



Global Action Days

International Women's Day

March 8

What is International Women's Day?

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, who have played an extraordinary role in their countries and communities. The celebration of this day has occurred for well over a century, with the first gathering in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on March 19, 1911. The UN celebrated its first official International Women's Day on March 8, 1975 during International Women's Year. International Women's Day continues to be all about unity, celebration, reflection, advocacy and action - whatever that looks like globally at a local level.

Why do Girl Scouts celebrate?

International Women's Day is a day to celebrate women's achievements throughout history, across nations, and around the world. In the United States, March is also Women's History Month, which makes this an excellent opportunity for girls to examine the impact of women on society.

How can GSME Girl Scouts celebrate?

As Service Units and troops, celebrate International Women's Day with discussion, activities, and community action. Whether at a Service Unit event or in your own troop, talk to girls about why it is important to have International Women's Day, to celebrate the achievements of women past and present, and to continue working to make the world a better place for girls and women.

Activities for International Women's Day

The theme for International Women's Day changes each year. These are suggestions for generic activities that can be modified based on any theme.

- Internationally, purple is a color for symbolizing women and is also the color used for International Women's Day. Consider a show of solidarity with girls and women worldwide by designating March 8th as a day the troop wears purple.
- Ask the girls to pick a woman who has played an extraordinary role in your local community, such as made progress or called for change affecting girls and women, or has accomplished acts of courage, confidence and determination. Help them brainstorm how they can celebrate this woman, and then do it, such as inviting her to a special meeting to recognize her, taking her a gift...
- Have the girls research women, past and/or present, who a significant contribution to the role of women in the world. Were any of these women Girl Scouts or Girl Guides? How did they make the world a better place for girls and women?
- Research this year's theme for International Women's Day. Discuss the theme with your troop. How do the girls think it affects them and other girls/women they know. How about girls and women around the world?

Resources:

- GSUSA Global Action Days Toolkit: available on Volunteer Toolkit & GSME website
- International Women's Day: www.internationalwomensday.com
- United Nations: www.un.org/en/observances/womens-day
- UN Women: www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/international-womens-day