



Girl Scout Traditions and Ceremonies



Introduction

Ceremonies and traditions give Girl Scouts a sense of history and inspire them to be the best they can be. Sharing traditions with millions of Girl Scouts—and the huge network of Girl Scout alums who came before—helps remind us that we belong to a big, powerful sisterhood.

The ceremonies and traditions included here are examples. Sometimes there are multiple versions of a particular ceremony or tradition, based on regional or troop differences. The most important thing is to work with your troop members to make your ceremonies and traditions meaningful and memorable to the participants.

Have fun exploring Girl Scout ceremonies and traditions with your troop!

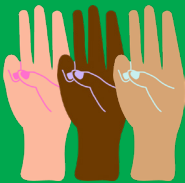
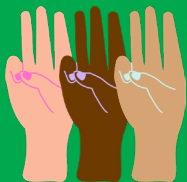


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Girl Scout Promise and Law



The 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.

** Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.*



Special Days in Girl Scouts

October 31: Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday, also known as Founder's Day, marks the birthday in 1860 of Girl Scouts of the USA founder Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia. Find some celebration ideas in our [Virtual Founder's Day Toolkit](#).

February 22: World Thinking Day, celebrated by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides across 152 countries. It's a day of international friendship and a time to stand up for causes to improve the lives of young women around the globe.

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

Girl Scout Week: The week in which March 12 falls is Girl Scout Week, starting with Girl Scout Sunday and ending with Girl Scout Sabbath on a Saturday.

April 22: Girl Scout Leader's Day honors all of the volunteers who work as leaders and mentors in partnership with youth. On this day, Girl Scouts, their families, and communities [find special ways to thank](#) their adult Girl Scout volunteers.

Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day: National patriotic holidays are a great opportunity for Girl Scouts to reflect on how they can be good citizens, contribute to their communities, and honor the service of the members of our Armed Forces. Check with your local community for parades, veteran's appreciation events, flag-raising, etc. that Girl Scout troops may participate in or support.



Girl Scout Definitions

Bridging: Marks a child's move from one level of Girl Scouting to another. A bridging ceremony is held to recognize and welcome them into another level of Girl Scouting.

Closing: Lets Girl Scouts know that the meeting or program has come to an end. An example of a closing is gathering in the friendship circle and singing a song.

Court of Awards: This ceremony honors Girl Scouts' accomplishments. They are presented with their badges, year pins, and other recognitions earned during the year. Volunteers may also be recognized during the ceremony. The Court of Awards can be held anytime during the year, at any location, and as often as the troop wants. May be held 3 to 4 times per year—you don't have to save it for the end of the year.

Flag Ceremony: Honors the American flag, the symbol of our country. Can be part of any activity that honors the American Flag.

Fly-Up: A bridging ceremony for Girl Scout Brownies bridging to Girl Scout Juniors. Girls receive the Girl Scout pin along with their Brownie wings.

Founder's Day: Special Girl Scout day which celebrates Juliette Gordon Low's birthday on October 31.

Friendship Circle: Troop members gather in a circle and cross their right arm over their left, then link hands with the person on either side. With everyone silent, one person starts the "friendship squeeze" by squeezing the hand of the person to their right. One by one, each person passes the squeeze until it travels the full circle. A great way to end meetings.

Girl Scout Birthday: The official birthday of Girl Scouting, March 12, celebrated during Girl Scout Week. Commemorates the first ever meeting of a Girl Scout troop, which was held in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia.

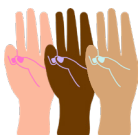
Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award Ceremony: Honors Girl Scouts who have earned these special awards and is usually held at the troop/group level. May also be combined with service unit and/or council recognition.

Girl Scout Handshake: Girl Scouts can greet one another with the Girl Scout handshake, used by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world. The handshake is made by shaking hands with the left hand and making the Girl Scout sign with the right. The left hand is used because it is nearest to the heart and signifies friendship.

Girl Scout's Own: A youth-planned program that lets troop members explore their feelings around a topic, such as friendship or the Girl Scout Promise and Law, using spoken word, favorite songs, poetry, or other forms of expression. It is never a religious ceremony.



Girl Scout Pin: Also called the membership pin. The pin has the shape of a trefoil. Trefoil means three leaves. There is one leaf for each part of the Girl Scout Promise. This pin signifies the acceptance of the Girl Scout membership requirements.



Girl Scout Sign: Girl Scouts make the Girl Scout sign—raising three fingers of the right hand with the thumb holding down the pinky—when they say the Girl Scout Promise. The three fingers represent the three parts of the Promise.

Greeting: Girl Scouts can greet one another with the Girl Scout handshake, used by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world. The handshake is made by shaking hands with the left hand and making the Girl Scout sign with the right. The left hand is used because it is nearest to the heart and signifies friendship.

Investiture: Welcomes new members into the Girl Scout family for the first time. New Girl Scouts receive their membership pin at this ceremony.

Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low: The founder of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States.
Born October 31, 1860.

Lady Baden-Powell: The co-founder of Girl Guides and mentor to Juliette Gordon Low.

Lord Baden-Powell: The founder of Boy Scouts and Girl Guide movements for children throughout the world.

Membership star: A pin(s) worn on the uniform that represents one year of Girl Scouting. Worn on top of a colored disc that represents the Girl Scout level. See “Rededication” section for more information.

Motto: The Girl Scout motto is "Be prepared." In the 1947 Girl Scout Handbook, the motto was explained this way: "A Girl Scout is ready to help out wherever she is needed. Willingness to serve is not enough; you must know how to do the job well, even in an emergency." The same holds true today.

Numeral Guard: A pin worn on the uniform by youth and adult members that shows the total number of years (not necessarily continuous or consecutive) of registered membership. Pins are available in five-year increments. See “Rededication” section for more information.

Opening: a way to kick off each Girl Scout meeting to make them feel special. Openings often include reciting the Girl Scout Promise and/or Law and may also include singing songs, forming a friendship circle, etc.

Quiet Sign: A way to ask for silence in a crowd without shouting. Traditionally the quiet sign is made by holding up the Girl Scout sign (three fingers) with arm fully raised, but can also be made by holding up all five fingers.

Rededication Ceremony: A reaffirmation of a Girl Scout member’s commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Slogan: The Girl Scout slogan is "Do a good turn daily." The slogan, which has been used since 1912, is a reminder that Girl Scouts can make a difference in big and small ways.

SWAPS: Small, handmade tokens of friendship exchanged with other Girl Scouts. Stands for “Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere” or “Share With a Pal”.

WAGGGS: The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is an association of Girl Scout and Girl Guide national organizations from around the world. WAGGGS [pronounced “wags”] serves approximately 8.9 million Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in 152 countries. Through Girl Scouts of the USA's membership in WAGGGS, each member registered as a Girl Scout in the United States becomes part of the Girl Guide/Girl Scout world movement. The World Association's mission is to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.



World Trefoil Pin: The membership pin for WAGGGS worn by members throughout the world.

World Centers: Places that offer Girl Scouts and Girl Guides comfortable, safe places to stay for short periods or longer term, including during seminars, training sessions, or international events. Members and their families are encouraged to visit the centers and connect with visitors from other countries. WAGGGS has World Centers in the United Kingdom (Pax Lodge), Switzerland (Our Chalet), Mexico (Nuestra Cabaña), India (Sangam), and Africa (Cusafiri Centre).



Kaper Charts

A kaper chart is a very useful tool which helps troops organize who is doing which task at a troop meeting or other Girl Scout gathering. Creating and using kaper charts is a classic Girl Scout tradition.

A “kaper” is a task, job, or chore that must be done. A “kaper chart” lists all of the kapers that need to be done at each meeting (or other gathering) and specifies who is responsible for which kaper. Kapers are usually rotated between troop members on a regular basis, such as at every meeting, or monthly, etc.

Assigning kapers in pairs or groups is a great way to help children get to know each other. Rotating through these groups ensures each member has the opportunity to work with everyone else in the troop.

Kaper charts can be made for different functions, such as:

- Troop meetings
- Field trips
- Troop camping
- Cookie booths
- Flag ceremonies
- Other ceremonies and special events

Kapers can include tasks such as:

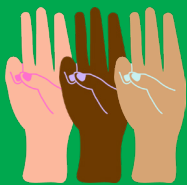
- Leading the Promise and the Law
- Time keeper
- Photographer
- Attendance taker
- Show and Tell (or other icebreaker)
- Pass out snack
- Hand out supplies
- Clean-Up Crew
- Song leader
- Starting the friendship squeeze

Kaper charts comes in all shapes, sizes, and formats. There is no wrong way to make a kaper chart as long as it functions for your troop. Use our simple kaper chart template or check out Pinterest for oodles of inspiration!



Kaper Chart

Kaper/Task	Name/Patrol
Attendance/Dues	
Opening (Pledge, Promise, Law)	
Hand Out Activity Supplies	
Snack	
Clean-up	
Closing (Friendship Squeeze)	



SWAPS



SWAPS stands for “Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere.” They are small tokens of friendship that Girl Scouts exchange with one another. Each SWAP uniquely reflects a fellow Girl Scout, their troop, or a memory of a special event. They’re a great way to share stories and get to know Girl Scouts from across the country and the world.

Tips for SWAPS Givers

- Think about the kind of SWAPS they would like to receive from someone else.
- Try not to spend a lot of money. Consider making something from donated or recycled material.
- Be creative and take time to make hand-crafted SWAPS. Include directions for making them if it is a craft project that can be replicated.

- Try to have one for each event participant and staff member.
- Plan ahead so there's time to make them.
- Make SWAPS that can be worn, used, or displayed.
- Ask their group or service unit for help, if needed, in putting SWAPS together.
- Make them portable. Remember, they must be carried or shipped ahead to the event, where other Girl Scouts will be carrying them away.

What To Do with SWAPS

- Include them with thank-you letters to sponsors and those who helped with a travel event.
- Keep them in a scrapbook, memory box, or shadow box.
- Use them to make a quilt or other textile project.
- Put pins and patches on a hat or jacket.
- Start a council best-of-SWAPS collection.

SWAPS Safety and Etiquette

- Never refuse to swap with another person.
- Swap face-to-face, especially if exchanging addresses or email information.
- Avoid using glass or sharp objects in SWAPS.
- Follow all Safety Activity Checkpoints guidelines.
- Avoid using food products, unless they are individually wrapped.



Troop Government

Troop government helps Girl Scout troops to be girl-led in a structured, fair, and effective manner. Troop government is a traditional way for girls to manage troop decisions and provides important hands-on learning opportunities. Adjust how your government functions based on the needs of you, your girls, and the troop as a whole. Through trial-and-error, together you'll find a system that works best for your troop!

