



**Service Unit Manager Orientation**  
**Appendix C: Service Unit Ceremonies**

March 2011 Edition

# Service Unit Ceremonies Table of Contents

This ceremonies packet includes ceremonies appropriate for use in service unit/leader meetings or service unit team meetings, or other meetings with adult Girl Scout volunteers.

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This ceremonies packet was prepared with the help of River Valleys Volunteer Trainer Kelly Cramer.

## What is a Girl?

What is a Girl?

She is the person who is going to carry on what you have started in the world.

She is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things you think are so important.

She is going to take over your committees, your home and school, your bridge club, your sewing circle, your coffee meetings.

You can adopt all the policies you please, but how they are carried out in her age will depend on her.

She is going to marry your son and she is going to rock the cradle of your grandchild.

She is going to share in the control of your town, your state, your nation.

She is going to have a voice in our schools, our civic activities, our churches, our universities and corporations.

She is going to be in charge of your woods, your forests, parks and wildlife reserves, and all your natural resources.

How she pursues a full and rewarding life depends on the direction she is following now.

Her individual search for happiness will be determined by the set of values she is amassing now.

All your work is going to be judged, praised and condemned by her.

Her future is in your hands, but your reputation and your life in your old age are in her hands.

So it is well to pay some attention and to give her some of your hands. NOW !

## “The Box” Recognition Ceremony

This simple box is made of paper,  
And covered with fine gold.  
Surrounded by a beautiful ribbon,  
It's a lovely gift to behold.

Do not be deceived by the size  
For the items it contains  
Are worth more than king's gold,  
Or a million Hope diamonds.

This box is filled with miles and miles of smiles,  
And a never ending supply of kindness and caring.  
It's bursting at the seams with strength and courage,  
With mountains of respect, honesty, and sharing.

When you find yourself needing a friendly word,  
Or a helpful hand,  
Just reach inside and discover  
The sisterhood of Girl Scouts that awaits you under its tiny band.

We each need a little something from time to time,  
And now you each have a little box  
That has been packed with you in mind.  
Just remember to share the gifts that were passed to you,  
Because that is what all Girl Scouts do.

*(Present leaders with a small paper mache box painted gold, a small box wrapped in gold foil, or make boxes out of gold foil cardstock. Tie a red ribbon around the box and present it to the leaders.)*

# Because You Said Yes!

## Opening:

We open our ceremony tonight by lighting these candles to symbolize the warmth in our hearts for our girls, the understanding we have for the Girl Scout Promise, and the respect we show every day to the Girl Scout Law. (The three candles are lit.)

## The Girl Scout Promise

Everyone please stand as we say the Promise.

## The Girl Scout Law

Please remain standing as the Law is read.

## Because you said, "Yes" . . .

We will now pause to remember all the reasons why we decided to become Girl Scout Leaders. We will go around the circle with each person reading the next passage on your sheet.

## Because you said, "Yes" . . .

...a young girl will feel the pride of being someone special when she wears her uniform.

## Because you said, "Yes" . . .

...a girl can move to a new town and have "instant friendships" with girls she might never have met.

## Because you said, "Yes" . . .

...parents will experience that special pride when they listen to their daughter say the Girl Scout Promise.

## Because you said, "Yes" . . .

...bright eyes will become a little brighter with excitement as the kindling finally catches on the first campfire.

## Because you said, "Yes" . . .

...nervous giggles will emit from tents as girls try to fall asleep on their first night of camp.

## Because you said, "Yes" . . .

...voices will be heard as the girls sing loud and strong their favorite Girl Scout songs.

## Because you said, "Yes" . . .

...lifelong friendships may be made between the girls in your troop, providing support & love throughout their life.

## Because you said, "Yes" . . .

...curiosity will be sparked and maybe a career chosen because of a girl's experiences in Girl Scouting.

## Because you said, "Yes" . . .

...you will hear the squeals of laughter as the girls put on their first campfire skits.

## Because you said, "Yes" . . .

...strong bodies will be made through sports and adventurous activities.

**Because you said, "Yes" . . .**

...strong minds will be made because the girls had a safe place to make decisions.

**Because you said, "Yes" . . . .**

....our future leaders will be developed, strong, and decisive.

**Because you said, "Yes" . . . .**

....the community and the world will be cleaner because a girl has learned the importance of caring for her environment.

**Because you said, "Yes" . . .**

...the community and the world will be richer because a girl has learned to give service to someone less fortunate than herself.

**Because you said, "Yes" . . .**

...your girls will develop great confidence in themselves and each other, building strong relationships.

**Because you said, "Yes" . . .**

...the world will be a more peaceful place as we all learn to accept and revel in our differences.

**Because you said, "Yes" . . .**

...a parent will find a gold trefoil carefully tucked away in a drawer as their daughter packs to leave home for her first adventures as a young adult.

**Because you said, "Yes" . . .**

...a young woman will contact Girl Scouts one day and say "I had so much fun when I was a Girl Scout, I'd like to try being a leader." And the circle will continue.....Because you said, "Yes."

