowing all the answers" by newer volunteer Girl Scouts. I just wondered how I would get the girls to pay attention to me.
You will learn, I was told.

Girl Scout #3: When I started as a volunteer in Girl Scouts, nobody told me I would really have to cook on an open fire. "I don't know how to scramble eggs or put up a tent." Nobody told me that after I tried it that I would really want to go camping again.
You will learn, I was told.

Girl Scout #4: When I started as a volunteer in Girl Scouts, nobody told me that I would become misty-eyed or that my voice would crack when we did a flag ceremony. But, I've never done a flag ceremony," I said. "How will I know what to do?"
You will learn, I was told.

Girl Scout #5: When I started as a volunteer in Girl Scouts, nobody told me how much time was involved, more than an hour or two a week. I didn't understand how this would make the girls confident, courageous, caring young women ready to take on the world.
You will learn, I was told.

Girl Scout #6: When I started as a volunteer in Girl Scouts, nobody told me that the Law was made to help us become better people. "How will I learn to get along with so many girls and adults, we're all so different?"
You will learn, I was told.

Girl Scout #7: When I started as a volunteer in Girl Scouts, nobody told me how much I would learn to love Girl Scouting for myself and how many friends I would make. I was told that "The best part is the fun," but thought they meant for the girls.
You will learn, I was told.

Girl Scouts #8: When I started as a volunteer in Girl Scouts, nobody told me how important I would be as a role model. I was just doing it for my daughter but soon all the girls were like daughters to me.
You will learn, I was told.

Leader Ceremonies

Girl Scout #9: When I started as a volunteer in Girl Scouts, nobody told me that this was a lifetime commitment, I thought I would do it for a year or two. I had no idea what a difference I could make in the lives of girls or that someday, they would stand as Girl Scout volunteers next to me.
You will learn, I was told.

In Unison: I am a Girl Scout—just five little words, but behind them, hundreds of feelings and thoughts. We are Girl Scouts because we enjoy sharing with our friends in Girl Scouting. Nobody told us that we would make so many friends or make such a difference!

Nobody told us. We learned.

Because the Girl

This can be used for an adult recognitions ceremony. Feel free to modify as appropriate for the situation.

Arrangement: Nine or ten adult volunteers in line or shallow horseshoe facing audience.

Ceremony

Introduction: The following is titled “Because the Girl” and was written by Mimi Murray a GSUSA National Operational Volunteer. The words speak clearly about why we do what we do for Girl Scouts.

Speaker#1: Because the girl has a need,
We have an obligation.

Speaker#2: Because the girl has a choice,
We must be a better choice

Speaker #3: Because the girl has high expectations,
We must excel.

Speaker #4: Because the girl wants to explore,
We must be her guide.

Speaker #5: Because the girl wants to belong,
We must open our arms.

Speaker #6: Because the girl is searching for direction,
We must be her compass.

Speaker #7: Because the girl encounters time of turmoil,
We must be her safe haven.

Speaker #8: Because the girl is tomorrow’s woman,
We must care today.

Speaker #9: Because of the girl...
We exist.

It's Being a Girl Scout Volunteer

Speaker #1: What is it about being a Girl Scout Volunteer? We are the visible embodiment of the Girl Scout Promise and Law as we work with girls and adults.

Speaker #2: It's the first parents' meeting or the first new leaders' training, hoping you say the right things.

Speaker #3: It's helping one of your girls with problems at home find some acceptance.

Speaker #4: It's having a girl ask for advice because she is too embarrassed to ask anyone else.

Speaker #5: It's seeing the girls jump and scream in excitement when you tell them they are going camping for the first time in the spring.

Speaker #6: It's the week that has been terribly hectic and you call the other troop leader, and she says, "don't worry – I've got everything under control. Or the week you both show up at the meeting with nothing to do and the girls take over and come up with their own ideas.

Speaker #7: It's understanding your own daughter better by understanding the other girls.

Speaker #8: It's staying up late gluing their crafts back together after the girls have gone home so they won't know they did it wrong.

Speaker #9: It's planning a big campfire and having all the girls fall asleep—too tired from the day's excitement to participate.

Speaker #10: It's soothing a bruised ego or bandaging a cut knee, drying away tears or simply giving a hug for encouragement.

Speaker #11: It's becoming the mentor to other Girl Scout volunteers.

Speaker #12: It's giving and sharing, loving and caring. It's knowing that without people like you and me, Girl Scouting just cannot be.



Bridging Ceremonies

BRIDGING CEREMONIES

In order to create a smooth transition from one level to the next, the planning for the actual Bridging Ceremony should begin as early as possible. Earning the actual Bridging recognition is optional, but is recommended and involves a number of activities between multiple levels.

This ceremony should be planned by and have meaning for the girls participating. It may be planned jointly by the younger troop and its sister troop of the next level, or by either of these troops. Both troops and leaders of both troops participate in the ceremony. While samples in this book refer to a specific level, most can be adapted for use at any level.

The essential parts of the ceremony are:

1. Each girl rededicates herself to Girl Scouting by making the Girl Scout Promise.
2. Each girl is welcomed into her new level.

Each troop forms a horseshoe with the open end facing a bridge that separates them. The bridge may be symbolic or an actual bridge. Suggestions include a bridge in a park or constructing one of paper strips outlining the 'bridge.'

A typical ceremony has a farewell from the troop the girls are leaving. Each girl then gives the Girl Scout Handshake to her leader of the old level followed by a solitary walk over the bridge. On the other side of the bridge, the girl is met by a girl of the next level and taken to the Leader where she is welcomed with a Girl Scout Handshake and a verbal welcome. Ideally, each girl who bridges has a welcoming girl sponsor on the far side of the bridge. However, even one girl and one leader as a reception group is sufficient. For Ambassador Girl Scouts who are bridging, the reception is by an adult Girl Scout.

At either end of the bridge, there are pins and recognitions that can be given as appropriate. The Bridging Badge for each level must be earned. Instructions for this are in each of the level handbooks. The Bridging Badge is usually given (if earned) along with an annual membership star by the troop the girl is leaving. If a new level membership pin is needed (Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts), that is given by the new level leader or leader continuing on with the troop.

After all girls have crossed the bridge, everyone can recite the Girl Scout Promise and/or sing a song such as "When E'er You Make Promise" or "Girl Scouts Together."

What is given out at each level (Bridging Badge must be earned):

Daisy to Brownie

Brownie pin, Bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts Badge, membership star with disk

Brownie to Junior

Trefoil membership pin (either contemporary or traditional), Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts Badge, membership star with disk, Brownie Girl Scout Wings

All other levels

Bridge to Cadette/Senior/Adult Girl Scouts badge/pin, membership star with disk

Bridging Ceremonies for Girl Scout Daisies

The Troop/Group Committee should be involved with the planning of the Bridging Ceremony and families should be invited. Girls can design and produce family invitations for the event, plan refreshments, decide if they want the ceremony with the a sister troop/group, the entire school area, or with a few Brownie Girl Scout representatives.

Meet with Brownie Girl Scouts at least once (hopefully two or three times). Have the older girls teach Daisy Girl Scouts the "Brownie Smile Song;" share adventures and stories about their troop/group; and learn the Girl Scout Handshake (to be used at the Bridging Ceremony).