There are five traditional types of troop government based on program level:

DAISIES can participate in the Daisy Circle:

- The Daisy Circle takes place during the business portion of the troop meeting, where formal decisions for the troop are made. Girls sit in a circle and the troop leader or other volunteer leads the discussion, often by offering the girls options such as about what activities they would like to do as a troop. Keep it brief, 5-15 minutes. Learn more here: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/jMHaDZ4i9Bw>

BROWNIES can form a Brownie Ring:

- The Brownie Ring takes place during the business portion of the troop meeting, where formal decisions for the troop are made. Girls sit in a circle and a girl (with troop leader guidance) may lead the discussion so the troop can brainstorm ideas and activities they all want to do. Be sure to rotate this leadership opportunity regularly – it would make a great kaper! Keep it brief, 5-15 minutes. Learn more here: https://www.youtube.com/embed/B-iLN7_W84M

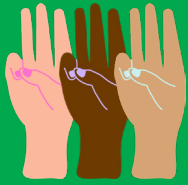
JUNIORS, CADETTES, SENIORS, and AMBASSADORS can choose from the Patrol System, Executive Board, and Town Meeting System:

- **Patrol System:** Troop members are divided into small groups of four to six, called “patrols”. Girls participate in smaller group discussions and select a lead to represent their group. Each patrol can choose a name, a symbol, a patrol lead, and assistant patrol leaders. Rotate through patrol leaders so everyone has the opportunity to lead. Patrol leaders represent their group in a Court of Honor with other patrol leads and meets with an adult leader who helps guide their decision-making. Patrol leaders communicate all decisions made in the Court of Honor back to their patrols.
- **Executive Board:** Troop members elect board positions such as president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer for the troop. The number of officers and positions may vary, depending on the needs of the troop. The board holds meetings outside of regular troop meetings to discuss troop matters. The board should report back to the troop on a regular basis regarding decisions made and should also seek feedback and input from the troop before final decisions are made.
- **Town Meeting System:** There is no formalized government structure in a town meeting system. Troop members discuss and make decisions as an entire troop. One girl acts as moderator to ensure everyone has the opportunity to speak and provide input. Girls should lead discussions with little help from the troop leaders. Establishing discussion guidelines ahead of time will help ensure successful use of the Town Meeting system.

Tips for All Levels:

- Come to meetings prepared.
- Establish discussion guidelines.
- Take notes.
- Evaluate together what works and how to improve.
- Have patience and adjust as you go.

- Thanks to Girl Scouts River Valleys for this section!



Girl Scout Ceremonies Chart

Ceremony	Description	Essential Components
Opening and Closing	The beginning or ending. May be a song, reciting the Girl Scout Promise and Law, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning or ending a meeting or event. Can be formal or informal.
Girl Scout's Own Ceremony	A quiet ceremony with a theme expressing feelings and ideals. Planned by girls and their troop leaders. Not a religious service although may have a spiritual theme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohesive theme. Expression of ideals through words, poetry, music, simple drama, etc. It is traditional to walk in silence to and from the site of the ceremony.
World Trefoil Pin Ceremony	A ceremony to help girls learn about the World Trefoil Pin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditionally part of World Thinking Day celebrations. However may be performed any time of year.
Flag Ceremony	This ceremony honors the US flag. It can be used for opening and closing special activities and troop meetings. May be held indoors or outdoors.	US flag only, or US flag and others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Color bearer Color guard Pledge of allegiance Girl Scout Promise Patriotic song or reading
Investiture	A girl or adult joining Girl Scouting for the first time and making the Girl Scout Promise. Traditionally, this is the first time they wear the Girl Scout pin.	A girl or adult joining Girl Scouting for the first time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> makes the Promise receives the Girl Scout pin is welcomed into Girl Scouting
Rededication	Members who have already been invested renew the Girl Scout Promise and are welcomed back into Girl Scouting. May be combined with an investiture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls and adults who have already been invested. Renewed commitment to Girl Scout Promise.
Bridging and Fly-Up Ceremony	A ceremony held when you "cross the bridge" from one program level to another.	Bridging Girl Scouts receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership star with colored disc Level-appropriate membership pin (D, B) Fly-up wings (B) Bridging award (if earned) For more details refer to chart in GSUSA Girl Scout Bridging Guide: https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/misc/19_MV_BridgingGuide_flyer_v2.pdf
Court of Awards	A ceremony recognizing troop accomplishments. Girl Scouts receive insignia they have earned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insignia are usually presented by the troop leader. Include an explanation of what the insignia stands for/what the Girl Scouts are being recognized for accomplishing.



Ceremonies Overview

Girl Scouts hold ceremonies to mark special events throughout the year. Girl Scout ceremonies can be planned on a grand scale to celebrate major transitions (such as awards, bridging, investitures, and end-of-year activities). Or they can be planned on a smaller scale to celebrate more regular occurrences (such as the beginning or ending of a meeting, holding a campout, celebrating friendship, etc.). Use ceremonies frequently and work with your troop to make them their own.

A typical Girl Scout ceremony has the following parts:

- **Purpose:** To mark a special event, recognize accomplishments, open a meeting, etc.
- **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

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?

Tips for Ceremonies

Use Resources Wisely:

- Devote sufficient time to planning and rehearsing the ceremony together as a troop.
- Consider combining ceremonies: An investiture or bridging may also include a flag ceremony and a Girl Scout's Own. Awards may also be presented at rededication or bridging ceremonies. Special thank-you's to volunteers, guests, etc. may be included on almost any occasion.
- LED candles, daisy flowers, or other symbolic aids can be used in the ceremony to emphasize the various parts of the Promise and the Law.

Be Honest and Fair:

- Help the troop make the ceremonies their own by customizing content, presentation, etc. when possible and appropriate.
- Split up speaking roles for large groups, or combine speaking parts for small groups.
- Refer to the Volunteer Handbook and Safety Activity Checkpoints for safety guidelines and advice.

Be Considerate and Caring:

- Inviting parents, friends, troop sponsors and others can make the ceremony more meaningful.
- Observe flag etiquette when doing flag ceremonies.
- Consider whether it would be helpful to use a microphone/sound system during the ceremony. Check with your meeting location, troop families, or service unit to see if you can borrow one.

Sample Ceremony Planning Worksheet

Ceremony: _____

Purpose: _____

Theme: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____ Location: _____

Who is invited?: _____

Ceremony Rehearsal: Time _____ Date: _____ Location: _____

Ceremony Part	Activities/Details	Who will do this?
Opening		
Program		
Closing		

Items needed:	Budget:	Details:	Who will bring this:
Refreshments			
Decorations			
Props			
Awards			
Insignia			

Opening Ceremonies

An opening ceremony signals that the ceremony, troop meeting, or other gathering has begun. An opening ceremony is usually short and simple. Add variety and interest by helping the girls choose or create their own opening ceremonies.

Any of the following ideas would be appropriate for an opening ceremony, and many of them can also be used for closing ceremonies (and refer to the “Closing Ceremonies” section for more ideas). You may combine two or three of these if a longer ceremony is desired.

1. Sit or stand in a circle and recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law
2. Sing a Girl Scout song (serious or silly!)
3. Hold a flag ceremony
4. Play an icebreaker game
5. Discuss a symbol of Girl Scouting and its meaning:
 - Membership Pin
 - World Trefoil Pin
 - Trefoil Shape
 - Girl Scout Sign
6. Have each girl give an example of how they observed the Girl Scout slogan "Do a Good Turn Daily" since the last meeting
7. Talk about how the program helps us live up to our Girl Scout motto "Be Prepared"

Sample icebreaker games:

M&M Icebreaker Game

Pour M&Ms, or any other multicolored candy, into a bowl. Have everyone in the group take as many as they want, but no fewer than five from the bowl. Make sure that no one eats their candy right away.

For each piece of candy they took, they will have to answer a question, depending on its color. For example, you can designate:

- **Red:** Favorite hobby
- **Green:** Favorite food
- **Yellow:** Favorite movie
- **Orange:** Something cool that happened yesterday
- **Brown:** Something you do well
- **Blue:** Random fact (share anything they choose)

Line Up Game

One person is the caller. She calls out, “Everyone please now line up...” and fills in the blank with a statement such as one of the suggestions below. All players race and find the right order.

- In order of age, oldest at the front, youngest at the back
- In alphabetical order by first name
- In order of height, smallest to tallest
- In order by your birthday—January to December

If you have a large number, divide into two teams to see who can finish first. To make it harder, play the game in silence.

Closing Ceremonies

A closing ceremony allows the troop a special moment to end the troop meeting or other gathering and say good-bye. A closing ceremony is usually simple and short.

Friendship Circle with Friendship Wish

Troop members stand in a circle with arms crossed right over left, 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 symbolically passing the wish to the next person on the right by squeezing her hand. That person thinks her own silent wish to pass, continuing the “squeeze.” To identify the location of the “squeeze”, have each person extend their right foot as they pass on their wish. When the “squeeze” has gone all the way around the circle, each person will pull their right foot back and twist out of the circle, turning the circle inside out. To do this, each person raises and uncrosses their arms, turning their body towards the outside of the circle while keeping their hands linked. Once the circle is inside out everyone says “Good night, Girl Scouts” and that ends the meeting. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHTOkcmI44Q>

Make New Friends

“Make New Friends” is a classic Girl Scout song to sing with your troop anytime, and especially to close a meeting. You can sing this together or as a four-part round. Check out the video from GSUSA here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5uafJjkgio> and you can also find more verses online.



Make New Friends

1. Make new friends, but keep the old; One is silver and the other gold.

2. A circle is round, it has no end That's how long I want to be your friend.

Magic Tunnel

When hats and coats are on, troop members stand in two lines facing each other and raise arms holding hands to make an arch. The two farthest from the door go under the arch, then the next two, etc., until the last two go.

Girl Scout Good-bye Song

Tune "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.

Taps

Lyrics:

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes
From the hills
From the sky
All is well
Safely rest
God is nigh

Hand Motions:

(arms are held extended with palms down, shoulder level)
(lower arms slightly)
(turn palms up, raise arms slightly)
(raise arms higher)
(raise arms level with top of head)
(lower arms to shoulder height, place right hand on left elbow)
(cross left hand to right elbow)
(bow head onto crossed arms)

Taps Variations

Daylight:

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

Evening:

So good night, peaceful night
'Til the light of the dawn shineth bright
God is near, do not fear
Friend, good night

Juliette:

On this day, we have come
From the North, from the South,
East and West, all your dreams
Will live on, Juliette

Good Night:

Night has come, owls are out,
Beetles hum round about
Tip-toe so, out they creep
Girl Scouts go home to sleep.



