

Ceremonies In Girl Scouting



Girl Scouts of Central & Western MA
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Ceremonies

Time to Celebrate Girl Scouting

Ceremonies mark special Girl Scout events throughout the year. They can celebrate major transitions, such as bridging to another level or getting your Girl Scout pin, commemorate your accomplishment when you earn awards, or simply make the beginning or end of your group's meeting special. You can also plan a ceremony around a theme, such as friendship or nature that you wish to explore in thought, words, or song. Whatever its purpose, every Girl Scout ceremony enables girls to share in a special part of Girl Scout history and create their own special memories.

Important Ceremonies in Girl Scouting

- **Bridging ceremonies** mark a girl's move from one level of Girl Scouting to another.
- **Closing ceremonies** finalize the meeting, with expectations for the next. This may be as simple as a hand squeeze around the circle, or a song.
- **Court of Awards** is a time to recognize girls who have accomplished something during the Girl Scout year. May be held 3 to 4 times per year. Don't wait for the end of the year!
- **Flag ceremonies** can be part of any activity that honors the American flag.
- **Fly-Up** is a bridging ceremony for Girl Scout Brownies who are bridging to Girl Scouts Juniors. Girls receive the Girl Scout pin along with their Girl Scouts Brownie wings.
- **Founder's Day or Juliette Low's Birthday, October 31**, is a time to remember the important role Juliette Low played in the development of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States.
- **Girl Scout Birthday ceremonies** can be held on or near March 12, the date Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Scouting in the United States of America.
- **Girl Scout Bronze Award Ceremony** honors Girl Scouts Juniors who have earned the Girl Scout Bronze Award and is usually held at the troop level or service unit level.
- **Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony** honors Girl Scouts who have earned the highest award in Girl Scouting and often takes place at council level.
- **Girl Scout Silver Award Ceremony** honors Girl Scouts who earn the Girl Scout Silver Award and is often combined with the Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony at the council level.
- **Girl Scouts' Own** is a girl-planned program that allows girls to explore their feelings around a topic, such as friendship or The Girl Scout Promise and Law using the spoken word, favorite songs, poetry, or other methods of expression. It is never a religious ceremony.
- **Investiture** welcomes new members, girls or adults, into the Girl Scout family for the first time. Girls receive their Girl Scout, Girl Scout Brownie, or Girl Scout Daisy pin at this time.
- **Opening ceremonies** start the Girl Scout meeting.
- **Pinning Ceremonies** help celebrate when girls receive grade-level Girl Scout pins.
- **Rededication Ceremonies** are an opportunity for girls and adults to renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Hints for Ceremonies

- **Devote sufficient time to planning the ceremony.** Good ceremonies have a clear purpose and enrich the meaning and mood of the ceremony.
- **Use *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting* and the Ceremony Planner** to help plan your ceremony.
- **Take safety precautions** when using candles or fires, or when constructing bridges or platforms. Refer to *Volunteer Essentials* and the *Safety Activity Checkpoints* for specific advice.
- **Add personal elements to traditional ceremonies.** Use favorite poems, songs, stories and sayings, or write something of your own.
- **Consider the role of colors and symbols** that you might use in your ceremony.
- **Observe flag etiquette** when doing flag ceremonies.

Parts of a Ceremony

Each meeting should begin with a definite opening and end with a closing, and a ceremony is the perfect element. Children of all ages enjoy repetition, and opening and closing ceremonies offer them the comforting feeling of having traditions at the meeting and knowing what to expect.

A typical Girl Scout ceremony has the following parts:

- Purpose – To mark a special event or recognize accomplishments
- Theme – Thoughts or ideas to tie the ceremony together
- Content – Activities that take place during the ceremony
- Opening – Activities to set the mood for participants
- Main Part – The focus or primary activity of the ceremony
- Closing – Activities to summarize everything in a final moment of sharing

Girl Scout Days

Throughout the year, girls and adults celebrate some very special days in Girl Scouting.

Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday, or Founder's Day, October 31, marks the 1860 birth of Girl Scouts of the USA founder Juliette Low in Savannah, Georgia. Juliette started the organization in 1912.

World Thinking Day, February 22, celebrates the birthdays of Girl Guides/Girl Scouts founder Robert, Lord Baden-Powell (1857-1941) and World Chief Guide, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell (1889-1977).