Equipment:

- One Daisy petal for each girl, made by her, approximately 12" long with her name on it
- Stem (about 18" to 24") and center (about 5") made by leader
- Small bees to attach to petal for each girl
- Optional – sign saying "Goodbye Daisy Girl Scouts"

Arrangements:

Have girls stand in circle or horseshoe around the large daisy flower they helped make.

Ask girls if they have worked with a Brownie Girl Scout to learn what Brownie Girl Scouts do? (*name some things*)
Make this very brief.

Leaders ask: Are you ready to cross over to be Brownie Girl Scouts?

Girls respond: As you can plainly see
We are really ready to be
Brand new Brownie Girl Scouts.

Leaders read on: Old friendly bee came out to see
You take the path so new
Now make the sign and leave behind
Your Daisy Girl Scout smock of blue (substitute 'vest' for 'smock' if necessary)

As you read the part about "friendly bee," girls move forward toward daisy flower. Leader and helpers take "bee" from flower petals and pin on girl's shoulder.

Bridging Ceremonies

Girl Scout Brownie Fly-Up Ceremony #1

While all Girl Scouts bridge from one level to the next, only Brownies receive their wings at the end of third grade. In addition, as with all the levels, there is an earned Bridging Badge available.

Equipment:

- Bridge made of wood, or a cardboard arch, or it may be made of paper strips laid flat on the ground
- Trefoil pin for each girl, traditional or contemporary
- Brownie Girl Scout Wings
- Membership star with disk
- Optional – Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts badge (*see Brownie handbook for requirements*)

Arrangements:

Brownie Girl Scouts assemble in a circle on one side of bridge with their leaders. Girl Scout Juniors are on opposite side with a leader in a horseshoe facing the bridge.

Ceremony:

Brownie Leader mentions each girl who is flying up by name and tells something about her.

First Brownie Leader: Now it's time to say goodbye,
Break the Ring and out you fly

Second Brownie Leader takes girl to bridge and says:

Brownie (*her name*), you are just about
To become a Junior Girl Scout.
In the troop/group you soon will find
Junior Girl Scouts are true and kind.
So now I give you Brownie Girl Scout Wings
That you may fly to bigger things.

Leader presents girl with her wings and shakes her hand. Girl crosses bridge and is met by a Junior Girl Scout on the other side.

Girls flying up make Girl Scout Promise to Junior Girl Scout Leader. The Leader puts Trefoil pin on girl, shakes hands, and welcomes her to her troop/group. Repeat for each girl flying up to the Junior Girl Scout level.

Girl Scout Brownie Fly-Up Ceremony #2

While all Girl Scouts bridge from one level to the next, only Brownies receive their wings at the end of third grade. In addition, as with all the levels, there is an earned Bridging Badge available.

Equipment:

- Brownie Girl Scout Wings for each Brownie
- Bridge (could be craft project or an actual bridge in a park)
- Girl Scout membership pins (traditional or contemporary)
- Optional – Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts badge (if earned) [see Brownie handbook for requirements]
- Optional - Membership star with disk (may be part of a separate Court of Awards)

Arrangements:

Brownie Girl Scout troop stand in a Brownie Ring on one side of bridge with Girl Scout Junior troop standing in a horseshoe on opposite side end.

Ceremony:

Brownie Girl Scout Leader:

Since this is the last time you will be together as Brownie Girl Scouts, I would like you to sing your "Brownie Smile Song" (*everyone sings "Brownie Smile Song" from Brownie handbook*).

The time has now come for you to take wings and fly-up to the Junior Girl Scout Troop. I have enjoyed having you in my troop for the past few years. We have had much fun together, learning new songs and games, going on hikes, trying to do good turns daily. (*Leader adds appropriate activities or events*) I hope when you think of our years together, you will remember them with much pleasure. I would like each Fly-Up to tell what she enjoyed most about being a Brownie.

Each Brownie Girl Scout: (*tells what she enjoyed most*)

Brownie Girl Scout Leader:

Since you have been a registered Brownie Girl Scout, you are entitled to wear Brownie Girl Scout Wings on the vest or sash of your Junior Girl Scout uniform. It gives me much pleasure to present them to you, and I hope you wear them proudly.

(Leader presents the Wings to each Brownie. Optionally, she may present the Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts Badge and any other earned recognitions including membership star and disk.)

Brownie Girl Scout Troop: [in unison]

Now it's time to say goodbye, break the Ring and out you fly.

(The Ring breaks just long enough to let the Brownie Girl Scouts out. Brownies cross over the bridge or some symbol of transition. Each Brownie Girl Scout who is flying up is met by a Junior Girl Scout who conducts her to the horseshoe formation.)

Bridging Ceremonies

Junior Girl Scout Leader: *(standing in front of the horseshoe, speaks to the Junior Girl Scout Troop).*
Will you please recite the Girl Scout Law?

(Ten girls, selected beforehand, say one part of the Law at a time. If in an appropriate location, each girl can light a candle as she says her part. If ten girls are not available, each girl can take a second or third turn)

Junior Girl Scout Leader: *(speaking to Fly-Ups)*

As Junior Girl Scouts, you will live by this Law. It will serve as a daily reminder of the way you would like to act at home, at school, in your community and everywhere you are alone. It is important that you know this Law because it is an important part of the Girl Scout Promise, which you are now going to make.

(As she calls each Fly-up by name, the girl steps forward and makes her Promise. The Junior Girl Scout Leader pins the Girl Scout membership pin on her and welcomes her with the Girl Scout Handshake.)

Every time you make the Girl Scout Promise you will remember that it is a very personal promise. It is personal because it means you are accepting a code of honor, which you will try to live by. We will now sing, "When E'er You Make a Promise."

Junior Girl Scout Troop: *(All sing, "When E'er You Make a Promise.")*



Bridging Ceremony for Girl Scout Juniors #1

Equipment:

- Bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts badge (if earned—requirements found in Junior Handbook)
- Bridge (could be constructed from paper, wood or an actual bridge in a park)

Arrangements:

Each troop forms a horseshoe facing the bridge separating them. Each Cadette Girl Scout has been assigned the names of a Junior Girl Scout(s) who is bridging.

Ceremony:

The Cadette Girl Scout leader and Cadette Girl Scout come to the end of the bridge.

The girl calls out the Junior Girl Scout's name. The Junior Girl Scout leaves her troop, gives the Girl Scout Sign and Handshake to the Junior Girl Scout Leader. She then crosses the bridge, gives the Girl Scout Sign and Handshake to the Cadette Girl Scout Leader. The Cadette Girl Scout then takes the girl's hand and leads her to the Cadette Girl Scout horseshoe formation.

After all girls have crossed the bridge, the whole troop recites the Girl Scout Promise and sings, "When E'er You Make a Promise" or "Girl Scouts Together." Visit the Emerson Resource Center for Girl Scout song books.