Girl Scouts' Own

This ceremony is called a “Girl Scout’s Own” because the Girl Scouts plan it themselves. Traditionally these ceremonies are planned by Juniors and up. A Girl Scout’s Own ceremony is an occasion for the troop to express their deepest feelings about subjects which are meaningful to them. Please note this is not a religious service or ceremony.

Why have a Girl Scouts' Own?

- To express deep feelings about subjects which are meaningful to the troop
- To rededicate ourselves to the ideals of Girl Scouting
- To celebrate a holiday or other special occasion
- To quiet down after a campfire or other adventure

How to plan a Girl Scouts' Own:

- The troop decides they want a special service
- The troop decides on a theme (see below for examples)
- Troop members make a list of different ways they can tell or show their theme
 - o Consider using songs, poetry, dance, stories, musical instruments, dramatization, pantomime, or thoughts about what the theme means to each Girl Scout
 - o From the list, girls choose one idea for the opening and then two to six ideas for the main body of the ceremony
- The troop decides who will perform or lead each part and who will lead the girls to the ceremony location and back again
 - o Make sure everyone has a role and can participate
- Decide how to end the ceremony. When the program is over, Girl Scouts quietly disperse.
- Rehearsal isn’t required as long as plans are clear and individuals know their roles
- Please note, while a Girl Scout’s Own should be inspirational, it is not a religious ceremony

When should it be held?

- Anytime
- Any day
- Before sunrise, during the day, or at sunset
- Keep it short, 10-15 minutes

Where should it be held?

- At a troop meeting, inter-troop meeting, or camp
- Indoors or outdoors
- If indoors, you may choose to hold the ceremony under a symbol like a flag or special picture, etc.
- If outdoors, you may want a place with a view or under a special tree, etc.

Examples of possible themes:

- An aspect of the Promise or Law, such as leadership, honesty, friendship, sisterhood, etc.
- A special occasion, such as World Thinking Day, Mother’s Day, another holiday, etc.
- Nature or some part of nature (trees, water, animals, seasons, etc.), caring for and honoring nature
- Famous people (including Juliette Low), legends, etc.
- Ideals, such as gratitude, service, responsibility, honor, happiness, etc.

Eternal Flame Ceremony

This can be used in combination with most ceremonies, especially bridging, Court of Awards, or while camping as a troop. For all candle ceremonies we substitute with no-flame/LED candles or flashlights.

Equipment needed:

One no-flame/LED candle or flashlight for each participant (adjust the language in the script as necessary)

Ceremony script:

"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 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."



Welcoming Ceremony for New Leaders

This ceremony can be used by service teams to recognize the new leaders within their service units, and can also be used at the troop level by troops who are welcoming new leaders to their leadership teams.

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 troop member 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 Girl Scouts 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 child.

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

Leader #3: I will lead 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.



Girl Scout Week Ceremony

For use during Girl Scout Week, which always includes Girl Scout Birthday (March 12). In this ceremony, a daisy is formed as you tell the story of how Girl Scouting began. Cut a large flower center and eight petals from poster board. Each Girl Scout will mount a piece of the flower on the wall or bulletin board as she says her part.

Ceremony Script

- Leader: Today we are gathered to celebrate the anniversary of Girl Scouting. We celebrate by honoring our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, and by telling her story.
- Girl 1: Juliette Gordon Low was the founder of Girl Scouting in the United States. She was fondly known as Daisy to her family and friends.
- Girl 2: She started the first Girl Scout troop in Savannah, Georgia, which was her home. You may visit her birthplace when you visit Savannah.
- Girl 3: The birthday of Girl Scouting in the United States is March 12, 1912. Every year, Girl Scouts celebrate the day with special events, service projects and ceremonies
- Girl 4: Juliette Low first learned about Girl Scouting from Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Boy Scouts. She met him in England. Inspired by his youth program, she led three Girl Scout troops in England and Scotland. Then she returned to America with something for American girls. It was a dream of world peace and friendship through a program that would unite young people in all lands.
- Girl 5: The first group of girls changed the name from Girl Guides to Girl Scouts.
- Girl 6: Daisy worked endlessly and even sold her pearls to spread the exciting idea of Girl Scouting. Even her deafness in later years did not hinder her.
- Girl 7: Millions of girls have made the Promise since then, and the Promise holds the same meaning as it did for Daisy Low herself when she first brought Girl Scouting to the United States many years ago. Let us all say that Promise now.
- All: Recite the Girl Scout Promise. Sing, “When’er You Make a Promise” (optional).
- Girl 8: Juliette Low wished that Girl Scouts in the United States could know Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in other countries. When she died, the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund was established in her memory to help her dream come true. Each year, Girl Scouts make voluntary contributions to this fund. By doing so, they help young people of other lands meet and get to know each other at world centers and at international gatherings.
- Girl 9: Now, let’s complete our “daisy” by forming a circle, which symbolizes the ever-widening circle of Girl Scout friends.

All form a Friendship Circle and sing, “[Make New Friends](#)” or “[Girl Scouts Together.](#)”



Troop Crest Ceremony

In the early days of Girl Scouting, troop crests were used to identify a troop. The rapid growth of the Girl Scout movement soon made numbering necessary, but troop crests were kept as a symbol of a troop's goal or main interest. Today, troop crests are chosen and used by Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador level troops. Once chosen, a crest is used for the life of a troop. If a new member enters an established troop she will take the crest of that troop. If a troop splits and forms a new troop, they can choose to keep or change their crest. The Girl Scouts remaining behind should keep the old crest unless the flavor of the troop has drastically changed from the time the original crest was selected.

Throughout its history, Girl Scouts has assigned no specific meaning to troop crests. The items used in troop crests, such as flowers and other natural elements, often have various meanings that have come to be associated with them by cultures around the world. The meanings shared below are from the GSUSA shop website in the "Additional Information" section for each crest. Troop Crests are available for purchase in the [Girl Scout shop](#).

- **Arrow:** The arrow stands for moving forward—this symbol shows a wish to change the world.
- **Bee:** Bees symbolize hard work and industry. The bee can show that girls want to inspire others through their words and deeds.
- **Bluebird:** Bluebirds, known for their bright color and cheerful song, stand for happiness and good fortune.
- **Carnation:** The carnation—one of the first two troop crests—stands for health and energy.
- **Crane:** The graceful crane stands for strength, gracefulness and energy
- **Eagle:** The eagle's sharp eyes help it see important details—this symbol stands for focus and hard work.
- **Lei:** The Hawaiian lei is a symbol of friendship, love and peace.
- **Lightning:** A bolt of lightning stands for inspiration and creative power.
- **Nautilus Shell:** The nautilus shell keeps growing and changing throughout its life—just like a Girl Scout.
- **Pansy:** The cheerful pansy stands for loving thoughts and special friendships.
- **Shooting Star:** Shooting stars are rare, unexpected, and beautiful. This symbol shows that girls are special and ready to light up the world.
- **Sun:** The sun represents warmth and life—this symbol helps to spread good cheer.
- **Trumpet:** A trumpet says "ready to march"—this symbol shows that girls are prepared to take action and make the world a better place.
- **Unicorn:** The mythical, beautiful unicorn is a symbol of courage.
- **Waterfall:** The waterfall shows that girls want to stay true to themselves—even though the world is always changing.
- **White Rose:** The white rose—one of the first two troop crests—stands for new beginnings.

Sample 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."

World Trefoil Pin Ceremony

This ceremony helps Girl Scouts learn about the World Trefoil Pin and is normally part of World Thinking Day celebrations, however it can be performed any time of year.



Materials & Set-Up:

- World Trefoil Pins
- An optional prop needed for this ceremony is either a large picture of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) logo or a felt/flannel board on which the separate elements of the logo can be placed as the ceremony progresses. You can use the image on the following page as a pattern if you wish.
- The group stands in a horseshoe formation.

Leader #1: The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is an association of Girl Scout and Girl Guide national organizations from around the world. WAGGGS [pronounced “wags”] serves approximately 8.9 million Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in 152 countries. WAGGGS’ mission is to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world. Through Girl Scouts of the USA’s membership in WAGGGS, each youth and adult registered as a Girl Scout in the United States becomes part of the Girl Guide and Girl Scout world movement.

Leader #2: 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.

Girl 1: The World Association pin has a blue background. The blue stands for the sky which is over us all. (Place blue background on the board)

Girl 2: The gold trefoil stands for the sun which shines on us all. Its shape represents the three parts of the Promise. (Place trefoil on the board)

Girl 3: The stars in the trefoil remind us of our Promise and Law. (Place stars on the board)

Girl 4: The vein is the compass needle that guides us. (Place veins on the board)

Girl 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. (Place flame on board)





Flag Ceremonies

A flag ceremony is a tribute to the flag we honor and is a way to show love and respect for one's country. Practice the ceremony with your troop so the ceremony can be conducted with pride and confidence.

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

All flag ceremonies share one thing in common—respect for the flag. Many service units have American flags and other flags that troops can borrow. Troops can make their own troop flag or purchase one through the GSME shop.

Whether performed indoors or outdoors, follow the same general guidelines for the care and presentation of the flag. When possible, Girl Scouts participating in the flag ceremony should wear their Girl Scout uniform (at least their membership pin) and coordinate clothing (such as white tops and dark pants, etc.).

Flag ceremonies can be as simple or elaborate as you want to make them. Keep them simple at first as the girls are learning. More elaborate elements can be added as the troop becomes more comfortable and more skilled with the ceremony. Emphasis should be on respect for the flag rather than on the commands or techniques.

Discuss these questions with your troop when planning a flag ceremony:

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?

SALUTE WHEN:

- The moment the flag passes in front of you in a parade
- When a flag is retreated in a parade
- From the moment the flag starts to be lowered from a flagpole until the moment it is completely unattached
- When saying the Pledge of Allegiance and/or during the National Anthem
- Do not salute when other flags are presented
- Color guard does not salute except when directed to

Terms Used in a Flag Ceremony

- **“Flag’s own right”:** The American flag is carried to the RIGHT of the troop flag from the perspective of the person carrying the flag, so it would appear on the left to an observer.
- **Color bearer (or flag bearer):** The person who carries the flag. There is one color bearer for each flag used in the ceremony. Hold the staff at a slight angle in front of the body, or hold the folded flag in front of the body at waist level. If not in uniform, the flag bearer may wear a red sash over the right shoulder tied on the left side at the waist in a square knot. The flag bearer stands silent and at attention throughout the ceremony and does not speak or sing with the group.
- **Color guard:** The team that guards the flags and makes sure the flag does not touch the ground. Any even number of guards may be used, but two per flag is a traditional number. The color guard stands behind the flag bearer. If not in uniform, the color guards may wear a red sash around the waist, tied on the left side in a square knot. The color guards stand silent and at attention throughout the ceremony and does not speak or sing with the group.
- **Girl Scout in-charge (or caller)** is a designated Girl Scout who announces each part of the ceremony. She stands in front and to one side of the circle or at the front and to one side of the assembly.