In the United States, Girl Scouting grew out of the friendship between Juliette Gordon Low and Lord Baden-Powell and his sister, Agnes, who began Girl Guiding. World Thinking Day celebrates that friendship and the sisterhood of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the globe. The day is also a time to donate funds to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.

Each year on February 22, World Thinking Day, girls participate in activities and projects with global themes to honor their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in other countries. World Thinking Day not only gives girls a chance to celebrate international friendships, but is also a reminder that Girl Scouts of the USA is part of a global community—one of nearly 150 countries with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Note on the World Thinking Day Award: Designed for each age level, award activities are designed to complement the Girl Scout leadership journeys and reinforce the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Beginning in 2012, The World Thinking Day Award is now an OFFICIAL award and therefore may be worn on the front of the official uniform.

Girl Scout Birthday, March 12, commemorates the day in 1912 when Juliette Gordon Low officially registered the organization's first 18 girl members in Savannah, Georgia.

Girl Scout Week is celebrated each March, starting with Girl Scout Sunday and ending with Girl Scout Sabbath on a Saturday, and it always includes the Girl Scout Birthday, March 12.

Girl Scout Sunday and **Girl Scout Sabbath** give girls an opportunity to attend their place of worship and be recognized as a Girl Scout. If a place of worship is the group sponsor, girls may perform a service, such as greeting, ushering, or doing a flag ceremony. These days can also be a time when girls explore other faiths.

Girl Scout Leader's Day, April 22, honors all the volunteers who work as leaders and mentors in partnership with girls. Girls, their families, and communities should find a special way to thank their adult Girl Scout volunteers.

Flag Ceremonies

Honoring the American Flag

A flag ceremony is a way of showing love and respect for one's country. Flag ceremonies may be used for:

- Opening or closing meetings
- Opening or closing special events
- Beginning or closing a day
- Honoring a special occasion or special person
- Retiring a worn flag

Flag ceremonies may take place in meeting rooms, in outdoor settings, in large auditoriums, on stage, even on horseback. All flag ceremonies share one thing in common—respect for the flag.

Flag Ceremony Guidelines

Keep it simple. Emphasis should be on respect for the flag rather than on the commands or techniques.

Ask these questions when planning:

1. Who will carry the flag?
2. Who will be the color guards?
3. Who will give the directions for the ceremony?
4. What song will be sung? Who will sound the pitch and start the song?
5. Will a poem or quotation be included? Who will say or read it?
6. After the Pledge of Allegiance, will the Promise and the Law be said?
7. In what order will the parts of the ceremony take place?
8. When will the group practice?
9. Where will the flags be placed at the end of the ceremony?

Terms Used in a Flag Ceremony

The **color bearer** (or flag bearer) is the person who carries the flag. There is one color bearer for each flag used in the ceremony.

The **color guard** is a team that guards the flags. Any even number of guards may be used, but usually four or six girls are sufficient.

The **Girl Scout in-charge** (or caller) is a designated Girl Scout who announces or calls each part of the ceremony.

In a ceremony using the American Flag, the girls who are holding flags, acting as “guards” or a caller stand quietly at attention and take no other part in the ceremony, they do not sing or say the Pledge of Allegiance. If two flags are used, there is one Color Guard on each side; the American Flag is carried to the RIGHT of the troop flag.

Possible Commands for a Flag Ceremony

"Girl Scouts, attention." Used to announce that the flag ceremony is to begin.

"Color guard advance." This signals the color guard to advance with the flags, or advance to pick up the flags.

"Color Guard, post the colors." This directs the color guard to place the flag in flag standards, or to attach the grommets to a flag pole rope.

"Color guard, honor your flag." The color guard salutes the American flag.

"Please join us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance." (Followed by an appropriate song, quotation or poem, if so desired.)

OR

"Color guard, honor your flag." The color guard salutes the American flag.

"Color guard, retire the colors." This asks the color guard to remove the flag from standards, or to lower the flag, detach from the rope, and fold prior to being dismissed.

"Color guard, dismissed." The color guard leaves in formation, with or without the flag.

"Girl Scouts dismissed." Girls may leave in formation or be at ease where they have been standing.