Bridging Ceremony for Girl Scout Juniors #2

Equipment:

- Large sheet of poster board on an easel
- Seed, roots, stem, leaves and daisy bud cut from colored paper and backed with tape
- Bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts Badge (if earned—requirements found in Junior Handbook]
- Optional – daisy flower to give each girl

Arrangements:

Girl Scouts stand at either side of an easel holding a large poster board

Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: Just as a seed is the first part of a plant, so is Daisy Girl Scouts the first part of the Girl Scout Program. Let this seed represent Daisy Girl Scouting, the beginning. (*Affix seed at bottom of poster board*)

Girl Scout #2: In Brownie Girl Scouts, girls continue their development as Girl Scouts. These roots remind us of that process. Just as roots come from the seed as tender shoots seeking to grasp the earth, so do Brownie Girl Scouts continue their adventure in Girl Scouting as inexperienced girls looking for others to guide them and help them grow. (*Affix roots just above the seed*)

Girl Scout #3: In Junior Girl Scouting, girls grow and make themselves known in the community. This stem reminds us of that emerging process. Just as a stem pushes up from its roots, so do Junior Girl Scouts reach out further into the world. (*Affix stem just above the roots*)

Bridging Ceremonies

Junior Girl Scout Leader:

As you now get ready to bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts, be aware that you will be moving into new program areas to challenge you. You will be asked to take on more responsibilities and develop your leadership skills. As Cadette Girl Scouts you will have the opportunity to earn Cadette-level badges, explore career options, give service and participate in Destinations. Some of you may choose to earn the Silver Award, the highest award in Cadette Girl Scouting. Let these leaves remind you of your Cadette Girl Scout years. Just as the leaves of a plant nourish it and help it grow, so does Cadette Girl Scouting encourage the growth of a girl. (*Junior Girl Scout Leader affix leaves to sides of stem*)

Cadette Girl Scout Leader:

Our plant is not complete. It needs the flower. Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouting is the bloom of the plant. Through continued growth and development you can become Senior and then Ambassador Girl Scouts – the blossom of pride of Girl Scouting. Let the center of this flower represent to you Cadettes that Senior Girl Scouting is still ahead of you, and after that, Ambassador Girl Scouts. When you become Senior Girl Scouts, the flower will bloom, and as Ambassador Girl Scouts, you will add the petals. (*Affix center and petals of flower to top of stem*)

Girls repeat the Promise, receive a daisy and are welcomed into Cadette Girl Scouting.

Girls can also receive the Bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts Award if they have earned it.



Bridging Ceremony for Girl Scout Cadettes (Seven Virtues of Life)

This ceremony can be used as part of a traditional bridging ceremony such as the other examples in this booklet.

Equipment:

- Seven candles in a single strand or individual holders, and lighter
- Depending upon location, you may need to use electric candles that you can 'light' by tightening the bulbs at the appropriate time.

Arrangements:

- Cadette Girl Scout Leader facing girls from behind candles.
- Senior Girl Scout Leader to the side.

Ceremony:

(Cadette Girl Scout Leader points to seven candles. They can be pre-lit or lit individually following the explanation of each virtue.)

Wisdom: Wisdom does not necessarily mean superior knowledge. It means using the knowledge one possesses.

Courage: Courage is not the quality that enables one to meet danger without fear. It is being able to meet danger in spite of one's fear.

Self-control: Self-control isn't limited to the control of one's temper, but control of one's self in all things: eating, playing, and even working and talking.

Justice: Justice is the practice of dealing fairly with others without prejudice or regard to race, color or creed.

Faith: Faith is the conviction that something unproved by physical evidence is true.

Hope: Hope means to expect with confidence. Always hope for better things to come. A woman without hope is of little good to herself or her community.

Love: There are many kinds of love – love of family, love of home, love of fellow persons, love of faith, and love of country. All these loves are necessary for a full life.

If you live by the seven great virtues, you will become a happy woman and a happy woman is a successful woman. It is now my pleasure to present you to your new Girl Scout Leader of Senior Girl Scout Troop _____ (number).

Bridging Ceremonies

Bridging Ceremony for Girl Scout Seniors

Equipment:

- A key for each bridging Senior Girl Scout (can be made from cardboard or store bought)
- Bridge to Ambassador Girl Scouts Badge (if earned—requirements found in Senior Handbook]

Arrangement:

Troop stands in a circle

Ceremony:

Girl Scout Leader: Have you come here tonight (today) with a desire to be bridged into the sisterhood of Ambassador Girl Scouts?

Senior Girl Scouts: Yes, we have.

Girl Scout Leader: Do you understand by becoming Ambassador Girl Scouts you are joining a sisterhood in which you will be expected to live your life according to Girl Scouting ideals and traditions, and in which you will be trusted to obey the Promise and Law, and carry out the motto of being prepared?

Senior Girl Scouts: We do.

Girl Scout Leader: It will be your duty as Ambassador Girl Scouts to go ahead and prepare the way for those who are following you. Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts will be looking to you as leaders to set a worthy example. Are you prepared to undertake this responsibility?

Senior Girl Scouts: We are.

Girl Scout Leader: Are you ready to lead your new life of leadership, to be honorable and fair in all your dealings, to recognize and give service where needed, and to look wide at life and then look wider still?

Senior Girl Scouts: We are.

Girl Scout Leader: Understanding these things then, I ask you to see your responsibilities and endeavors in Girl Scouting, not from a girl's point of view, but that of young leaders. Will you do this?

Senior Girl Scouts: We will.

Girl Scout Leader: I trust you, on your honor, to do your best to keep these promises. Do your best to keep your honor bright and the spirit of Girl Scouting in your heart.

Accept these keys as symbols of your advancement into Ambassador Girl Scouts. Use them to unlock all the wider opportunities available to you as new young leaders in the Girl Scout community.

Bridging Ceremony for Girl Scout Ambassadors

Equipment:

- Large sheet of poster board on an easel
- Seed, roots, stem, leaves and daisy bud cut from colored paper and backed with tape (*see Sample Bridging Ceremony for Junior Girl Scouts #2*)
- Packet of daisy seeds for each bridging Ambassador Girl Scout
- Bridge to Adult Girl Scouts pin for each girl that earned it (*requirements found in Ambassador Handbook*)

Arrangements:

Troop stands in horseshoe around an easel and facing audience.

Ceremony:

Ambassador Girl Scout #1:

Just as a seed is the first part of a plant, Daisy Girl Scouts are the first part of the Girl Scout Program. Let this seed represent Daisy Girl Scouting, the beginning. (*Affix seed at bottom of poster board*)

Ambassador Girl Scout #2:

In Brownie Girl Scouts, girls continue their development as Girl Scouts. Let these roots remind us of that early process. Just as roots emerge from the seed as tender shoots seeking to grasp the earth, so do Brownie Girl Scouts begin their adventure in Girl Scouting as inexperienced girls looking for others to guide them in their growth. Give the roots proper nurturing and they grow to become a strong foundation for the plant. Give a Brownie Girl Scout good leadership and she will develop her own inner strengths. (*Affix roots just above the seed*)

Ambassador Girl Scout #3:

In Junior Girl Scouting, girls begin to spring forth and make themselves known. Let this stem remind you of that emerging process. For just as a stem pushes up from the roots, so do Junior Girl Scouts reach out further into their world. (*Affix stem above the roots*)

Ambassador Girl Scout #4:

Cadette Girl Scouting allows girls to move into new areas of the program and challenge themselves. Let these leaves remind you of Cadette Girl Scouting. Just as the leaves of a plant nourish it and help it grow, so does Cadette Girl Scouting nurture a girl and encourage her growth. (*Affix leaves to sides of stem*)

Ambassador Girl Scout #5:

Senior Girl Scouting takes strength from the stem and develops a flower bud, full of the promise of all their experiences to date. Not yet in full bloom, Senior Girl Scouts gather strength in anticipation of the last growth as Girl Scouts. (*Affix center of flower above stem, leaving room for petals*)

Ambassador Girl Scout #6:

This plant started from a seed, developed anchoring roots, pushed a stem from the ground, nurtured itself from the leaves, and produced a bud. The long-awaited event is the bloom. Ambassador Girl Scouting is the flower of the plant. Just as the petals unfold themselves for all the world to notice, so do Ambassador Girl Scouts step forward as leaders and explorers along the paths of life's experiences. (*Add petals to flower. A possible option is to have each girl's name on a petal.*)

Bridging Ceremonies

Girl Scout Leader:

Even though the flower eventually fades, it leaves behind a precious commodity. The seeds that develop from the bloom ensure the continuance of the species. They may be spread over the land to generate new growths of life. Take these daisy seeds as a symbol of your love for Girl Scouting. Use that love to foster interest in Girl Scouting in others and to ensure the development of the program. As a new adult in Girl Scouting, you hold the seeds of future growth in your hands. Continue along life's path and use your experiences to support others in the Girl Scout program.