Flag Etiquette

Display of the American flag is governed by law to ensure that it will be treated with respect. This is known as the United States Flag Code. Some of the rules most useful for Girl Scouts are:

- The American flag must be placed in the center, and higher, when displayed with a group of state, local, or organizational flags flown from staffs.
- The flag must also be positioned to the “flag’s own right” of other flags, which is the observer’s left. A girl holding the flag while facing the audience would need to hold the flag on the farthest right side, which the audience would see as being on the far left of all of the other flags.
- When displayed from a staff in a house of worship or public auditorium, the flag of the United States must hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergy’s or speaker’s right as he or she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergy or speaker or to the right of the audience.
- The flag is to 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 (see description above for “flag’s own 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.

Flag Ceremony Diagrams

Here are a few basic principles for honoring the American flag in the presence of Girl Scout flags.

The United States flag should be in one of the following positions: first, to the flag's own right, center front, or center and higher.

A few of the most common situations in troop, adult or larger organization meetings have been used in illustrating these principles. Since the presence of color guards does not alter flag positions, they are not shown. Other Girl Scout flags can be added as desired.



United States flag



World Association flag



Troop flag



Direction flag faces



Indicates "flag's own right"



Path of American flag



Path of troop flags



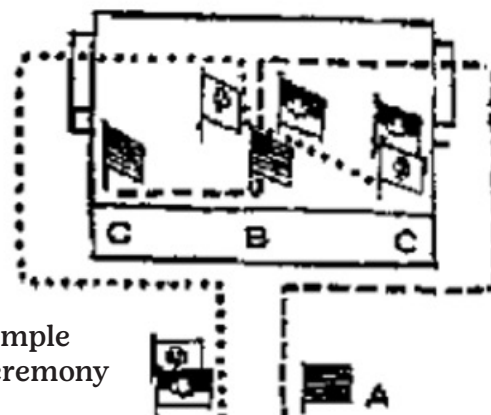
Two flags: right



Three flags: center front



Many flags: in front



Sample Ceremony

Sample ceremonies using these principles:

A. Carried in: U.S. flag leading, World Association flag next, troop flag third. U.S. flag turns right at end of aisle, Girl Scout flags go to left.

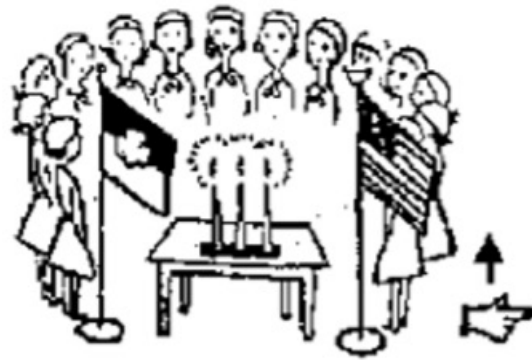
B. Held for ceremony: U.S. flag at front center stage, Girl Scout flags behind it.

C. Grounded: Girl Scout flags grounded before U.S. flag. U.S. flag grounded last and in highest stand.

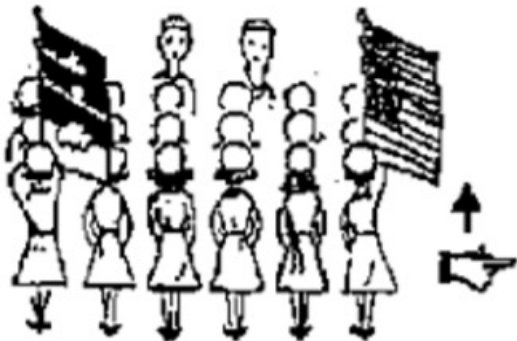
D. Retiring flags: U.S. flag is picked up first, carried along route which Scout flags are entered. Girl Scout flags go out the other way. This keeps the U.S. flag on the right.



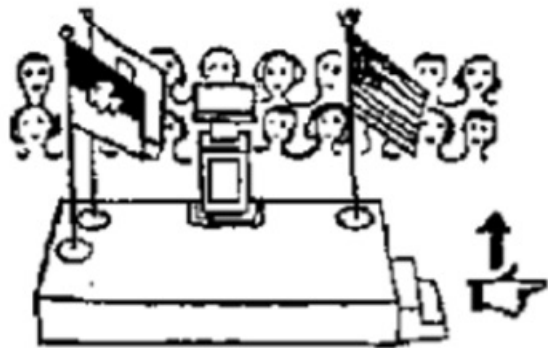
Two flags: right



All same level: right



Many flags: right



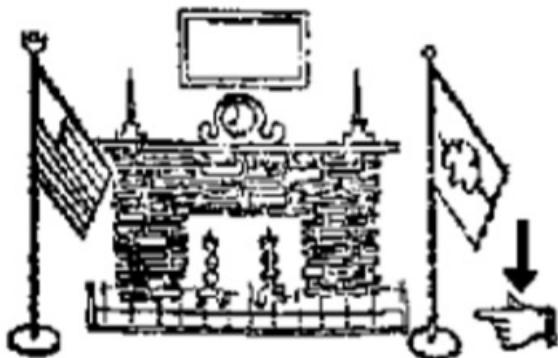
On platform: Flag's own right



Three flags: center



Higher, if centered



Against wall: flag's own right

Flag Ceremony Commands

This is a simple version of the commands. You may add in other elements such as singing the National Anthem or Taps. You may find variations of flag ceremony commands online through sites such as the VFW or American Legion.

Open:

- **“Girl Scouts, Attention.”**
 - Used to announce that the flag ceremony is to begin. Girl Scouts stand quietly and remove all headwear.
- **“Color guard, Advance.”**
 - This signals the color guard to advance with the flags, or advance to pick up the flags. Color guard carries the flag(s) towards flag pole or stand.
- **“Color guard, post the colors.”**
 - This directs the color guard to place the flag in its stand, or unfold and hoist the flags up the poles in the appropriate order (The American flag always comes first, and the state flag if you have it is usually next, with any flags after that going in order of importance.)
- **“Color guard, honor your flag.”**
 - Color guard salutes the flag and then returns to “attention.”
- **“Please join us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance and Girl Scout Promise and Law.”**
 - If you have a color guard, they should stand at attention and not participate, keeping their full attention on the flag. Everyone else says Pledge of Allegiance, Promise and Law.

Close:

- **“Color guard, retire the colors.”**
 - Color guard removes the flag(s) from the stand(s) or slowly lowers and folds the flag(s); American flag first, and then in reverse order that they went up.
- **“Color guard, dismissed.”**
 - Color guard carries the flag to an appropriate place at the back of the room.
- **“Girl Scouts dismissed.”**
 - Girl Scouts may leave formation or be at ease where they have been standing.



Folding the American Flag



Step 1

To properly fold the flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person so that its surface is parallel to the ground.



Step 2

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



Step 3

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



Step 4

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



Step 5

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



Step 6

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



Step 7

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

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. This is generally done formally by reaching out to your local VFW or American Legion. You may also check with your local service unit to see about teaming up with other local troops for a flag retirement ceremony.

Basic Indoor Flag Ceremony

(thanks to https://www.girlscoutsem.org/content/dam/girlscoutsem-redesign/documents/Ceremonies_In_Girl_Scouting.pdf)

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 (to observers, this will appear to be on the left). Another option is to have the other flags follow the U.S. flag in and out of the formation.

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

Retiring the Colors:

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

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)

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 of and behind the Color Bearers.
- **Note:** Color Bearer(s) and Color Guard(s) stand at attention and only salute when told to by the Caller. They do not salute or say the pledge with the rest of the group.

Multi-level Flag Ceremony

Daisy Girl Scout enters with the Daisy Flag

Narrator 1: "I am a Daisy Girl Scout flag. I have watched over the Girl Scouts in blue. I have watched them become Girl Scouts and now they seek the wise old owl."

Brownie Girl Scout enters with Brownie flag.

Narrator 2: "I am the Brownie Girl Scout flag. I have watched over the Girl Scouts in brown. I have guided their enthusiasm and now they fly from my arms."

Junior Girl Scout enters with Girl Scout flag.

Narrator 3: "I am the Girl Scout flag. I have watched over the Girl Scouts in green. I have watched them grow and now they step upward to Cadette Girl Scouting."

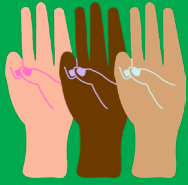
Cadette Girl Scout enters with World Association flag.

Narrator 4: "I am the World Association flag. I watch over all Girl Scouts and Girl Guiding all over the world. I watch Cadette Girl Scouts grow to be Senior Girl Scouts. Please stand."

Senior Girl Scout enters with the American flag

Narrator 5: "I am the United States flag. I watch over Senior Girl Scouts and all Girl Scouts. I can hold my head high when I am with them. I am proud of my daughters. Girl Scouts and guests, the flag of our country. Please say the Pledge of Allegiance."





Parades

Parades are a great community event for troops! Many parades are local, so check with your town for their schedule and requirements. Some service units have volunteers who are parade coordinators. Reach out to your service team for more information. Teaming up with other local troops makes participating in parades more fun!

Safety guidelines for parades:

- Plan ahead with your troop and parents/caregivers to make sure everyone is prepared for what to expect.
- Review the “Parades” section of the “Safety Activity Checkpoints” with your troop, especially if your troop is participating with a float.
 - Note: Do NOT throw anything from your float into the crowd, or throw anything in general.
- Follow the appropriate troop leader to girl ratio and have at least two leaders present who have completed Troop Volunteer Training Part 1 and Part 2. You may need more volunteers present depending on the troop level and number of girls (refer to ratio chart in [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#)).

Represent Girl Scouts in a positive way:

- Have everyone dress neatly and wear a Girl Scout uniform, membership pin, or some other means of group identification.
- If you’re making troop t-shirts, check the [Marketing Toolkit](#) first, which you can find on the Resources page of our website.
- You can make a troop flag or order one through the [GSME shop](#). Check with your service team to see if they have other flags for you to borrow.





Investiture

An investiture ceremony welcomes new youth and adult members into Girl Scouting. During the investiture, the new member makes the Girl Scout Promise, receives the appropriate membership pin, and is welcomed into Girl Scouting. There is no “correct” or “required” component in an investiture beyond making the pledge to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Be sure to coach the new members in advance that the Girl Scout handshake is shaking with the LEFT hand while holding up the Girl Scout sign with the RIGHT hand.

Investiture ceremonies for new members can be combined with rededication ceremonies for continuing members and often happen in the fall but can happen any time of year. This is a great ceremony for inviting guests, such as troop families. If additional members 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.