Handling the American Flag

The display of the American Flag is governed by law to ensure that it will be treated with the respect due the flag of a great nation. This is known as the Flag Code. Some of the rules most useful for Girl Scouts are:

- The American Flag should be placed in the center, and higher, when displayed with a group of state, local, or organizational flags flown from staffs. It may also be positioned to the right of other flags (if you were to hold the flag while facing your audience, your right side would be the flag's own right).
- "When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience." *
- The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered slowly with dignity.
- The flag should never be allowed to touch anything beneath it, nor should it ever be carried flat or horizontally—always aloft and free.
- Never use the flag as a cover or place anything on top of it.
- No disrespect of any kind should be shown to the flag of the United States. It should be kept clean.
- The flag, when carried in a procession with other flags, should be either on the marching right or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.
- When you display the flag on a wall or in a window where people see it from the street, it should be displayed flat with the blue part at the top and on the flag's own right (which is the observer's left).
- When displayed after dark, the flag should be illuminated.

Many Service Units have flags troops can borrow. Troops can make their own troop flag. The American flag would always be on the right of two flags or in front or in the center of 3 flags:

Troop Flag, American Flag, World Flag

Retiring a Worn American Flag

Retiring an American Flag is a special ceremony that ends with burning the flag and disposing of the ashes in a respectful manner. For further information, check with your council training or program staff.

Bridging Ceremonies

Moving On to New Adventures

Bridging is an important transition in a Girl Scout's life. It's a defining moment when a girl becomes aware of her achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities. Celebrating this change should be fun, personalized, and memorable for everyone involved. And most of all, it should be designed by the girls in true partnership with adults.

Bridging ceremonies usually take place at the beginning or end of the Girl Scout year and can have three parts:

- **Opening:** guests are welcomed and the tone is set
- **Main Section:** the ceremony is explained and the girls celebrate moving from one level to the next
- **Closing:** girls can participate in friendship circles and thank their guests

Each of the ceremony's parts offers plenty of room for the girls' creativity and individuality. And whether the ceremony includes an actual bridge or a symbolic one, or if it includes props like candles, flowers, or flags, it should always focus on paying tribute to the girls as they move forward.

Honoring Change

During bridging ceremonies, girls are honored for their progression and growth. At each level, Girl Scout resources like *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting* provide information on bridging activities and ceremonies. Girls can work with volunteers to create bridging ceremonies that mark milestones as they move into the next level. Many councils honor graduating Girl Scouts with a special ceremony for "bridging" to adult Girl Scouts.

Easing the Transition

In addition to the ceremony itself, there are other ways you can help your Girl Scout's move on to the next level. Volunteers can help girls work through bridging activities as outlined in bridging awards information at girlscout.org.

When bridging, a volunteer can make a decision about moving up with her troop/group to the next level, or whether her bridging girls will move into another group. The service unit or council can help with this decision and make sure that proper training and materials are provided.



SAMPLE CEREMONIES

Formal Flag Ceremony

Through a Flag Ceremony, Girl Scouts demonstrate reverence and respect for the flag of the USA. There are many variations.

Group stands in a horseshoe formation.

Color Guard includes 1 or 2 Flag Bearers and a Guard for each.

*Guard, American Flag Bearer, Flag Bearer, Guard
(American flag is always on "it's" right)*

Caller gives directions:

"Girl Scouts Attention"

"Color Guard Attention"

"Color Guard Advance"

"Flag of our country pledge allegiance"

**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"**

"Color Guard Post the Colors"

(if you have a stand for the flags) or

"Color Guard Dismissed"

[The Color Guard is to not repeat the pledge - they are to 'guard' the flag.

Any person who is not a citizen of USA may stand respectfully and not salute the flag.

Once the girls have learned the flag ceremony you can add a part so the color guard will be able to "honor the flag"]

After the flag is posted direction is given:

"Color Guard honor the flag"

The line of flag bearer(s) and guard(s) stand in a straight line.

They put their right hand over their heart and together - rock back on right foot and rock forward -back to position

Then the direction is given"

"Color Guard Dismissed"



Retiring the Colors

If using two flags use two flag bearers and 2 guards (1 guard, 2 flag bearers, 1 guard)
Caller is 5th person who give commands:

"Girl Scouts Attention"

"Color Guard Attention"

"Color Guard Advance"

Color guard advances to where flags are posted .