(Present each bridging Ambassador Girl Scout with a packet of daisy seeds and her Bridge to Adult Girl Scouts Pin, if earned.)



World Thinking Day

WORLD THINKING DAY CEREMONIES

Thinking Day is February 22 and is the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. Lord Baden-Powell founded Boy Scouts in Great Britain. His wife, Lady Baden-Powell, promoted Girl Guides and Girl Scouts throughout the world and was known as the Chief Guide.

Sample Thinking Day Ceremony #1

The following ceremony could be part of a larger event honoring Thinking Day.

Equipment:

- Large replica of the World Association Trefoil
- Easel
- Pointer
- Optional - World Association pins

Arrangements:

The troop stands in a semicircle on either side of an easel holding a poster board with the replica of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Trefoil on it.

Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: The World Trefoil Pin is a symbol of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. On Thinking Day all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides plan to think of one another throughout the world. You wear this pin and so do Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from other countries. This pin has special meaning.

Girl Scout #2: The Blue stands for the sky and the Gold for the sun.

Girl Scout #3: The Trefoil in the middle stands for the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

Girl Scout #4: The base of the Trefoil is shaped like a flame and stands for the love of mankind and the flame that burns in the hearts of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts everywhere.

Girl Scout #5: The line in the middle of the Trefoil stands for the compass needle that guides us.

Girl Scout #6: The two stars stand for the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

(After all the speakers are finished, you may want to pin the members of the troop who haven't received their pins.)

Girl Scout Leader: We hope this pin is never put on simply from force of habit or for convenience; let it be a perpetual reminder to us of who we are and what we are striving to be. We pledge that the Law which we have promised to obey may never become mere empty words; let it be the guiding principle of our lives.

Another variation is to make the various parts of the logo separately and assemble them as the explanation is read. This can be felt on a flannel board or colored paper on poster board.

World Thinking Day

Thinking Day Ceremony #2

Equipment:

- Ten candles
- Matches or lighter
- Candle snuffer
- Table
- Logs or wood candle holders
- Optional – WAGGGS Trefoil display

Arrangement:

The troop forms a horseshoe around table.

Ceremony:

Narrator/Leader:

The horseshoe formation in which we stand symbolizes the open friendship circle. In the open end of our horseshoe stand our sisters of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world who are not able to be with us on this particular day, but are thought about as though they were actually here. We will use candles to remind us of the meaning of Thinking Day in our ceremony. My candle represents February 22, Thinking Day.

Girl Scout #1: Today, we light these candles as symbols of our friendship for ten million sister Girl Scouts and Girl Guides throughout the world.

Girl Scout #2: I light my candle in memory of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting and Guiding. February 22nd was his birthday.

Girl Scout #3: I light my candle in memory of Lady Olave Baden-Powell, the Chief Girl Guide of the World. February 22nd was her birthday.

Girl Scout #4: Because February 22nd is the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, it was set aside in 1926 as Thinking Day—the day when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world think of each other and of what Scouting and Guiding means to them.

Girl Scout #5: My candle is for the World Pin which symbolizes our membership in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. It is worn by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in 146 countries. The light of my candle is a brave light and we ask those Girl Scouts and Girl Guides who can openly give and uphold their Promise to think seriously of its meaning.

Girl Scout #6: My candle represents the Thinking Day Symbol. The World Trefoil at the center represents the World Pin. The arrows that point toward the Trefoil represent action; they give direction for that action, and show how World Association members can be helped. The round shape represents a world-wide movement.

Girl Scout #7: I light my candle for the money donated by girls to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. It is used to support the four World Centers: Our Chalet, Our Cabana, Sangam, and Olave House, and sends Girl Scouts to member countries to visit.

Girl Scout #8: I light my candle to represent the service Girl Scouts and Girl Guides are prepared to give to others.

Girl Scout #9: Because the Promise is the same for all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides, although it is said in different languages, this candle represents the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

Girl Scout #10: Let us renew our Girl Scout Promise. (*Girl Scout Promise recited*)

Narrator/Leader:

We will close with the Dutch Padvindster's Goodnight:

"I am a link in the golden chain of world Scouting
And I must keep my link strong and bright."

(Close with Friendship Circle and an appropriate song.)

The Candles of Friendship #1

Equipment:

- Thirteen candles
- Logs or wood candle holders
- Matches or lighter
- Candle snuffer
- Table

Arrangements:

The troop forms a horseshoe around a table. Number of speakers may be adjusted.

Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: We light the candles of Friendship.

Girl Scout #2: These are the symbols of our pledge as Girl Scouts.

Girl Scout #3: Our flames are small but are steady and bright.

Girl Scout #4: We light them with thoughts of friendship glowing and steadily burning in our hearts.

Girl Scout #5: We watch the glowing flames with hopeful hearts, for children here and abroad, that they may enjoy all the rights of the child.

Girl Scout #6: For the Founder of all Guiding and Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell.

Girl Scout #7: For the Founder of all Girl Scouting in these United States, Juliette Gordon Low.

Girl Scout #8: This candle is for the hope of peace in every land.

Girl Scout #9: This one is for service to our country.

Girl Scout #10: For all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides wherever they may be tonight.



World Thinking Day

Girl Scout #11: This one says, “Good luck to all who are away.”

Girl Scout #12: For the Girl Scout Law and for the Promise we make as Girl Scouts together.

Girl Scout #13: Let us now renew our Girl Scout Promise. (*participants recite the Promise*)

The Candles of Friendship #2

Equipment:

- Ten candles
- World Association pins for each girl (as needed)
- Table with candle holders (optional)

Arrangements:

Participants may enter in a line with unlit candles as narrator begins to speak. Each candle is lit as Girl Scout speaks about that candle

Ceremony:

Narrator: We carry the candles of friendship. These are the symbols of our pledge as Girl Scouts of the United States of America, of friendship to all the world and of special friendship for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere. The flames, though small, burn steadily and brightly.

Girl Scout #1: We light this candle with thoughts of friendship flowing in our hearts.

Girl Scout #2: We watch the glowing flames with grateful thoughts of Girl Scouts and Guides who have put their friendship to a special test these past few years and found it true.

Girl Scout #3: This candle is for the Founder of all Guiding and Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell.

Girl Scout #4: This candle is for the Founder of all Girl Scouting in these United States, Juliette Gordon Low.

Girl Scout #5: This candle is for service to our country and mankind.

Girl Scout #6: This candle is for the hope of peace in every land.

Girl Scout #7: This candle is for all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides wherever they may be tonight.

Girl Scout #8: This one says, “Good luck and safe return to all who are away from home.”

Girl Scout #9: This candle is for the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Law, may we use it in our daily lives.

