



# Global Action Days World Thinking Day February 22

## What is World Thinking Day?

World Thinking Day began in 1926 at the 4th World Conference of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts at Camp Edith Macy in New York. Delegates decided to create a special day for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world to think of one another and to celebrate their global sisterhood, calling it Thinking Day. February 22nd was chosen as the date to celebrate, and it was also the birthdays of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of Scouting and Guiding, and his wife, Lady Olave Baden-Powell, World Chief Guide. In 1999, at the 30th World Conference in Dublin, Ireland, delegates decided to emphasize the international aspect of the movement, and changed the name to World Thinking Day.

## Why do Girl Scouts celebrate?

Today on World Thinking Day, Girl Scouts celebrate our global sisterhood and its global impact. It is a day to appreciate other countries and their cultures; to equally raise awareness and sensitivity about the issues that impact girls and young women around the world; and to take action to address those issues as a global movement.

## How can GSME Girl Scouts celebrate?

As Service Units and troops, consider celebrating World Thinking Day with discussion, activities and take action projects while earning the GSUSA World Thinking Day Award. Whether at a Service Unit event or in your own troop, talk to girls about why World Thinking Day and the current theme is important to girls.

## Activities for World Thinking Day

The theme for World Thinking Day changes each year, set by World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and GSUSA. The GSUSA World Thinking Day Award requirements are usually released mid-summer. These are suggestions for generic activities that can be modified based on any theme.

- Did You Know This Tradition? One tradition is that every Girl Guide, Girl Scout, and alumni, places a candle (now battery operated) in their window on the eve of World Thinking Day at dusk, and allows it to burn until the morning following World Thinking Day. As the candle is lit, say: "This is my little Guiding Light, I'm going to let it shine."
- Discuss the why the girls wear the WAGGGS pin, its meaning and what each part symbolizes. Explain that all WAGGGS members, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, wear this same pin.
- Learn the WAGGGS Song. This song is sang at events where WAGGGS members are gathered. (link below)
- Download the current GSUSA World Thinking Day Award requirements, and have the girls choose any activity to complete.
- Download the current WAGGGS World Thinking Day activity pack, and have the girls choose any activity to complete.

## Resources:

- GSUSA Global Action Days Toolkit: available on Volunteer Toolkit & GSME website
- World Thinking Day Award Requirements: available on Volunteer Toolkit & GSME website
- GSUSA World Thinking Day: [www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/global/world-thinking-day.html](http://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/global/world-thinking-day.html)
- WAGGGS World Thinking Day: [www.waggggs.org/en/what-we-do/world-thinking-day/](http://www.waggggs.org/en/what-we-do/world-thinking-day/)
- WAGGGS World Song: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gKXt2s5pNw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gKXt2s5pNw)