**New Leader Welcome**

We welcome all the new leaders we have among us tonight with open arms into the sisterhood of Girl Scouting. Here you will never be without good friends and good times. Please step forward to receive your pins. Thank you for saying, "Yes." (Names of the new leaders are called. Place pins and shake hands.)

**Experienced Leaders Return**

And to all our returning Leaders - Thank goodness you are still here! We knew at the end of last year that we would be in for another year of laughter and friendship. Let's keep our newest members in our thoughts and make them feel welcome. Let's support each other and our girls throughout the coming year. Please turn to your neighbor and participate in the Girl Scout handshake. We are so happy you said, "Yes."

## What is a Girl Scout Leader?

Somewhere between the sternness of a parent and the camaraderie of a pal is that mysterious creature we call a Girl Scout Leader. These leaders come in all shapes and sizes and may be male or female. But they all have one thing in common, a glorious twinkle in their eye.

Girl Scout leaders are found everywhere - on field trips, camp-outs, square dances and contests. They are always preparing for, sitting through, participating in, or recuperating from a meeting of some kind. They're tireless consumers of cookies, experts at threading needles, and peerless leaders of songs and games. They have a telephone stuck in their ear, a jar of glue at their fingertips, ashes in their hair, and blisters on their feet.

A Girl Scout leader is many things - an artist making a display for an event, a nurse patching up a skinned knee, a counselor at camp, a lawyer filling out reports and a shoulder to cry on when a project just didn't work.

Nobody else is so early to rise and so late home at night. Nobody else has so much fun with such a large family of girls. We sometimes forget them, but we can't do without them. They receive no salary, but we can never repay them.

They are "Angels in Green", "Saints in Sleeping Bags". Their only reward is the love of the kids and the respect of the community. But when they look around them at the skills they've taught and the youth they've built, there's an inner voice from somewhere that says, "WELL DONE."

Happy Girl Scouting!!

## Adult Door Ceremony

We'd like everyone to gather around this DOOR.

(Use an actual door, a cardboard replica of a door, a slide or poster of a door.)

This door can let people in

OR

This door can keep people out.

This door could be on a church, a school, a home.

It could be on a dirty root cellar, or a prison.

This door could be opened to more girls to join existing troops

OR

It could be shut in their faces.

This door could have a sign saying WELCOME, NEW GIRL SCOUTS

OR

It could say FULL TROOP, STAY OUT.

This door can open into the warm light of a troop meeting

OR

It could be kept locked and dark.

For a girl, this door could open to a great wide, wonderful world

OR

It could open to a juvenile home.

This door looks at girls as they grow up – the happy, the carefree, the troubled, of varying physical abilities, of all cultural backgrounds.

This door opens to many but is still locked to some.

It locks out many things for them: adventure, meaningful experiences, deep spiritual understanding, an appreciation and love for their country.

This door must be opened for all girls.

A girl will seldom go up and knock to be let in.

She will hang around and wait to be invited in.

Open that door for just one more! One more time! And yet one more time!

You have helped to open this door for many girls in the past and will in the future

**Open the door for the girls.**

# Penny Ceremony

Give participants a shiny penny on a card!

There are those who believe a penny doesn't hold much value. Many don't think a penny is worth picking up. Yet, others believe that finding a penny brings good luck.

As Girl Scouts, we not only know the value of a penny, but know that we must use our resources wisely. We make pennies stretch into endless activities for our girls. To us, a penny is a symbol. Tonight we want to give you a special penny. Each time you see it, remember these words:

Lincoln symbolizes the ideal we have towards our country as Girl Scouts.

The inscription, 'In God We Trust' reminds us that the motivating force in Girl Scouts is a spiritual one.

The Lincoln Memorial symbolizes what we are working towards as Girl Scouts... building strong citizens, thus forming a strong structure.

The three steps represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

The ten columns remind us of the Girl Scout Law. The Promise and the Law are the foundation of Girl Scouting.

The open door symbolizes our open hearts to all.

The Latin 'E. Pluribus Unum' reminds us that while there are many of us here, we are all united in Girl Scouting.

This penny symbolizes the many rewards we receive during our lifetime- rewards not in money or gifts, but in a smile of a friend, a handshake of a new friend and the knowledge and pride gained in doing the best you can in reaching your life's goal. Keep this penny. Every once in a while look at it and remember what it means.

## Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World.

Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to touch
2. to taste
3. to see
4. to hear

She hesitated a little, and then added:

5. to feel
6. to laugh
7. and to love.

The room was so full of silence you could have heard a pin drop.

Those things we overlook as simple and "ordinary" are truly wondrous. This is a gentle reminder that the most precious things are in front of you: your family, your faith, your love, your good health and your friends.

## Because the Girl...

Because the Girl...

Because the girl has a need,  
We have an obligation.

Because the girl has a choice,  
We must be her better choice.

Because the girl has high expectations,  
We must excel.

Because the girl wants to explore,  
We must be her guide.

Because the girl wants to belong,  
We must open our arms.