Girl Scout #10: This candle is for the Promise we make as Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, may it become a way of life for all who say it.

Narrator: Let us now renew our Girl Scout Promise. (*participants recite the Promise*)

Narrator: *(place World Association pin on girls)* This is your badge of friendship throughout the world.

Narrator: We quench the flames of our candles, but the lights of friendship still glows in our hearts. May we always be true and helpful to friends, to our sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and to all mankind.

Countries of the World Thinking Day Ceremony

The countries in this ceremony were chosen for contrast of cultures and location, but any other countries in the World Association could be substituted.

Equipment:

- Seven small candles with holders
- One large candle with drip catcher
- Large cardboard cutout of the World Trefoil in appropriate colors

Arrangements:

The speakers form a horseshoe around a large World Trefoil symbol, which is placed on the floor. Girl Scout #1 standing on top of the Trefoil represents the Spirit of Friendship. She carries a large candle with the drip catcher. It should be lit before the ceremony begins. Eight other girls representing Finland, Brazil, Italy, India, Ghana, Japan, Great Britain, and America. Eight girls should be evenly distributed around the Trefoil.

Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: *(taking several steps forward)* My name is Friendship. Every night and day, I knock upon the doors of the world. I cry to be let in. Too many times I'm turned away, because the people fear; but when youth lifts the latch, I walk straight in! You bid me welcome, Sisterhood of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of the world. So, on this day when thoughts and friendship travel fast and far, I come among you to renew our pledge of fellowship, and to hear once more your Law.

Girl Scout #2: A Girl Scout will do her best to be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Girl Scout #1: Let us call from many lands the pledge of friendship and sisterhood, From Finland....

Girl Scout #3: *(Speaker steps forward, walks to Friendship, lights her candle, returns to the left base of the trefoil where she places her candle in the holder and kneels beside it.)* Finland's my home, where sun at midnight shines on mountain snow; where work and service lights us, like our sun. Friendship and peace are the aims of Girl Guides in our land. Our hope is that soon in all the world there shall be no more night.

Girl Scout #1: From Brazil....

Girl Scout #4: *(Speaker repeats same actions as Finland, except that candle is placed at right base of trefoil.)* Brazil is my country. Beneath the Southern Cross the mountains plunge into a palm fringed sea. This wonderland, our home, teaches us Guides reverence for all creation, and love of our friends.

Girl Scout #1: From Ghana...

World Thinking Day

Girl Scout #5: *(Goes to Friendship, lights candle, returns to Trefoil, puts down candle and stands beside it.)* From yet another continent am I, bringing you greetings from Ghana. At home, the Trefoil makes us all as one, links us, regardless of our race or creed. So, to our sisterhood, honor and love.

Girl Scout #1: From Japan.....

Girl Scout #6: *(Same action as Ghana.)* Happy are we, in far Japan, because we are your sisters, too. We share the Law and Promise, and the fun of being Girl Guides. I light this candle for my friends at home.

Girl Scout #1: I call now on the country where your dream of fellowship was born; the dreamer of the dream, who made it come to life throughout the world; the birthplace of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell: Great Britain.

Girl Scout #7: *(Same action as Ghana.)* Greetings from Great Britain's Guides who reach across the sea to grasp your hands.

Girl Scout #1: Lastly, on the United States I call. One nation formed from many states, where men and women live at peace together, and where friendship walks at will.

Girl Scout #8: *(Same action as Ghana.)* Many millions strong, we Girl Scouts of the United States seek understanding and true fellowship among us at home. With our friends around the world, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides, we shall keep faith to build a better world for all.

Entire troop now sings, "Make New Friends" as the countries pick up their candles and return to their places in the semicircle. The Spirit of Friendship also returns to her original position. The troop leaves as it came, in silence.



Other Ceremonies

Eternal Flame Ceremony #1 (Passing the Light)

This can be used at most ceremonies, but it is preferred to be performed at Troop Camping, Bridging, Court of Awards, Encampments, or Investiture/Rededication.

Equipment:

- Candle for each person
- Matches/lighter
- Water bucket with water in it

Arrangement:

- A circle of persons present is best but other arrangements can be made depending on size of group and physical location

Ceremony:

Speaker: Long ago a special ceremony was formed. Juliette Low wanted her original girls to carry a special spark with them as their Girl Scout group broke up. Some from the troop were moving away, working to help their families or wanted to help a group of girls a little younger than themselves. But whatever their reasons, Juliette knew no other group would ever quite be the same.

As the girls stood in a circle holding candles that they had made, Juliette knew what spark it was she wanted to pass on. She lit her candle and spoke.

With this candle I give you each something very special to pass on. As I light the candle on my right, I ask each of you to light the candle to your right and pass it on. I want you to carry this thought with you whatever you go. This is the ETERNAL FLAME for Girl Scouts. Each of you after having a lit candle before you will repeat the Girl Scout Promise with me, then pause and recall a few of the things we have done together. Before we separate from our circle, I want to ask you to keep this candle as a very special candle. It is not to be used for any purpose but passing on the ETERNAL FLAME. You may use it in other Girl Scout ceremonies such as camps, encampments, campfires, bridging or court of awards ceremonies. I'm glad we were able to start a special tradition based on our ETERNAL FLAME.

Eternal Flame Ceremony #2

Equipment:

- Candle with cardboard collar for each person
- Matches or lighter
- Card with history of candle printed on it
- Water nearby

Arrangement:

This ceremony is appropriate for large groups. Participants are seated at tables, with a speaker at the podium. After the speaker recites her portion, one person per table comes to podium to have her candle lit. She returns to the table and lights one person's candle, who then turns and lights the next one until all are lit.

Ceremony:

Speaker: When Juliette Gordon Low established Girl Scouting in 1912, the tradition of candlelight ceremonies was an important part of the various activities. Through the early years, she passed the light and spirit of Girl Scouting onto others through investitures and campfires. They, in turn, continued to pass the light and the spirit.

Other Ceremonies

Over the years, the light and spirit of Girl Scouting has taken many different paths. With this candle I give you each something very special to pass on. As I light the next candle, you will each pass along the Eternal Flame for Girl Scouts. After each of you has a lit candle, we will raise our candles together with our left hands and repeat the Girl Scout Promise. Then, we will lower our candles and blow them out together. You have been given a written history for your candle. Please keep this candle as a very special candle. You may use it in other Girl Scout ceremonies such as camps, encampments, campfires, bridging or court of awards ceremonies. I am glad we are adding tonight to the history of our Eternal Flame.

(Speaker starts the lighting of the candles and then all follow the directions as given.)

Speaker: We will now say The Girl Scout Promise.

All: On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Scout's Own

A Scout's Own is a special program in Girl Scouting designed to provide an opportunity for girls or adults to express their serious thoughts and deeper feelings. It is an opportunity to reaffirm their ideals and a way to express these ideals to others. It is not a religious service, but an inspirational one.

The program is one planned by the girls with the help of their adult leader and not the other way around. Adults can also hold a Scout's Own at adult functions.

Its value as a means to spiritual growth lies in the girls' expression of their own convictions, aspirations and ideals. They may express these in several ways: "I'm grateful that _____", "I'm glad that _____", "I'm proud that _____". There is no audience in the formal sense of the word, but rather one group joining in spirit and action to create the program.