If there is time we could add

"Color Guard Honor the Colors" and the guards and bearers would put their right hand over their heart and rock back on right foot. Then would the next command be given.

"Color Guard Retire the Colors"

Color guard removes flags from stands and step back to formation - guard on either side of 2 flags with American flag on it's right.

Then they walk to steps and descend the steps and walk out of the auditorium in formation with guards beside the flags. Once outside the doors the flag poles can be unscrewed and the flag rolled up around the poles to be put in the cases.

Flag Recipe Ceremony

Materials (Ingredients) needed:

- 1 large pot or kettle
- 1 cup of red chips –red paper
- 1 cup of blue chips –blue paper
- 1 cup of white chips –white paper
- 1 package of white or silver stars
- 1 large long handle spoon
- small table to hold the pot so audience can't see the contents inside
- 1-8 readers
- piece of plastic wrap over the flag so the chips and stars will not catch in the folds (this is "stirred" to the side when the flag is to be pulled out)

Readers stand in a horseshoe around the "pot" facing the audience.

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|-----------|--|
| READER #1 | We are going to fix for you a treat that is really grand,
And make for you a recipe—the greatest in the land! |
| READER #2 | In first, we will put a heaping cup of red for courage true.
(POUR THE RED CHIPS INTO THE POT) |
| READER #3 | And then we will add for loyalty, a dash of heavenly blue.
(ADDS BLUE CHIPS) |
| READER #4 | For purity, we will now sift in a layer of enough white.
(ADDS WHITE CHIPS) |
| READER #5 | We will sprinkle in a pinch of stars to make it come out right.
(ADDS STARS) |

- READER #6 **We will stir and stir and then you will see what we have made is...**
 (PRETENDS TO STIR INGREDIENTS WITH SPOON)
- ALL READERS: **Old Glory!**
 (two girls, then rest of readers pull out and unfold the flag so the stars are on the flag's upper right of girls facing audience)
- READER #7 **Will you please stand and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag?**
(I pledge allegiance to the flag of the)
- READER #8 **May we always be loyal to our most beautiful American flag.**
 (All readers refold the flag with respect. Reader #1 places the flag on the table)

Friendship Circle

A circle formed by Girl Scouts standing and clasping hands (before they reach for each other's hands, girls cross their right hand over their left). The circle represents the unbroken chain of friendship among Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world.

You may "pass the friendship squeeze" with a wish or thought for someone needing a special thought. Right foot may be moved forward when squeeze is passed so you can watch it pass around the circle. Circle can be left open if you expect a new member - "we always have room for a sister Girl Scout."

Traditionally, a song is sung after the squeeze has gone all the way around the circle.

Taps

Evening Version

Day is done, gone the sun
 - from the lakes
 - from the hills
 - from the sky
 All is well, safely rest
 God is nigh

Daytime Version

Thanks and praise for our days
 - 'neath the sun
 - 'neath the stars
 - 'neath the sky
 As we go, this we know
 God is nigh



Investiture and Rededication Ceremonies

An **investiture ceremony** is held when an individual joins Girl Scouting for the first time. The girl or adult being invested makes the Girl Scout Promise, receives the appropriate membership pin (Daisy Girl Scout Pin, Brownie Girl Scout Pin, Contemporary or Traditional Girl Scout Membership Pin) and is welcomed into Girl Scouting. Sometimes several girls or adults are invested together. Girls are invested after they have learned the meaning of the Promise and Law. Guests may be invited, but a ceremony should not be a "performance." If additional girls join the troop during the year, there should be a simple investiture ceremony for them after they have attended a few meetings. Other members of the troop can help pin and welcome new girls.

A **rededication ceremony** is an opportunity for girls and adults to renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

The dramatic element in rituals appeals to girls. Younger or inexperienced girls may need guidance in planning, conducting, and participating in an investiture or rededication ceremony. Junior, Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador Girl Scouts should be actively involved in planning their own ceremony. They may want to share personal thoughts about the Promise and Law, include a favorite song or reading, decide on special ways to welcome new members, or add other creative ideas.

The World Association Pin is usually presented at a different ceremony after girls have learned about the international aspect of Girl Scouting/Girl Guiding. However, it may be included in the investiture or rededication ceremony, especially if an individual is joining a troop/group where other girls already have the World Association Pin.