Because the girl is searching for direction,  
We must be her compass.

Because the girl encounters times of turmoil,  
We must be her safe haven.

Because the girl is tomorrow's woman,  
We must care today.

Because of the girl... We exist.

\*By Mimi Murray, GSUSA Volunteer

# Everything I Need to Know, I Learned From Being a Girl Scout Leader

by Kathy Little

Green is always an appropriate fashion statement.

**There is no such thing as trash, only future craft supplies.**

Always travel with a buddy.

**Don't cry over spilt paint and don't sweat the small stuff.**

Walk softly and carry *Safety-Wise*.

**Girls like to be seen *and* heard.**

No song is too silly and nobody sings off key.

**Working as a team is much better than working alone.**

Plans gone awry can lead to the best of times.

**Sleeping under the stars is invigorating to the soul.**

Responsibility, opportunity, and hard work are all needed for success.

**Good friends are like silver and gold.**

There is no substitute for advance preparation.

**You are never too old to try new things.**

Never let petty issues keep you from your mission.

**Patience is *really* a virtue.**

A girl's smile is worth a thousand words.

## PATCHWORK (A Rededication Ceremony)

### Materials:

Paper squares or varying colors and patterns (about 4" x 4")

Poster board divided into grids (about 20 squares)

A small dot of tacky putty in the center of each poster board square.

### Leader:

"Being a Girl Scout leader is like making a quilt. First, we gather together our scraps -- our girls -- from different origins and cuts of materials. Some are shy, unimposing -- like pale pastels. Others are dizzy patterns of vibrant color. We must bind them together, matching their sameness, blending their differences. The thread of Scouting is strong. Our own hands must be steady and sure, patiently making each stitch small and even. Until -- finally -- the quilt is finished, with a background of the Promise and Law and a thick padding of love and understanding. And though each patch is different, together they are strong, beautiful, and warm, and the seamstress can be proud."

"This, then is Girl Scouting. It is the Girl Scouting of returning leaders and the Girl Scouting of leaders to come. Would the new leaders please step forward to make their Promise and a commitment toward building such a patchwork piece?"

I promise to...

I commit to...

I will...

***New leaders come forward, make their Promise, choose a patchwork square, and put their patchwork square on the background.***

"Now, would the continuing leaders rise and commit themselves to continuing their pieces of patchwork by making a Promise?"

I promise to...

I commit to...

I will...

***Continuing leaders come forward, make their Promise, choose a patchwork square, and put their patchwork square on the background.***

"Let us all join in singing "When E'er You Make a Promise"."

When e're you make a promise,  
Consider well its importance,  
And when made,  
Engrave it upon your heart!

# Volunteer Kits

## Volunteer Caring Kit

Paper clip	For holding the program together
Rubber band	For stretching your own abilities to have new opportunities
Bandaid	For helping others and being sensitive to others' feelings
Quarter	To remember you can always call for help
Play money	For calculating the contribution that volunteers make through their donation of time
Balloon	To remind you that you expand and grow as you learn from others
Heart sucker	To symbolize how much you give from the heart and how much you are appreciated

## Spirit Kit

Soft cotton ball	To rub when you need to remember the gentleness of the human heart
Rubber band	To remind you that you are flexible and can stretch to fit just about any demand or challenge
Bandaid	For when you feel hurt for what you do... You will heal and will be even stronger
Two tissues	One for you and one for another when you face a tough time
Safety pin	To remind you that you are bright and sharp and utterly indispensable
Balloon	To celebrate your accomplishments
Hershey's hugs And kisses	For when you need them!

## Volunteer Survival Kit

Tea bag	To let everyone know you're "tea-riffic"
Bandaid	For all the "aid" you provide
Lifesavers	To remind you that you're appreciated a "hole" lot
2 pennies	So you have the "cents" to realize how valuable you are to us
Mint	To remind you that we're thankful for your commit-"mint"
Tootsie roll	For the important "roll" you play
Paper clip	For keeping things organized
Crayon	To color your days cheerful and bright
Rubber band	To remind you to stay flexible

...and if you have access to a campfire near your service unit meeting:

## Campfire Ashes

Legend has it that Baden-Powell (Founder of Scouting for Boys) would always take a small amount of ashes from the campfire and spread these ashes into the next campfire. Ashes taken from a campfire are sprinkled into the flames of the next campfire. The next morning, when the ashes are cold, they are stirred, and each Guide or Scout takes some along to mix with her/his next campfire. If more than one Guide/Scout brings ashes to the same campfire, the lists are pooled, with the dates and places of all campfires recorded and passed on. It is tradition that only those present at the ceremony may carry the ashes from that ceremony.

**Charge of the Ashes** May the spirits of past campfires be here with us tonight, carrying fellowship in these ashes from other campfires, thus uniting us with friends and comrades in other lands. [*Now, sprinkle saved ashes over fire*] May the joining of the dead fires with the leaping flames of our campfire tonight symbolize once more the unbroken chain that binds Guides and Scouts around the world. Fond greetings to Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of all nations, everywhere.