Explain to the girls what a Scouts' Own is and decide upon a theme. Determine ways to express the theme: stories, poems, slides, songs, play, pictures or a speaking chorus. A short period of silence, where each person can listen to the sounds around them, can be very effective. Some small part should be available for everyone. The program should not be rehearsed, just planned and prepared. Original works by the girls themselves should be used whenever possible.

A Scout's Own should not be too long, but long enough to get the idea across to those experiencing the Scout's Own.

Some suggested themes: Promise and Law, citizenship, international friendship, our world, water, trees, the seasons, sky, stars, rain, Native American lore, experiences in Girl Scouts.

The location can be anywhere, but it is useful to move into an area away from the usual troop meeting space to emphasize the break from the normal conversation and activities.

Enter and leave in silence to encourage and maintain an atmosphere of solemnity.

A suggested pattern (but remember there is no set pattern, creativity is best)

1. Introduction to the theme
2. A song or two to set the tone
3. Development of the theme
 - a. Skits, poetry reading, choral reading
 - b. Different girls speaking
 - c. Listening to music
 - d. Short film or video
4. Song
5. Reciting a poem or having a dialogue with everyone participating
6. Closing – song, poem, etc.

Gold Award Charge and Pledge

Equipment:

- Candle for each past and present recipient of the Gold Award, Golden Eaglet, Curved Bar, or First Class, given to them prior to start
- Matches or lighter
- Optional - Substitute handheld electric candles and screw bulb in to “light” it

Arrangements:

One person at podium reading the charge. Others can be anywhere in audience. Have a few holding lighters or matches at the ready who can ‘pass the flame’ at the indicated moment in ceremony.

Ceremony:

Speaker: I challenge you to accept this Girl Scout Gold Award in the spirit in which it is given. Know that with this award comes responsibility. As you enter this covenant of esteemed women, know that you are regarded with honor and respect. To uphold this honor, live your life in accordance with the Girl Scout Law.

I challenge you to remain honest and fair in all your dealings in this world. Never sell out and never give less than your very best. Always remain true to yourself. Always guard your honor.

I challenge you to be friendly and helpful to everyone you meet as you go through life. Celebrate the diversity of your fellow human beings. Give service freely, expecting nothing in return. Seek to improve life for others.

I challenge you to be considerate and caring to all living things, human and animal. Always being mindful of those in need, and the feelings of others. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

I challenge you to be responsible for what you say and do. Think before you speak and act. Be sure everything you say and do reflect well on you and your family.

I challenge you to respect yourself, so you may respect others. Continually strive to improve your mind, body and spirit. Strive for excellence in all you do and recognize the accomplishments of other.

I challenge you to respect authority. Follow the laws of your country. Be mindful of your rights as well as your responsibilities as a citizen of this great nation. Remember that freedom is not free.

I challenge you to use resources wisely. Never waste the resources of nature or those of yourself and the people around you. Use your talents to better the world and to protect our planet. Seek out the beauty that is all around you.

Other Ceremonies

I challenge you to make this world a better place. Use all your abilities to leave this world in a better condition than you found it. By your words, actions and deeds you can make a difference.

I challenge you to be a sister to every Girl Scout. Help younger girls to reach the top as you have. Support them on their road to the Girl Scout Gold Award. Do your best to give back to Girl Scouting that which has been given to you and more.

By accepting this challenge, you become a changed woman. You become part of an elite group who recognize that receiving this Girl Scout Gold Award is not one celebratory moment but a lifetime commitment.

May I please have all Gold Award Recipients, past and present, as well as all woman who have received the Golden Eaglet, Curved Bar or First Class Award, stand and light your candle.

(pause while candles are lit)

If you accept this challenge, please repeat after me:

I affirm my dedication to live by the Girl Scout Promise and Law. I understand my obligation to live with honor and to lead by example because the highest award of Girl Scouting has been entrusted to me. I will remain worthy of respect as one forever bound to the ideals of Girl Scouting.

Please pause for a moment to reflect upon your accomplishments and then blow out your candles.

A Personal Survival Kit

This a fun way to acknowledge a volunteer's work. It should be part of a larger ceremony. You can make your own version with these or other common items that you use to acknowledge the work of volunteers.

Equipment:

- A small bag or envelope for each recipient with the following inside: Band Aid, match, small birthday candle, rubberband, paper clip, small hard candy, and button.

Ceremony:

Narrator: It's that time again to pause and reflect
And look at the year in retrospect.
A problem or two arose here and there
Not one went unconquered because you care.
You gave your best to the world of Girl Scouts
Our Promise upheld without any doubts.

But maybe, just maybe you grew rather weary
And wondered if you could remain bright and cheery.
If so.... open this packet. It's a small compensation
For damages done. Use without reservation!

The Band-Aid you use to heal the small hurt
If someone to you got a little hurt.
The match you then strike up, this friendship renews.
Touch the match to the candle, let more light shine through.
And why the rubber band you're ready to ask?
Flexibility and giving it means for each task.

Next, a small paper clip is in this bag too
It keeps it all together for you.
The candy... you guessed... is to sweeten your day
Your support and kindness we'd like to repay.

Whether committee member, sponsor, or one who consults
You are ever concerned to get best results.
With thanks, many thanks, our troop (*or other group*) burst pride.
The button they popped is contained inside.
Now keep or use this survival kit small
And we hope to see you back again in the fall.



Other Ceremonies

Linking of Friendship Ceremony

This simple ceremony is based on the Dutch Girl Guide's Benediction, "I am a link in the golden chain of Girl Scouting (or world friendship), and I must keep my link strong and bright." Suggested uses for this ceremony are bridging or international programs.

Equipment:

- Paper strip with tape on one end or a piece of rope for each participant.

Arrangement:

Participants stand or sit in a circle holding their own chain "link"

Ceremony:

This first person begins the ceremony by taping together her paper link (or tying her rope to her neighbors with a square knot) and repeating the Benediction. Going around the circle, each person adds their link to the previous one while adding a thought on friendship. The circle is completed with a friendship or international themed song.

Joining of Ashes Ceremony

Equipment:

- Campfire
- Markers
- Tape
- Ashes taken from a previous campfire(s)
- List of previous campfires may need to be preprinted if extensive
- One container for each participant to take ashes with them

Arrangement:

During the campfire, ashes from previous campfire(s) are sprinkled over it and mingled with new campfire. The next morning (or whenever the ashes are cold), some ashes are put into each container and labeled with the date and place of the campfire, along with the previous campfire(s). If more than one set of ashes from previous campfires was added than all must be listed. Only those present at the ceremony may take away the ashes and use them in another campfire.

Ceremony:

Speaker: We carry our fellowship with us in these ashes from past campfires with our sisters in other parts of the world. May the joining of these dead fires with the leaping flames symbolize once more the unbroken chain that binds Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world with greetings from the Girl Scouts of the USA and everywhere.

Sound Effects Story of Juliette Low

Arrangement:

Divide the group in eight sections. Have each group learn the sound it will make when it hears its word or phrase.

Little Girl(s)Stand and giggle

Juliette LowCurtsey and say “Be my friend”

Georgia (state of)Say “Hey, y’all!”

HorsesMake neighing sound

Lord Baden-PowellBow formally and say “How do you do”

London.....Sing song “London Bridge is Falling Down” (*only these words, not the entire song*)

Boy ScoutsMake Scout sign and say “Be Prepared”

Girl ScoutsSing one line of “Girl Scouts Together”

Narrator reads the story and when a group hears their word or phrase, they make the appropriate sound. Narrator should begin slowly and allow time for responses.