Brownie Investiture

Magic pond - mirror, all sit in a circle. New girls and leaders join together at the pond. The leader reads the Brownie Story (Brownie Leader's Guide pages 79-83.) You may also tell a shortened version.

LEADER: *"Who has come to the Brownie Woods?"*

NEW GIRLS: *"We have!"* or *"I have!"*

LEADER: *"Why have you come?"*

NEW GIRLS: *"To be Brownies."*

LEADER: *"Who comes first?"*

CO-LEADER: (Girl's Name), *"Twist me and turn me and show me the elf, I looked in the water and saw."* Turn the girl around three times.

GIRL: *"MYSELF!"*

Repeat until all girls have been "twisted and turned." Leads entire troop in saying the Promise together.

LEADER: Pin on Brownie pin upside down and say: *"I am pinning this on upside down. When you have done a good deed, your mother or father will turn it right side up for you."*

LEADER: *"Welcome to Brownie Troop #_____"*

CO-LEADER: *"We're glad to have you, (Girl's Name)"*

Sample Investiture #1

All stand in a circle. New girls come forward to leaders.

LEADER: *"Today you girls have met the requirements of age; have paid your National Registration, and are ready to be invested as members of the largest organization for girls in the world."*

CO-LEADER: *"By repeating the Promise and understanding the meaning of it and our ten part Law you become members of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., one of the member countries of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts."*

Girls say the Promise together.

CO-LEADER: *"Welcome to Troop #_____!"*

Sample Investiture #2

New and returning girls stand in a horseshoe. Table has ten candles set upon it.

Ten girls - each lighting one candle and stating one part of the ten parts of the Law.

LEADER: *"Today our new girl(s) is/are ready to make her/their Promise for the first time and be invested as member(s) of Troop #_____."*

CO-LEADER: *"Are you ready to say your Promise? Can you tell us what it means?"*

New girl explains the Promise.

CO-LEADER: *"Can you tell us what the Law means?"* New girls answer.

LEADER: *"Will the new girls now make their Promise?"* New girls say Promise.

Leader pins trefoil pin on each girl and shakes her hand.

LEADER: *"Welcome to Troop #_____; Welcome to Girl Scouting!"*

Sample Rededication

A table with ten small candles and one large candle.

Leaders and girls stand in a horseshoe.

LEADER: LIGHTING LARGE CANDLE

A candle's but a simple thing

It starts with just a bit of string.

Yet dipped and dipped with patient hand,

It gathers wax upon the strand

Until complete, and gleaming bright,

It gives at last a lovely light.

CO-LEADER: *"This first large candle represents the spirit of Girl Scouting, the Promise."*

1st GIRL: *"Let us now say the Promise."* (She leads them in the Promise.)

2nd GIRL: *"Let us now sing* (have girls pick an appropriate song)." (She leads them in song.)

3rd GIRL: Lights 1st small candle

I WILL DO MY BEST TO BE HONEST

4th GIRL: Lights 2nd small candle

Recites 2nd part of Law.

5-10 GIRL: Continues until all candles are burning and recites the appropriate part of the Law.

LEADER: *Life is like that bit of string*

Each deed we do a simple thing

Yet day-by-day, if on life's strand

We work with patient heart and hand.

It gathers joy, makes dark days bright..

And gives at last a lovely light.

Candle Light Investiture and Rededication

Set up: Small table, three large and ten small candles in holders, matches, Girl Scout pin for each girl/adult to be involved (unpinned for convenience in presentation).

The troop stands in a horseshoe formation. If guests are present, the troop can march in and form the horseshoe. Begin the ceremony by talking about the meaning of investiture. Someone lights the three large candles while explaining as follows, the leader, one or three different girls light the three center candles and each person may say (or use your own words):

"These candles represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise."

"The first candle I light shall shine as a symbol that Girl Scouts try to serve God and their country."

"May the light of the second candle shine as a symbol that Girl Scouts try to help people at all times."

"May the light of the third candle shine as a symbol that Girl Scouts are true to their ideals as interpreted by the Girl Scout Law."

"Each of the ten candles in front of you represents a part of the Girl Scout Law."

Ten girls, chosen previously, come forward. Each takes one of the small candles, lights it from a large candle, and recites the part of the Law assigned to her.