Membership Pin Traditions

Trefoil Meaning

The trefoil is perhaps the most iconic symbol of Girl Scouting. “Trefoil” means “three leaves”. Each leaf stands for part of the Girl Scout Promise.

Girl Scout Membership Pin

Each version of the Girl Scout membership pin features a trefoil in its design.



Daisy



Brownie



**Junior
through Adult
(official)**



**Junior
through Adult
(traditional)**



**Lifetime
Membership
Pin**



**Traditional
Lifetime
Membership
Pin**

Receiving membership pin at the investiture

Girl Scouts are allowed to wear their membership pin as soon as they register as members of GSUSA, with or without an investiture ceremony. However, there is an old Girl Scout tradition where Girl Scouts receive and wear their pins for the first time at an investiture. You are welcome to participate in this tradition if the timing works for your troop, but it is not mandatory.



Good turn

Another Girl Scout investiture tradition comes from the Girl Scout slogan: “Do a Good Turn Daily”. When girls (and adults!) receive their membership pin at the investiture ceremony, the pin would be pinned on upside down. The pins are not turned upright until the wearer has done a good deed for someone else. Some versions of this ask for three good deeds, some ask for just one. The “Good Turn” is sometimes included as part of the investiture script but you can also add it in if you wish. This is a great opportunity for parents and caregivers to keep an eye out and when they see their child doing a good turn they can turn the pin right side up.



World Trefoil pin

May also be referred to as World Association Pin, or WAGGGS pin. This pin is usually presented at a special ceremony after girls have learned about the international aspect of Girl Scouting/Girl Guiding (see “World Trefoil Pin Ceremony” section for more details). However, the pin may be included in the investiture or rededication ceremony, especially if an individual is joining a troop/group where other members already have the World Trefoil Pin.

Basic Investiture Ceremony

Materials & Set-Up:

- Pins for new members.
- The troop forms a horseshoe and stands fairly close together.
- The new members stand off to the side.

Main:

- Current troop members: “Why have you come here?”
- New members: “To be (Daisy, Brownie, etc.) Girl Scouts.”
- Leader: “As Girl Scouts you will be expected to uphold the meaning of the Promise and the Law. Do you know what it means when you say ‘On my honor?’”
- New members: “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?”
- New members: “Yes, you may.”
- Girls give the Girl Scout sign and repeat the 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 or uniform.
- Leader: “Welcome to Girl Scouting and Troop #_____.”

**Members may substitute wording appropriate to their own beliefs for the word “God”*



Daisy Flower Garden Investiture

For this type of ceremony the girls can be invested by having their parents or older Girl Scouts “plant” them before the ceremony begins. They can be curled up on the floor or squat with their arms around their knees and their heads down. The gardener (a troop leader), comes along with a watering can. If appropriate for your ceremony location, you might consider sprinkling the girls with non-plastic, biodegradable confetti such as hole-punched recycled paper.

Main:

First Leader says: “I wonder if it is time for these Daisy seeds to sprout. I guess before they grow they will have to have the special ingredients needed to make a flower grow and bloom. Let’s see if we can sprinkle everything that is needed.”

Second Leader says: “Let’s sprinkle them with the Girl Scout Promise.”

First Leader says: “Next, let’s use the Girl Scout Law.”

Second Leader says: “I’ll sprinkle them with the Girl Scout Motto—‘Be prepared’.”

First Leader says: “And I’ll use the Girl Scout Slogan—‘Do a good turn daily’.”

Second Leader says: “We can use the Girl Scout handshake to help them grow.”

First Leader says: “Now for a good dose of Girl Scout Cookies. That should do the trick!”

[The “planted” daisies stretch and grow tall.]

Closing:

Daisies sing:

I’m a Girl Scout Daisy! Take a look at me.

I’m a Girl Scout Daisy, happy as can be.

I’m going on a journey,

With friends along the way,

I’m a Girl Scout Daisy,

Hip, Hip, Hurray!

I’m a Girl Scout Daisy! Take a look at me.

I’m a Girl Scout Daisy, happy as can be.

We’re having fun and sharing,

Each and every day.

I’m a Girl Scout Daisy,

Hip, Hip, Hurray!



Daisy Petal Investiture

Materials

- Girl Scout Daisy membership pin and World Trefoil pin
- Blue felt board or piece of poster board
- Blue felt promise center and ten felt petals, one for each color of the law

Opening

Leader: “Welcome, families and friends, to our investiture ceremony. This special ceremony welcomes girls to Girl Scouting. It is a time when each girl makes her Girl Scout Promise and is invested with the symbols of membership, the Girl Scout Daisy pin and the World Trefoil Pin.”

Main

Troop Leader 1 says: “The first Girl Scout was Juliette Gordon Low. Her family called her Daisy. When Daisy was a girl, she loved to ride horses and climb trees. She loved to draw pictures and put on plays. As Daisy grew older, she wanted girls to have a much fun as she did. She wanted them to grow up to be whoever they wanted to be in life. That’s why she started Girl Scouts.”

Troop Leader 2 says: “Girls you are about to become Girl Scout Daisies. The most important part of becoming a Girl Scout is making the Girl Scout Promise to serve God* and your country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law. (Call on girl by name) will you place the Promise Center on the board?”

(Girl places center on board)

Both Leaders say: “The ten petals on our daisy stand for the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law.”

All girls say: “I will do my best to—

First Daisy: (places light blue petal on felt board) Be honest and fair

Second Daisy: (places yellow petal on felt board) Be friendly and helpful

Third Daisy- (places spring green petal on felt board) Be considerate and caring

Fourth Daisy- (places red petal on felt board) Be courageous and strong

Fifth Daisy- (places orange petal on felt board) Be responsible for what I say and do

Sixth Daisy- (places purple petal on felt board) Respect myself and others

Seventh Daisy- (places magenta petal on felt board) Respect authority

Eighth Daisy- (places green petal on felt board) Use resources wisely

Ninth Daisy- (places rose color petal on felt board) Make the world a better place

Tenth Daisy- (places violet color petal on felt board) Be a sister to every Girl Scout.”

Leader says: “If you are ready to make your Girl Scout promise, raise your right hand and make the Girl Scout Sign” (makes sign).

All girls make the Girl Scout sign and repeat the Promise, either individually or in a group.

Leader(s) pin the Girl Scout Daisy tab with both pins on left hand side of girl’s uniform. Welcome girls with Girl Scout handshake.

Closing

Girls choice



**Members may substitute wording appropriate to their own beliefs for the word “God”*

Paper Doll Investiture Ceremony

Materials

Girl Scout membership pins (appropriate for levels)

Set-Up

As each girl says her verse, she stretches out her hand to the next girl to speak, until all girls are standing across like paper dolls. Verses may be split according to the number of girls participating.

Ceremony

Girl 1: Take my hand in friendship, I give to you this day.
Let's look forward to the good times, we will have along the way.

Girl 2: Take my hand in helping other people know what we know.
The more we give to others, the more that we will grow.

Girl 3: Take my hand in learning, to camp on nature's ground.
Enjoying trails and campfires, with new friends that we've found.

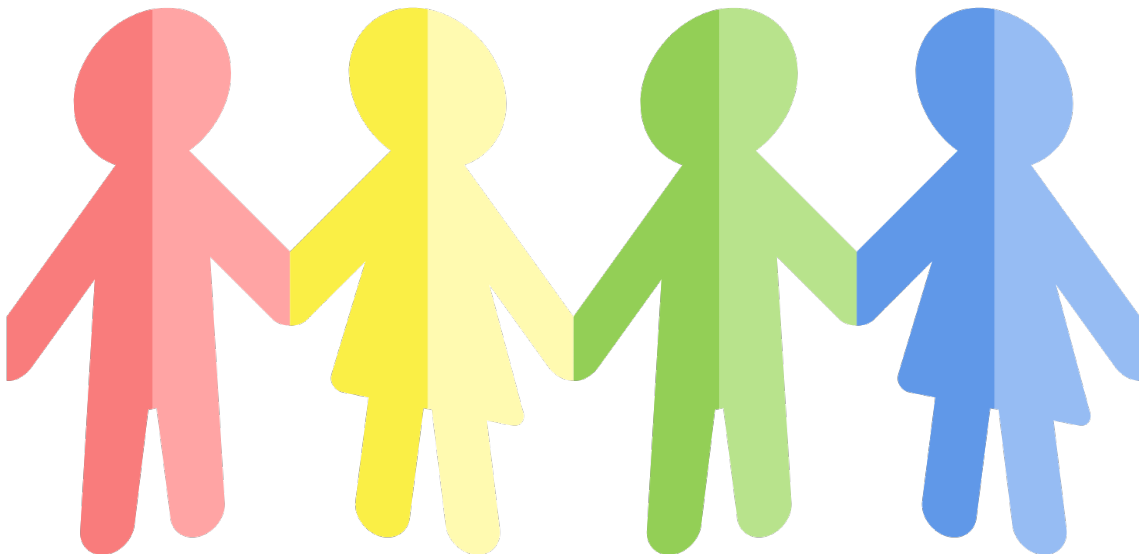
Girl 4: Take my hand in giving, our knowledge of true Girl Scouts.
To girls we meet and talk to, who have so many doubts.