Ceremony:

Narrator: One upon a time, there was a **little girl** named **Juliette Low** who lived in **Georgia** and loved to ride **horses**. After she grew up, she went to **London** where she met **Lord Baden-Powell** who founded the **Boy Scouts**. She was fascinated by the work he was doing.

She studied with him awhile and decided to start a troop of **Girl Scouts** for her little friends who liked to ride **horses** in **Georgia**. So, **Juliette Low** said goodbye to the **Boy Scouts** in **London** and came home with the idea that **Lord Baden-Powell** had given her.

She formed a group of **little girls**, who liked to ride **horses** and be together, into a troop of **Girl Scouts**. They loved it so much that the idea spread and now there are troops all over the world.

Aren't we glad that a... (*speed up from here on*)

A **little girl** named **London** and met
Juliette Low from **Lord Baden-Powell**, founder of the
Georgia who liked **Boy Scouts**, and came home to start the
horses, grew up and went to wonderful world of **Girl Scouts!**

Other Ceremonies

Action Story of Juliette Low World Friendship Fund

Traditionally, contributions to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund are collected as part of Thinking Day activities held around the birthday of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell On February 22.

Arrangements:

Girls are prepared by learning motions to use when certain words are mentioned in the story.

World	Stand up and spin around once
Juliette Low	Join hands with persons on right and left
Girl Scouting or Girl Scouts	Big smile and Girl Scout sign

Narrator reads the following story, pausing and waiting for motions to be performed by participants.

Ceremony:

Once upon a time, there was a lady whose name was Juliette Low. She became interested in Girl Scouting through her friends, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, when she visited them in England. They started Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting.

Juliette Low thought Girl Scouting was a wonderful idea. When she returned to America, she decided to start a Girl Scout troop. So on March 12, 1912, in her hometown of Savannah, Juliette Low started the first Girl Scout troop in this part of the world.

After she traveled all over the country, helping to start our Girl Scout troops, Juliette Low believed Girl Scouting was such a fine thing that she wanted to see Girl Scout troops all over the world. She knew Girl Scouting would help girls to become friends and would help toward world peace and goodwill.

When Juliette Low died in 1927, her friends decided that the greatest tribute that could be paid to such a charming lady would be to continue working toward the realization of her dream of World friendship. A memorial fund was started. It is called the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. Each year, all Girl Scouts in the United States are given the opportunity to support this fund which helps Girl Scouting all over the World.

When you Girl Scouts put your money into the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, you can imagine the far-off places in the world to which this money will travel and the ways it will help Girl Scouts. Maybe your money will send a Girl Scout from our country to Our Chalet, an international center in Switzerland, where Girl Scouts from all over the World get together and learn about each other. Or, maybe your money will help start new Girl Scout troops in other countries.

No one knows to what parts of the World this money will travel. No one knows the ways in which it will one day come back to use in new friends. But we all know that as we give money to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, we are helping spread Girl Scouting around the World.

Colors of the Law Ceremony

Equipment:

- Ten hand cut-outs in different colors given in ceremony
- Circle on table
- Candles of different colors with candle holders
- Candles wrapped in different colored or white ribbons (*optional*)

Arrangements:

Each participant steps forward, says her line, places her hand cut-out on circle outline on table, and then steps back.

Ceremony:

All: I will do my best to be...

Girl Scout #1: Honest and fair. This purple hand represents a Girl Scout's sense of honesty and fairness. A Girl Scout works honestly and keeps her promise. She is fair in all she does and with those she meets.

Girl Scout #2: Friendly and helpful. This blue hand represents a Girl Scout's sense of friendship and thoughtfulness. A Girl Scout is amiable and loyal to her friends. She helps other whenever and wherever she can.

Girl Scout #3: Considerate and caring. This orange hand represents a Girl Scout's sense of kindness and warmth. A Girl Scout works well with others and looks out for the well-being of others.

Girl Scout #4: Courageous and strong. This red hand represents a Girl Scout's sense of adventure and independence. A Girl Scout attempts new tasks and braves new endeavors. She is confident and self-assured in her actions.

Girl Scout #5: Responsible for what I say and do. This gold hand represents a Girl Scout's sense of ownership and pride in her work. She readily admits her strengths and weaknesses and is aware of the consequences of her actions. A Girl Scout is up-front with her intentions.

All: And to...

Girl Scout #6: Respect myself and others. This white hand represents a Girl Scout's sense of integrity. A Girl Scout directs her thoughts and deeds to encompass her own beliefs and to be sensitive to, and respectful of, the beliefs of those around her.

Girl Scout #7: Respect authority. This yellow hand represents a Girl Scout's sense of regard for another's position. A Girl Scout understands the importance of having a leader of a group to make final decisions. She works with the leader to make the best decisions for the good of the group.

Girl Scout #8: Use resources wisely. This green hand represents a Girl Scout's sense of being careful with resources. She uses materials, money, time, and energy wisely. A Girl Scout does not waste the Earth's resources.

Girl Scout #9: Make the world a better place. This pink hand represents a Girl Scout's sense of improvement. A Girl Scout strives to be clean, and to conserve and enrich the world around her. She believes it is important to leave a place better than when she found it.

Girl Scout #10: Be a sister to every Girl Scout. This silver hand represents a Girl Scout's loyalty to her sisters all over the world. A Girl Scout is always ready to accept more friends into her ever-widening circle. She treats all of her sisters with kindness, acceptance and warmth.

Other Ceremonies

Girl Scout Leader's Poems

Girl Scouts often put their thoughts and reflections into verse. These are two examples among the thousands available. But the most meaningful poem is the one written by you specifically for the occasion.

A Leader's Poem

My dishes went unwashed today
I didn't make the bed
I took God's hand and went with him
To Girl Scout instead.
That my house was neglected
That I didn't sweep the stair
In twenty years no one on earth
Will know or even care.
But that I helped a little girl
From child to adulthood grow
In twenty years the whole wide World
Will look and see and know.

The Great Green Angel

I dreamed I went to heaven
And saw among the dead
An angel dressed bright green
A halo round her head.
She looked a bit outstanding
Among the glaring white
All were asking jealously
What gave her the right?
I'm a Girl Scout volunteer
And lay no hold to fame
But being such a person
Means more than just a name
My jobs on earth were many
Praise and thanks were few.
I did more work in any one day
Than people ought to do.
I was a hiker, a cook
And campfire baker.
I've been an artist, a sailor,
And stuffed toy maker.
I sold cookies and nuts
And magazine subscriptions
And this so that girls could
Have better trips.
I taught jumping girls to dance.
I taught parrots to sing.
I made saints out of devils
While Momma had her fling.
But it was all lots of fun...
Life was never a bore.
You see, this role isn't new to me.
I've been an angel before.



Secret of the Brownie Name

This is an example of how the classic story about Brownies in the home can be adapted. It will need very simple props, and possibly set dressing. It could be performed as a stand alone performance for an audience or included in an Investiture Ceremony for new Brownie level Girl Scouts.

If time permits, try having your Brownie troop rewrite the story in Brownie: *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* for themselves. It could be a play, puppet show, or just a reading. It could be a five minute skit with no props or something much more elaborate. Let your girls decide what they want and then write and plan their own performances.

Narrator: Once upon a time there were two sisters name Mary and Betty who lived with their mother and grandmother and baby sister in England. Their mother was a poor seamstress who worked very hard and did her best to clean the house.