Girls to be invested come forward. They may be accompanied by another Girl Scout. The girls each say the Girl Scout Promise and each receives her pin. The Promise is better said individually by the girl to the leader, but it may be said by the group if a special situation makes it advisable.

The troop leader pins the trefoil pin on each girl, and says something like, *"This pin tells everyone you are a Girl Scout, I know you will wear it proudly."* The pin may be pinned on a girl upside down. If so, the leader says something like, *"I have put your pin on upside down. Do three good turns (something nice) or deeds this week, one for each part of the trefoil on your pin and our promise, and at our next meeting I will put your pin on upright."*

The leader and the girl may then give the Girl Scout handshake, shaking hands with the left hand while giving the Girl Scout sign with the right, as the leader says, *"Welcome to the Girl Scout organization and to troop _____" (mention the troop number.)*

After all the new troop members have been invested the leader says to the whole group, *"Girl Scouts, the three gold leaves the trefoil wears and the three fold message that it bears, gives you, as you start your Girl Scouting, the feeling that you are entering into a comradeship that will bring you joy as you work together, play together, and seek together. Today in every land this trefoil emblem points the way to sisterhood, friendliness, and good citizenship."*

The invested girls then return to their places in the horseshoe. All the girls in the troop say the Promise together. This saying of the Promise by other Girl Scouts and adults rededicates them to Girl Scouting. Close the ceremony with a song such as, *When E'er You Make a Promise.*



Girl Scouts' Own

Why have a Girl Scouts' Own?

- To rededicate ourselves to the ideals of Girl Scouting
- To celebrate a holiday
- To quiet down after a campfire

How to plan a Girl Scouts' Own:

- The girls decide they want a special service.
- Decide on a theme (nature, in people, in Girl Scouting, stories, poems...)
- There is participation by everyone present; there is no official audience. All present take part. All participation does not have to be rehearsed as long as plans are clear and individuals know their parts.
- Everyone should leave with a feeling of inspiration and dignity.

When should it be held?

- Anytime
- Any day
- Before sunrise, during the day, or at sunset

Ideas for themes:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| • Service to others | • Fire |
| • Duty to God | • Beauty |
| • Accepting responsibility | • Water |
| • Loyalty | • History of Girl Scouting |
| • International friendship | • Nature |
| • Friendliness | • Any part of the Girl Scout Promise and/or Law |
| • Cheerfulness | |

Troop Ceremonies

Court of Awards

The purpose of a Court of Awards Ceremony is to present the girls with the insignia they have earned in a meaningful way. The ceremony may take place indoors or outside. It is always a good idea to include reminders of the badges the girls have earned. These ceremonies are more meaningful when they have a theme and the insignia is presented in a unique way. For instance, the ceremony may have a theme, such as "Girl Scouts Open Doors" and all the earned awards are attached to a wooden or paper door hanger. Or, all the awards are attached to ribbon or crepe paper, then to a larger object such as a cut out trefoil or something that is a reminder of this particular time in the troop's life (such as a bag of ashes from your last campfire).

Troop Crest Ceremony

We gather today as Girl Scouts, sisters to all Girl Scouts around the world. Our troop is only one of many around the world, but we share the same goals, as stated in the Girl Scout Promise.

(Recite the Girl Scout Promise here)

Like many troops before us, we are as unique as each of our girls are individuals. Each girl is important to the troop and is a vital part of our troop spirit. This spirit is what ties us together - to each other and to Girl Scouts around the world. We share the same values, as spoken in the Girl Scout Law.

(Recite the Girl Scout Law here)

We, Troop #_____, have chosen the _____ (insert Troop Crest selected).

We have chosen this because: (insert your own wording focused around the meaning of that particular crest and the "spirit" of your girls/troop.)

I now will present each girl with a troop crest to be proudly worn on her uniform. This will remind her of our troop spirit.

Bridging and Flying Up

A bridging ceremony is for Girl Scout Brownies who are bridging to Girl Scout Juniors. Flying Up is a special ceremony reserved for Brownies, which recalls the days when their leader the "Wise Owl" announced that they were ready to fly up to Girl Scout Juniors. (Daisies bridge to Brownies, Juniors to Cadettes, Cadettes to Seniors, Seniors to Ambassadors, Ambassadors to Adults.)