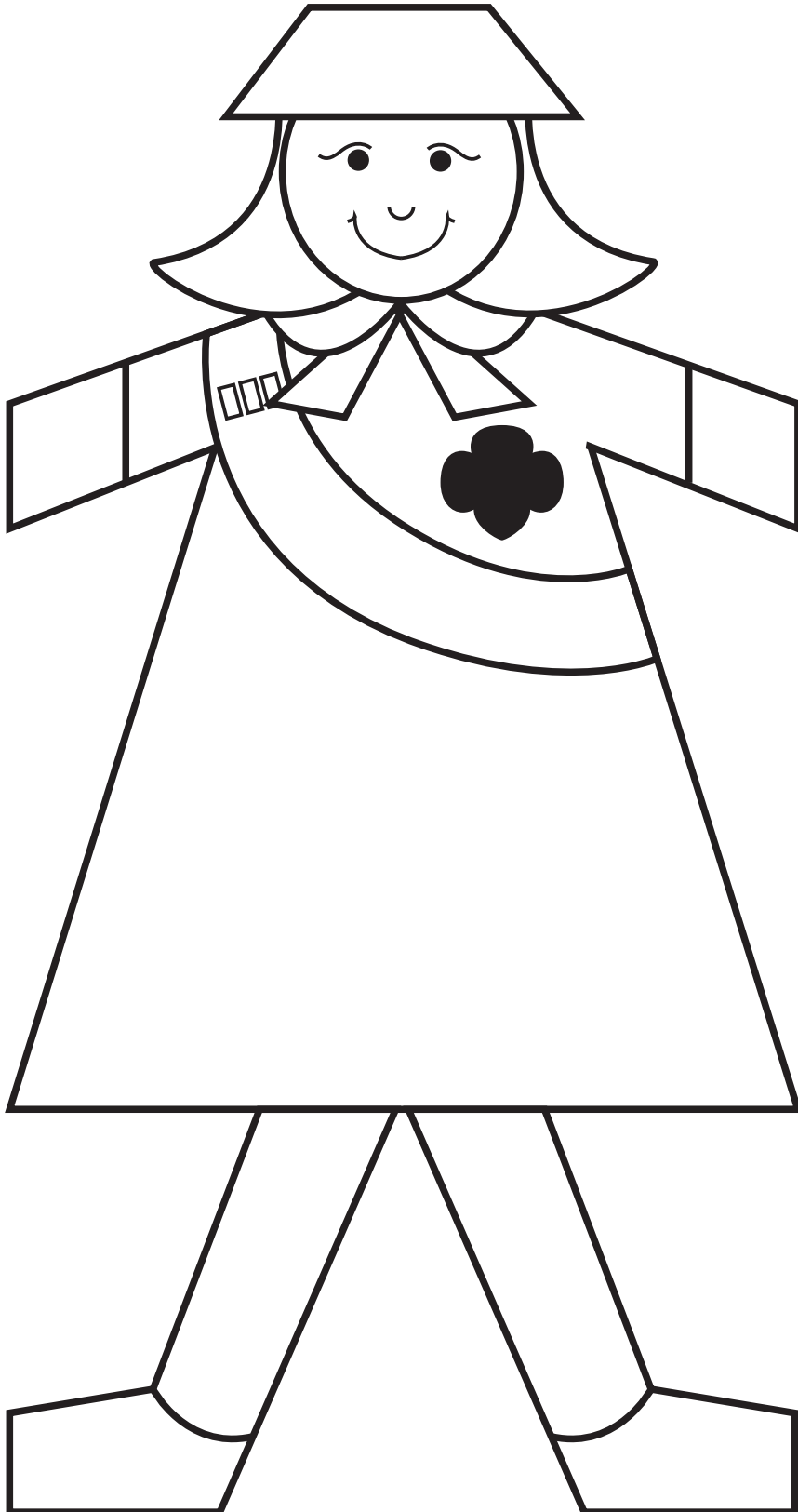
Girl 5: Take my hand in thanking our leaders and our guides.
With sincere appreciation, for standing by our side.

Girl 6: Take my hand in eagerness, to be a [Brownie or Junior] Girl Scout.
We're proud of who we are, is what we're going to shout!

(In unison):
We give our hands in Promise, to hold our country [or community, planet, etc.] dear.
And abide the Girl Scout Law each day throughout the year.

Girls step forward to say the Girl Scout Promise and receive their Girl Scout membership pins.





Girl Scout Paper Doll

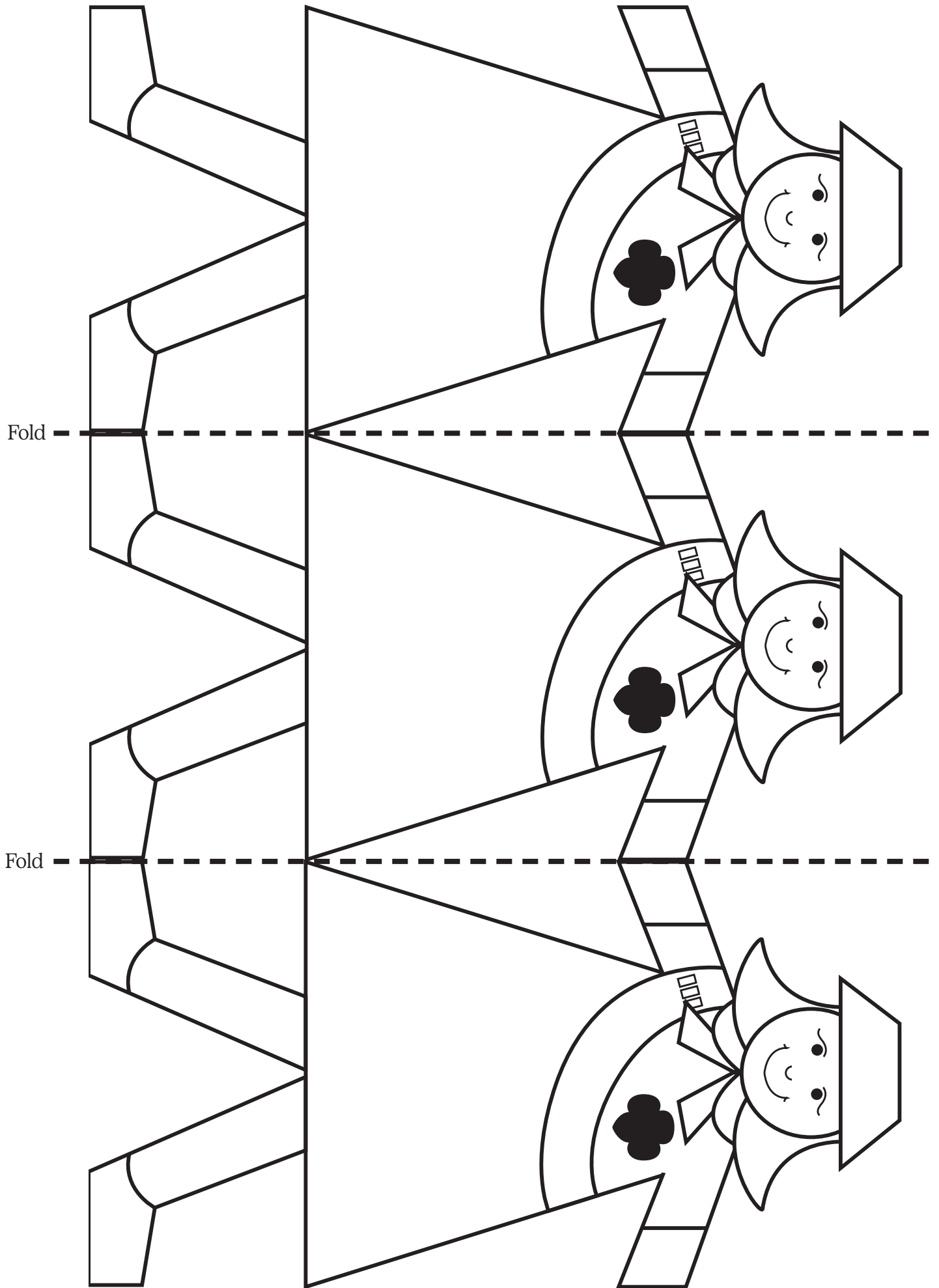
Have your troop help you with this fun activity. You can use the template on the following page to create invitations, table decorations, and more!

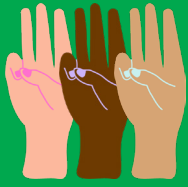
1. Print as many copies of the following page as you will need.

2. Follow the directions on that page for folding and cutting.

3. Decorate each doll.

- For invitations: cut dolls apart, decorate the front, and write invitation information on the back.
- For table or wall decorations, leave the dolls connected, decorate front (and back if you wish) and stand the paper dolls up in a chain or hang them like a garland..
- For nametags, cut the dolls apart, decorate, and include the guest's name on the front.





Rededication

A rededication ceremony is an opportunity for youth and adult members to renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Rededication ceremonies can be combined with investiture ceremonies and often occur in the fall. This is a great ceremony for inviting guests, such as troop families.

Insignia Traditions

Membership Stars

Each membership star represents one year of registration as a Girl Scout. Membership stars are worn on top of colored discs which represent the Girl Scout level. These are placed directly beneath the troop/group numerals on the sash or the right side of the vest or tunic from right to left in the following order: Girl Scout Daisy stars (on BLUE discs), Girl Scout Brownie stars (on GREEN discs), Girl Scout Junior stars (on YELLOW discs), Girl Scout Cadette stars (on WHITE discs), Girl Scout Senior stars (on RED discs), and Girl Scout Ambassador stars (on NAVY discs).



Membership Numeral Guards

The numerals show the total number of years (not necessarily continuous or consecutive) of registered membership, both as a girl and an adult, in any Girl Scout/Girl Guide organization. Numeral Guards are attached to the Official Girl Scout Membership Pins (regular or miniature size), and are placed to the left of the pin on clothing or on the insignia tab.

The five-year numeral guard replaces five membership stars. A ten-year guard replaces ten membership stars. Numeral Guards are available in increments of 5 years.



GORP Rededication

This rededication ceremony uses the traditional Girl Scout snack, GORP (which stands for “Good Ol’ Raisins and Peanuts” or “Granola, Oats, Raisins, Peanuts”). The ceremony highlights the varied gifts and qualities each member brings to the troop.

Materials:

- A small table
- A large bowl
- Ingredients for the GORP mix as listed below in separate bowls
- A large spoon for mixing
- Cups for making individual servings after the ceremony

Adjust recipe as needed for dietary requirements. Girls should step forward to the large bowl, read their lines, and add their ingredient to the bowl.

Script:

Have you ever wondered what goes into making a Girl Scout? Well, we have a recipe to make to show you what we’re all about.

1. Girl Scouts come in all colors, from cities and towns, Every Girl Scout’s a sister no matter what she looks like or how she sounds. (Add M&Ms to the bowl.)
2. Some of us are tall, and some of us are small. When we get together, size doesn’t matter at all. (Add pretzel sticks and marshmallows.)
3. With our words and our actions, we show that we care. We try to do our best to be fair and square. (Add Chex cereal to the mix.)
4. Sometimes we act a little “nuts”, we love to joke and play. We’d love to put a Girl Scout smile into everyone’s day. (Add nuts to the bowl.)
5. When we get together, we make circles so round. It’s our never-ending friendships to which we are bound. (Add Cheerios to the mix.)
6. When we’re planning and working, we just don’t stop. We keep ourselves busy; all around we will pop. (Add popcorn.)
7. We respect all Earth’s creatures, if they’re big or they’re small. The Earth is our home, and there is room here for all. (Add Goldfish Crackers or Animal Crackers.)
8. It was 1912 when Juliette Low started us off, and like the girls back then, we’re just “chips off the old block”. (Add butterscotch, chocolate and white chocolate chips.)
9. We get a “kick” out of learning and doing new things, and a “kick” out of helping others, and spending time with friends. (Add Kix cereal to the bowl.)
10. When we were (previous Girl Scout level) we were fresh, new and rare. But now we’re (current Girl Scout level) and have experience to share. Added together, the number of years we have spent in Girl Scouting comes to _____. (Add raisins, counting out loud, or each troop member can contribute the number of raisins that represent the number of years they have been in Girl Scouts.)
11. Next we stir to the left and we stir to the right, we mix it together with all of our might. We welcome our troop to another great year, and hope the memories they make, they will always hold dear.
12. Now that our recipe is complete, we look upon what we have created. Each of the ingredients went into our recipe separately, just like each of us came into the troop separately. As the ingredients mix together to form one dish, we mix together to form a troop. But even as we look upon our mix, we can still see each ingredient as separate and unique. We each bring our own unique talents and characteristics to our troop to make it what it is.