Mother: I'm so tired but I must sweep the floor and get wood for the fire. *(She sweeps)*

Narrator: The Grandmother helped also; but Mary and Betty, just played all day.

Grandmother: I'll finish the sweeping and then you can start the fire. *(She sweeps; The baby comes in and stays by her.)*

Mother: Bairns are a burden.

Narrator: Children are called 'bairns' in Scotland and parts of England, you know.

Grandmother: Bairns are a blessing.

Mother: Ah, not my bairns. Look at them? What they take out to play with, they lose. What they bring in to play with, I have to clear away. And they lift not a finger to help me. I would rather do a thing myself than ask them to do it!

Grandmother: But, they are not bad bairns, my dear. They are playful as squirrels.

Mother: And about as helpful!

Narrator: Just then the door flew open, Mary and Betty ran in. Their arms were full of moss and acorns which they threw across the floor. *(The baby cries and grandmother pats her on the head)*

Mother: Take that outside. I have swept the floor once today and I will not do it again.

Mary: Oh Betty, you take it out! *(She sits down by grandmother)*

(Betty kicks the moss across the floor and out the door)

Mother: And those acorns, too! *(She walks out)*

Betty: You pick them up, Mary. *(Mary picks up the acorns)* What makes Mother so cross Granny?

Grandmother: She's tired, my dear, and you two do not help her a bit.

Betty: What could we do, Granny?

Other Ceremonies

Grandmother: Many little things, if you tried. Ah, what this house needs is a Brownie or two. The luck of our house left when the Brownies left us.

Mary: What are the brownies, Granny?

Grandmother: Very helpful little persons, my dears.

Betty: What did they do?

Grandmother: They came before the family was up. They cleaned the room and watered the flowers and helped in many ways. They always ran off before we could see them. But, often we heard them dancing about the house. They liked to work and make us all happy with their laughter. All we had to give them was a bit of bread and milk.

Mary: Where did they go?

Grandmother: I don't know, my dear. Perhaps, you should ask the Wise Old Owl.

Mary: Who is the Wise Old Owl, Granny?

Grandmother: My mother used to say that when she could not answer our questions. *(She smiles secretly)*

Betty: Tell us more about the Brownies, please! Did they ever live with anybody else?

Grandmother: There used to be many brownies. Some houses had quite a few.

Mary: Oh, I wish ours would come back! They would...

Betty: ...sweep the floor,

Mary: ...wash the dishes,

Betty: ...bring in wood for the fire,

Mary: ...and do everything! Oh, I wish they had not gone away! May we put out some bread and milk for them. Maybe they will come back if we do.

Grandmother: Well, well. They are welcome if they want to come. There is more than enough work for the Brownies to do here. *(She leaves)*

(Mary and Betty put out bread and milk for the Brownies and go to bed)

Mary: *(Suddenly, sits up in bed)* There is an owl living in the big tree near the pond. Maybe she is the Wise Old Owl. If she is, she can tell me where to find a brownie. *(She wakes up Betty)* Let's go look for the Wise Old Owl. *(Mary and Betty go towards the woods.)*

Owl: Hoot – Hoot! *(Betty holds unto Mary)*

Mary: *(laughs)* Why, that is an owl. Maybe it is just the one we are looking for. *(She runs to trees)*

Owl: Come up! Come up! *(Mary and Betty move closer)* Speak up! What do you want?

Mary: Please! Where can we find a Brownie to come and live with us?

Owl: Oohoo! Is that what you want to know? I know two Brownies.

Betty: Tell us, tell us, where do they live?

Owl: In your house.

Mary: In our house? Then why don't they help us?

Owl: Perhaps they don't know what has to be done.

Betty: Just tell us where to find those Brownies! We can show them what has to be done.

Owl: Can you? Oohoo!

Mary: Of course, we can. There is plenty to do at our house!

Owl: Well, here is the way to find the Brownies. Go to the north side of the pond when the moon is out. Turn yourselves around three times while you say:

Twist me and turn me and show me the elf,
I looked in the water and saw_____

Then look in the pond to see the Brownies. At the same time that you see the Brownie, you will think of the word that ends the magic rhyme.

Mary: The moon is out tonight. We will go this minute. *(Both girls run to the pond)*

Mary and Betty: Twist me and turn me and show me the elf, I looked in the water and saw...

Mary: Why there is not Brownie. *(Turns to Betty)*
What did we do wrong? And, there is no word to rhyme with elf.

Betty: Helf?

Mary: Jelf?

Betty: Melf?

Mary: How silly. I am supposed to see a Brownie
And I see only myself. Myself? Myself? But that rhymes with elf!

Betty: How strange. We have the rhyme but not a Brownie. We'll have to go back to the Owl. *(They return to Owl)*

Owl: Oohoo, and what did you see in the pond?

Mary: Nothing but myself.

Other Ceremonies

Owl: And what are Brownies like?

Mary: Granny says Brownies are helpful little people.

Owl: Ah, and the one you saw was not? Are you sure you did not see a Brownie?

Mary: Yes, I am not a Brownie.

Owl: Hoot! Hoot! Are you quite sure?

Betty: Do you mean WE are the BRWOWNIES? (*She laughs.*) Of course!

Mary: Let's go home and clean and sweep and get the wood and do all kinds of helpful things.

Owl: Now that you have found the Brownies, come along to our magic Brownie Ring. The Ring meets deep in the woods when the moon is full. There, the Brownies talk about helpful things they have done. And I help them find new things to do.

Trees, Owl, Betty & Mary:

Round and round and round about
Turn about and in and out
Come into the Brownie Ring
Ready for most anything!



Additional Materials

Traditions and ceremonies have always been part of the Girl Scout experience. These traditions show girls they are part of a sisterhood—they connect girls to one another, to their sister Girl Scouts across the country and to the generations of women who were Girl Scouts before them.

Girl Scout Sign

The Girl Scout sign is made when saying the Girl Scout Promise. The sign is formed with the right hand held to shoulder height with elbow bent, using the thumb to hold down the little finger, leaving the middle fingers extended to represent the Promises three parts.



Girl Scout Friendship Circle

Representing the unbroken chain of friendship among Girl Scouts around the world, the Friendship Circle involves Girl Scouts standing in a circle, crossing their right arms over their left, and clasping hands with their friends on both sides.

Everyone then makes a silent wish as a friendship squeeze is passed from hand to hand around the circle.



Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
Honest and fair,
Friendly and helpful,
Considerate and caring,
Courageous and strong, and
Responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Worksheet

WORKSHEET FOR PLANNING CEREMONIES

Name of Ceremony: _____

Purpose or Theme: _____

Date of Ceremony: _____ Time: _____

Place of Ceremony: _____ Length: _____

Who will Attend?: _____

What songs, poems or quotations will be included?: _____

What activities will be included in the main part of the ceremony?: _____

Will people speak?: _____

Will recognitions or other awards be given?: _____

How will the ceremony end? Who will do each part?: _____

Who will record the ceremony for your troop's archives or records?: _____

What decorations or props are needed? _____

Who will bring the items?: _____

What refreshment will be served?: _____

Who will bring them?: _____

What will refreshments cost?: _____

Who will pay for them?: _____

When will a rehearsal be scheduled for the ceremony?: _____



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Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri continually looks to make improvements to our programs and your feedback is essential to that process.

girlscoutsem.org/trainingsurvey

For questions, please contact the Girl Scout Answer Center at 314.400.4600 or answercenter@girlscoutsem.org.