Sample Fly-Up Ceremony

The bridge may be made of wood, it may be a cardboard arch, or it may be made of paper strips. Have two circles of girls and adults, one for Brownies and one for Juniors with a bridge in between.

LEADER: Mentions girl who is flying up by name and tells something about her.

CO-LEADER: *"Now it's time to say goodbye, Break the ring and out you fly."
The Brownie Ring breaks long enough for Leader and Fly-up Brownie to leave ring.*

LEADER: Leader takes girl to Bridge and Says: *"Brownie, you are just about to become a Junior Girl Scout. In the troop you soon will find Junior Scouts are true and kind. So now I give you Brownie Wings that you may fly to bigger things.*

The leader presents girl with Brownie Wings and shakes her hand. The girl crosses bridge and is met by a Junior Girl Scout on the other side.

Brownie Fly-Up says Promise to Junior Leader. Junior Leader puts trefoil pin on girl, shakes hands, and welcomes her to her troop.

Repeat this for each Brownie flying-up to Juniors.

Weave Circle

Special circle to welcome a new member – all are “woven” in Unity and Love so we end up “inside” the circle.

Weave

weave, weave us to-gether. weave us to-gether in
 unity and love. weave, weave, weave us to-gether.
 weave us to-gether in love. A.
 mo-ment a-go we did not know unity-diversity
 Now we are singing to-gether in one great harmony

Weave

Sung at the 1984 National Convention

Chorus

Weave, weave, weave us together,
 Weave us together in unity and love.
 Weave, weave, weave us together,
 Weave us together, together in love.

We are many textures.
 We are many colors.

Each one different from the other.
 But we are entwined with one another
 In one great tapestry.

Chorus

We are different instruments,
 Playing our own melody,
 Each one tuning to a different key;
 But we are all playing in harmony,
 In one great symphony.

Chorus

A moment ago we did not know
 Our unity, only diversity.
 Now the spirit in me greets the spirit in thee,
 In one great family

Chorus

Weave Directions:

1. Stand in circle shoulder to shoulder facing center, hands straight down at your sides.
2. All put right hand out to the right (at waist of person on the right)
3. Then all put left hand under and out to the left.
4. Join hands - notice you are not holding hands with persons beside you - but every other persons hand.
5. One person changes left hand to be over the top of arm to her left.
6. She can then "weave" the circle by lifting her left joined hand over the head of the person on her left.
 Continue the weave around the circle to the left - each one in turn.

Thinking Day – February 22

We remember the 145 countries who are members. You may include a donation to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund which was begun to honor our founder who was first a Girl Guide leader in England before returning to her birthplace in Savannah, Georgia to begin Girls Scouts of the USA. Sometimes service unit events share this special day by learning about girls in other member countries and their foods, crafts, and games and what the age groups are called in that country.

In England, 1908, Lord Robert Baden-Powell started the Boy Scouts. Based on the program he started for the boys, his sister Agnes Baden-Powell organized the Girl Guides in 1910. Juliette Gordon Low also knew the Baden-Powells and was helpful in starting Girl Guide troops in Scotland and in London, England. Two years later, in 1912, Lord Baden-Powell married Olave Baden-Powell, who helped Agnes with the Girl Guides.

It was at this time, in 1912, that Juliette Gordon Low returned to the United States and started the Girl Scouts in the United States.

The concept of these two scout organizations became very popular throughout the world. In 1920, an international meeting was held and 19 countries were represented. The idea of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides spread to many countries and by 1928, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) was formed by 26 countries.

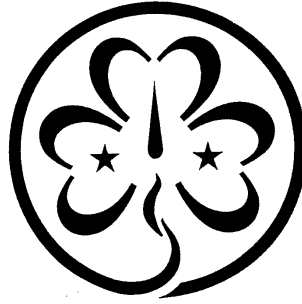
WAGGGS decided to honor Lord and Lady Baden-Powell by making their birthday, both on February 22nd, a special day for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. On this day every year, all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world have a special meeting to think about the worldwide community of Scouting and what it means. They also decided to honor Juliette Gordon Low by starting the JGL World Friendship Fund. This is a memorial fund to help make friendships among girls of all the countries easier. One way this is done is by having exchange visits between Girl Scouts and Girl Guides.