Ribbons and Candles

Materials and Set-up:

10 LED candles or flashlights, each tied with a colored ribbon (or yarn, thread, paper, paint, etc.) representing each part of the Girl Scout Law. Alternatively, you can make “wands” with colored ribbon tied to them. Instead of turning on their candle, girls can place their “wand” into a vase. Each Girl Scout reads her line, then turns on her candle (or puts wand into vase).

Main:

I will do my best to be: (all said together)

Honest and fair (speaker #1)

- The purple ribbon on this candle 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.

Friendly and helpful (speaker #2)

- The blue ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout’s sense of friendship and thoughtfulness. A Girl Scout is amiable and loyal to her friends. She helps others wherever and whenever she can.

Considerate and caring (speaker #3)

- The orange ribbon on this candle 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.

Courageous and strong (speaker #4)

- The red ribbon on this candle 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.

Responsible for what I say and do (speaker #5)

- The gold ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout’s sense of ownership and pride in her work. She readily admits her strengths and weakness and is aware of the consequences of her actions. A Girl Scout is up front with her intentions.

And to: (all said together)

Respect myself and others (speaker #6)

- The white ribbon on this candle 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.

Respect authority (speaker #7)

- The yellow ribbon on this candle 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 that leader to make the best decisions for the good of the group.

Use resources wisely (speaker #8)

- The green ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout’s sense of being careful with resources. She uses her materials, money, time, and energy wisely. A Girl Scout does not waste the Earth’s resources.

Make the world a better place (speaker #9)

- The brown ribbon on this candle 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 better place than when she found it.

Be a sister to every Girl (speaker #10)

- The silver ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout’s loyalty to 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 sister Girl Scouts with kindness, acceptance, and warmth.

Junior Rededication Ceremony

Materials and Set-up:

This is written as a Junior Ceremony but can be tweaked to make it work for other levels as well. Use LED candles wrapped in colored ribbon or yarn, or a creative substitute. The script is written for the participants to put the candles into a “log”. You are welcome to create some sort of decorative candle holder, but they can also simply be placed on a table.

Main:

Friendship Circle Leader: We gather here today to join hearts and hands in the spirit of friendship. We welcome our new Girl Scouts & rededicate those girls who have been with us in years past.

New Member 1: I bring to the log a candle of green. The color green symbolizes the riches I find in the values and lessons of Girl Scouting. (Insert candle into middle hole)

New Member 2: I bring to the log a candle of royal blue. The color royal blue symbolizes the admiration that I have for myself and for my fellow Girl Scouts across the world. (Insert blue candle next to green)

New Member 3: I bring to the log a candle of white. The color white symbolizes the honesty that I will practice toward others and Girl Scouts around the world. (Insert white candle on other side of green candle)

New Member 4: I bring to the log a candle of silver. The color silver represents all girls new to Girl Scouting. May we all become true friends. (Insert silver candle next to white candle)

New Member 5: I bring to the log a candle of gold. This gold candle represents all members of this troop that have been down the Girl Scout road of adventure for many years together. May we all continue down the same path for years to come. (Insert gold candle next to blue candle)

Leader(s): We now intertwine the candles, holding them together with a rope of leadership. Under my (our) guidance, may these girls continue on the path of kindness towards each other and all Girl Scouts around the world. (Carefully weave rope between the candles)

All: Recite the Girl Scout Promise

Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Rededication Ceremony

Materials and Set-up:

- Room is dark except for thirteen lit LED candles (or lanterns, etc).
- Speaking parts can be shared between leaders and/or girls.

Main:

Leader(s) or Girl(s): “We know our Promise & our Law. We have recited it many times over the years. We may have questioned its importance in our life or forgotten its value. But, what would the world be like if we stopped serving God* and our country?” (Turn out one candle)

“What would the world be like if we stopped helping people in need?” (Turn out one candle)

“What would the world be like if we stopped living by the Girl Scout Law?” (Turn out one candle)

[At this point, leader/girl can pause, then turn out all ten remaining, or continue...]

“What would the world be like if we all chose to be dishonest & self-serving?” (Turn out one candle).

Continue through the rest of the law until all candles are out & room is dark.

Pause.

“If we choose this path, our world becomes very dark.”

Pause.

“But I (we), _____, make a commitment today to serve God* and my country.” (Turn on first candle)

“Who else wants to renew their Promise and Law?”

[Allow girls to re-light each candle while they say their part of the Promise and Law.]

Girl: “I, _____, make a commitment to _____ (help people at all times, etc.)”

Close with a favorite Girl Scout song.

**Members may substitute wording appropriate to their own beliefs for the word “God”*

Adult Rededication: Lesson of the Pearls

Materials & Set Up:

Treasure chest, 2 LED candles, plastic pearl bracelet, 10 large plastic pearls (make sure they all fit in the chest). Stand in a circle with the treasure chest in the middle and hand out the pearls and speaking parts to participants. Leave the bracelet in the chest.

Main:

Speaker 1: Tonight we are gathered to share in the dedication of our new and old leaders to the ideals of Girl Scouting.

Speaker 2: At this time, the members of _____ Service Unit will share with each other the “Lesson of the Pearls,” found in our discovered treasure chest of Girl Scouting.

Pearl Holder 1: The first pearl stands for WISDOM. You have shown your joy in exploring wisdom through Girl Scouting. (Place pearl in treasure chest)

Pearl Holder 2: The second pearl shall symbolize BEAUTY. You are beautiful to your sister Girl Scouts, for you give of yourself. (Place pearl in chest)

Pearl Holder 3: The third pearl is STRENGTH. You are the strength of the future in Girl Scouting. (Place pearl in chest)

Pearl Holder 4: The fourth pearl will symbolize TRUTH. You are an example of the truth of the ideals of Girl Scouting. (Place pearl in chest)

Pearl Holder 5: The fifth pearl will be FIDELITY. You have kept your promise and affirmed it for life. (Place pearl in chest)

Pearl Holder 6: The sixth pearl is our symbol for FELLOWSHIP. You have extended the hand of friendship and you have gained the rewards. (Place pearl in chest)

Pearl Holder 7: The seventh pearl is COOPERATION. You are an example of cooperation and your many accomplishments reflect your willingness to work in harmony with others. (Place pearl in chest)

Pearl Holder 8: The eighth pearl will stand for LOYALTY. You are committed to the Law of Girl Scouting and strive to live by it. (Place pearl in chest)

Pearl Holder 9: The ninth pearl is for VISION. You can see the future of Girl Scouts and you will do your part to ensure its continued success. (Place pearl in chest)

Pearl Holder 10: The tenth pearl will stand for SERVICE. You continue to give of yourself to others in need. (Place pearl in chest)

Speaker 3: (Hold up pearl bracelet from box) You stand here, a link in our chain of friendship that encircles the globe. Our chain is made strong by your caring, your sharing, and your desire to be the best that you can be.

Speaker 2: Our wish is for you to explore the treasures to be found in our chest of pearls. Remember to always be a shining link in our chain of friendship and let nothing break this chain apart. Please join me in reciting the Girl Scout Promise.

All: Recite Promise



Bridging

Bridging is an important transition in a Girl Scout's life. It's a defining moment when a child and her peers become 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 Girl Scouts in true partnership with adults. Bridging ceremonies can take place in the spring or the fall.

Girl Scouts do not have to complete any particular requirements to move to the next level in Girl Scouting as long as they complete the grade for the year.

- Graduating 1st grade Daisies bridge to Brownies
- Graduating 3rd grade Brownies “Fly Up” to Juniors
- Graduating 5th grade Juniors bridge to Cadettes
- Graduating 8th grade Cadettes bridge to Seniors
- Graduating 10th grade Seniors bridge to Ambassadors
- Graduating 12th grade Ambassadors bridge to Adults

However, in order to earn a bridging award there are two basic requirements:

- “Pass it on!” - Girls tell younger girls what it is like to be a Girl Scout at their current level. For example, Brownies would tell Daisies how much fun it is in Brownies and the type of activities they have done in the past year.
- “Look ahead!” - Girls ask older Girl Scouts what it is like to be in that level. For example, Brownies would ask Juniors what they had done in the past year and find out how much fun it is to be a Junior.

The following pages have a couple examples each of bridging ceremonies for Daisies and Brownies. Check out this great bridging guide from GSUSA for bridging details for all levels: https://my.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/our-program/Grade_Levels/Girl%20Scout%20Bridging%20Guide.pdf



Daisy to Brownie Bridging and Investiture

Brownie Pond Investiture

Materials

- Brownie Girl Scout “Pond” (can be constructed from a piece of cardboard covered with foil and border with greenery, or use a mirror and border with greenery, or visit a real pond!)
 - Lay pond on the floor in the middle of the ceremony area.
- Brownie membership pins for each new member. They can be placed on the floor by the pond.

Set-Up

- If desired, new members can be sent outside with the assistant leader.
- If new members stay in the room, they should be on one side of the pond and the continuing members should be on the other.
- All stand or sit around the “pond”.

Ceremony

- **Leader says:**
“Cross your little fingers, stand upon your toes
That’s a bit of magic every Brownie knows
Now we all are standing in a forest glade
Listen very carefully, see the magic made”
- If the new Brownies have been sent outside, the girls knock on the door.
- **Leader (who is with the troop):** “Who comes to the Brownie woods?”
- **Brownies-to-be:** “We do.”
- **Leader:** “What do you want?”
- **Brownies-to-be:** “We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts”
- The leader may ask why, and the girls may give their own reasons (help them prepare before the ceremony if you plan on asking). Then they enter and gather around the pond. At this point you may have a simple dramatization of the [Brownie Story](#) by the older Brownies or the leader may tell or read the story out loud.
- **Leader:** “Who comes first (or next) to the Magic Pond?”
- **Co-Leader:** (Reads girls names, one by one, alphabetically)
- **Leader (Turns girls, one by one, while saying):** “Twist me and turn me and show me the elf, I looked in the water and saw...”
- **Girl:** “Myself!”
- Leader pins on Brownie Pin, gives the girl the Girl Scout handshake and welcomes her to Girl Scouting.
- After each girl receives her pin, the Leader says:

“Uncross your little fingers, down from off your toes
Then the magic goes away, everybody knows”



- Older Brownies can help clean up the “magic” while the leader sings this song (to the tune of London Bridge):

“Weave the magic in and out, in and out, in and out
Weave the magic in and out, for we are Brownies
We have tidied everything, everything, everything
We have tidied everything, for we are Brownies”

Bake a Batch of New Brownies

Have the girls design their own ‘oven’ out of paper or a cardboard box (you can use a table and cover the front so it looks like an oven like this troop did <http://troop1138.blogspot.com/2014/06/bridge-to-brownies.html>). The new girls hide under the table and the new Juniors are standing behind the table wearing chef hats.