Another fund was started, called the Thinking Day Fund. The money from this fund is used to help start Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world. The Girl Scouts of the USA contribute to this fund through the Juliette Gordon Low World Friendship Fund.

WAGGGS has four special meeting places that all Girl Scouts may visit. The first one is in Switzerland and is called "Our Chalet". The second one is in Mexico and is called "Our Cabaña". The third one is in London, England and is called "Olave House" or "Pax Lodge". The last one is in India and is called "Sangam", which is an Indian word meaning "a place of coming together". If you ever visit these centers, you can get a special pin to wear.

As of 2009, there are 145 countries that belong to WAGGGS. In all these countries, the Girl Scouts and Girl Guides have many things in common. We have the same Promise and Law, with only slight wording variations. We have the same scouting program and symbols of the trefoil, salute, WAGGGS pin and motto. We all share Thinking Day and the four World Centers.

As soon as a girl becomes a member of Girl Scouts/Girl Guides, she is also a member of the World Association. While it is possible to present the girl with both her Girl Scout and World Association pin immediately, it is better to do so after a period of time in which the girl has been made aware what these pins stand for. Presenting the Girl Scout pin is usually done during an Investiture Ceremony; presenting the World Association pin is usually done during a Thinking Day Ceremony.



World Thinking Day Ceremony

An optional prop needed for this ceremony is either a large picture of the World Association logo or a felt/flannel board in which the separate pieces of the pin can be placed by the scouts, as the ceremony progresses.

The group stands in a horseshoe formation.

Leader: (if not part of a Thinking Day ceremony, give a brief, concise explanation of the World Association)

This horseshoe in which we stand symbolizes the open friendship circle. In the open end stand our sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world. We cannot see them, but they are here in spirit with thoughts of friendship for all of us. The pin you are about to receive is a symbol of this world wide bond. Its purpose is to encourage friendship between girls of all nations. As you receive your pin, remember that millions of girls all over the world will be receiving and wearing it also.

Scout 1: *The World Association pin has a blue background. The blue stands for the sky which is over us all.*

Scout 2: *The gold trefoil stands for the sun which shines on us all. Its shape represents the three parts of the Promise.*

Scout 3: *The stars in the trefoil remind us of our Promise and Law.*

Scout 4: *The vein is the compass needle that guides us.*

Scout 5: *The wavy base of the trefoil is shaped like a flame, the flame of love of humankind in the true spirit of international friendship.*

Suggested song: *Rise Up, O Flame* (Sing Together Songbook)

Leader (presents pin)

We wear the World Association Pin above the Girl Scout membership pin because we are a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts first, then members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

Suggested song: *Girl Scouts Together* (Pocket Songbook)

Eternal Flame Ceremony

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

Equipment needed:

1. candle for each girl
2. matches/lighter
3. water bucket (with water in it)

Long ago a special ceremony was formed. Juliette Low wanted her original girls to carry a special spark with them as their Girl Scout troop 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 (they had made), Juliette knew what spark it was that 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 wherever 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 as a group. I will hold my candle up and as I do so you will all raise yours and we will blow them out 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."

When passing a candle light - be sure that the receiving candle is the one tilted. That way the wax will not drip from the newly lit candle. You may wish to use a paper guard to protect from wax dripping also.

Friendship Ashes Ceremony

When it is time for the closing ceremony the camp speaker tells the campers the "Legend of the Ashes."

"Long, long ago, before matches and central heating, fires were a precious commodity: the Indians had a warm and meaningful custom. Before a guest left his host's home fire, he was given some hot coals to start his own fire on his return home. This ancient custom is now being carried on by Girl Scouts around the world. (*The bag of Ashes from Past Campfires are held High for all to see.*) These ashes came from_____ (*Read list of where the ashes have come from*) As these ashes with their friendship, love, warm thoughts and wishes from campfires past are poured into the fire they will mix with the ashes from your friendship logs. These ashes gathered here will be passed on from Girl Scout to Girl Scout, from time to time, from place to place for as long as there are campfires and Girl Scouts to share them. When the campfire cools you will carry some of the ashes away with you to share at your next campfire. Now that we are filled with the warmth of the fire and the friendships here, let us each reach out and take the hand of one of our sister Girl Scouts and sing Taps, and then go silently to our tents."