- Leader** [Since some of our girls have flown up to Juniors—customize to fit your own troop situation], we have extra space for others to join us on our Brownie journey.
- 1st Girl** What can we do about it?
- 2nd Girl** I know, we can mix up some new Brownies!
- All Girls** Yes, yes!
- 3rd Girl** Let’s look at the recipe.
- [Pull out a girl handbook or just a printed copy of this ceremony script.]*
- 4th Girl** Here it is. First we must mix a few ingredients along with the Girl Scout Promise and the Law.
- 5th Girl** In a large bowl, cream together 1 cup each of the Promise to serve God*, my country and mankind.
- 6th Girl** Add 2 cups of honesty and 4 tablespoons of cheerfulness. Mix well.
- 7th Girl** Stir in one cup thoughtfulness.
- 8th Girl** Fold in 1/2 cup fairness and 1/2 cup helpfulness
- 9th Girl** Sprinkle over the mixture 2 tablespoon of sisterhood and mix well.
- 10th Girl** Add 1 cup respect for herself and 1 cup for others.
- 11th Girl** Sift 1/2 cup of a wise use of resources and 6 tablespoons of a promise to protect and improve the world. Mix.
- 12th Girl** Pour mixture into pan evenly.
- 13th Girl** Bake at 350° for 20 minutes.
- Leader** (Ring Bell) “They’re done!” Open the door and let them out. “Look! A brand new batch of Brownies.”

As they step out and join you on the Brownie journey, give them their Girl Scout membership pin.

**Members may substitute wording appropriate to their own beliefs for the word “God”*



“Flying Up” from Brownies to 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.

Sample Fly-Up Ceremony

Set-up:

The bridge for your ceremony may be made of wood, paper strips, a cardboard arch, or it may be an actual bridge out in nature. Modify set-up as needed for your troop, but in general you can have a circle of Brownies with a troop leader on one side of the bridge, and on the other side of the bridge have a circle of Juniors with another leader (if you currently have Juniors in your troop).

LEADER 1: Mentions troop member who is flying up by name and tells something about them.

LEADER 2: “Now it’s time to say goodbye, break the ring and out you fly.”

The Brownie Ring breaks long enough for the leader and Fly-up Brownie to leave ring.

LEADER 1: Takes Fly-Up Brownie to bridge and says: “Brownie, you are about to become a Junior Girl Scout. In the troop you soon will find Junior Girl Scouts are true and kind. So now I give you Brownie wings that you may fly to bigger things.”

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

Fly-up Brownie says Girl Scout Promise to troop leader who is with the Juniors. That leader puts Girl Scout membership pin on girl, shakes hands, and welcomes her.

Repeat for each Brownie flying-up to Juniors.



Stepping Stones, Flying up ceremony

Materials and set-up:

- Brownie wings, membership pins, membership stars and green discs.
- Paper stones with parts of the Girl Scout Law on each.

Set-up:

- The Brownies sit on one side of the room in a circle.
- Juniors sit in a horseshoe, open end towards the audience, on the other side of the room.
- Place your stepping stones between the two groups and tape them down.

Main:

Everyone sings “Girl Scouts Together” (or troop song of choice).

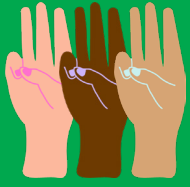
Leader 1: “You have been a Brownie and you’ve earned your wings of sunlit gold. Now you’re ready to be a Girl Scout Junior, new adventures you’ve been told.”

Girls all stand.

Leader 2: “I would like to present my Brownies their wings; they are ready to fly up to the next level of Girl Scouting. As I call your name please take your walk on the stepping stones and think about each part of the Girl Scout Law as your new journey begins.”

When all are on the other side, say the Girl Scout Law together.





Court of Awards

The purpose of a Court of Awards ceremony is to present in a meaningful way the insignia the troop has earned. The Court of Awards is a great time to get to know the troop members' families and caregivers.

The ceremony may take place indoors or outside. It is always a good idea to include reminders of the badges earned.

These ceremonies can be more meaningful when they have a theme and when the awards and insignia are presented in a unique way. For instance, the ceremony may have a theme such as "Girl Scouts Open Doors", and all of 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 small bag of ashes from your last troop campfire).

Four Winds Awards Ceremony



North Wind: I am the North Wind. People say I am cold, but to [Girl Scout's name] I will always bring the warmest weather because she has been true to the Girl Scout Promise and has lived up to the Girl Scout Law.

South Wind: I am the South Wind. I wish you all success in Girl Scouting. Over hill and dale I have carried stories of [Girl Scout's name] and her experiences. As a Girl Scout she has been happy, willing, and fair—a credit to her troop and community.

East Wind: I am the East Wind. I wish you well. I have spread the story of [Girl Scout's] fun and happiness in Girl Scouting with her troop, and of how she lived up to the Girl Scout Promise and was fair and helpful.

West Wind: I am the West Wind. I would like everyone present to know that [Girl Scout's name] did not walk the trail to the [award] alone. She had the wonderful help and guidance of her parents, [parents/guardians' names]. Parents, continue to help your girls achieve and grow into young adulthood!

Court of Awards Ceremony

Leader: "The members of Girl Scout Troop _____ welcome you here tonight. (*Present schedule for the evening and any announcements.*) Tonight is the troop's recognition. And now it's the troop's time."

- Leaders go sit in front row.
- Girls conduct opening flag ceremony (optional).
- Girls explain badges & patches:

Girl #1: "Now we will be explaining what the Badges and Patches mean to us. First Patches..."

Girl #2: "P – Stands for Patches to be given tonight. What is a patch? A reminder. A patch allows us to look back and remember the fun we have had both as a troop and as a Girl Scout."

Girl #3: "A – Stands for the Activities, which we have participated in and are receiving the patches for tonight."

Girl #4: "T – Is for the Time we have spent at the various events and doing the activities."

Girl #5: "C – Stands for the Camaraderie we have developed not only among ourselves, but also with other Girl Scouts."

Girl #6: "H – Stands for Having Fun. As time passes, we will look at these patches and remember how much fun we had at each event or doing the various activities."

Girl #7: "E – Stands for the Excitement of attending the various Girl Scout events for which we are receiving our patches."

Girl #8: "S – Stands for Service to others, such as community service. Service is also a major part of being a Girl Scout and we have spent hours doing our share of community service."

Girl #1: "And that explains the patches, which we proudly wear on the back of our vests. Now for Badges!"

Girl #2: "B – Stands for Badges to be given tonight. What is a badge? A sign of our accomplishments. The scrap of colored material is not nearly so important as the job we have done to earn it."

Girl #3: "A – Stands for Awards given at the Court of Awards tonight. We are not being rewarded for the badge itself but for what the badge represents. It means new knowledge, new skills learned, and new opportunities to be of service to others."

Girl #4: "D – Stands for Deeds. Good deeds to be done now and in the future for family, friends, and the community. Good deeds done with the knowledge and skills acquired through the badges."

Girl #5: "G – Is the Girl in Girl Scouts and the Growth we achieve through living the Girl Scout Promise and Law."

Girl #6: "E – Is for the Eagerness and Energy necessary to earn badges. Badges do not come easily and they should not, or their value would be small. Badges present challenges and satisfaction in our accomplishments."

Girl #7: "S – Stands for so many things that we have discovered about ourselves. Self-Development, Self-Expression, Self-Assurance, and most important, Self-Respect -- the way we feel about ourselves as a person."

Girl #8: "And that explains the badges, which we proudly wear on the front of our vests."

Girl #1: "Every badge we earn is tied up to the Girl Scout motto 'Be Prepared'. Badges are not awards for something we have done once or for a test we have passed. They are not medals to wear on our uniforms just to show what smart girls we are."

Girl #2: "A badge is a symbol. We wear the badge to let people know that we have earned it, can show someone else how to do it, and are proud of our accomplishments."

Girl #3: “With each new badge, we as Girl Scouts take on a new responsibility. A little more is expected at home, at troop meetings, and in our community. We will strive always to be worthy of the symbols we wear, and wear them with pride.”

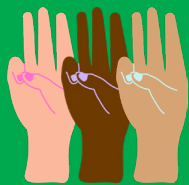
Girl #4: “And now for the presentation of our awards. Would Leaders_____ please come forward to present the awards?”

- Leaders Present Badges: Call each girl forward, present badges/awards, and give GS Handshake.
- Badges Poem:
 - Girl #1: Each of these badges represents Girl Scouting
 - All Girls: What work! What fun! What pride!
 - Girl #2: To recall with admiration
And seek with greater stride
 - Girl #3: Receiving all these badges
For all that we have done
Shows the pride we carry
 - All Girls: What work! What fun! What pride!
- Girls lead a song, such as “Linger” (optional)
- Girls perform closing flag ceremony
- Leaders thank girls, families, and friends for attending.



Acknowledgements

Book of Ceremonies, Girl Scouts Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas Undated
Boxing Up Girl Scout Traditions, Girl Scouts of Maine Transforming Leadership Conference 2018
Ceremonies for Girl Scouts, Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri 2020
Flag Ceremonies, Girl Scouts Northern California Undated
Girl Scout Bridging Guide, GSUSA 2022
Girl Scouts Planning Ceremonies, Girl Scouts Greater Los Angeles 2020
The Handout for Ceremonies and Traditions in Girl Scouting Workshop, Girl Scouts of Maine 2019
Traditions, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio Undated



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Video Tutorials

Bridging to Brownie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEW9WXYXEpl>

Bridging and Court of Awards, Girl Scouts of River Valleys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFE8fC0aRPE>

Flag ceremonies, Girl Scouts of River Valleys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmC20cThzps>

Flag ceremony at cookie rally: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSKejbaUcSw>

Formal flag ceremony at community event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0-p2ux3UNA>

Friendship circle and turn out: <https://youtu.be/KEddo4zrRog?t=119>

Girl Scout Hand signs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7UMGrL7chQ>

Investiture video resources: <https://www.girlscoutleader.net/2020/09/the-ultimate-girl-scout-investiture-ceremony-guide.html>

Opening and closing meetings, Girl Scouts of River Valleys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEddo4zrRog>