



Girl Scout Celebrations and Ceremonies

Girl Scout Ceremonies

(revised 2014)

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Girl Scout Ceremonies

What is a Girl Scout Ceremony?

This resource is provided to you and your troop to help with the planning and implementation for special Girl Scout days and events. Ceremonies heighten the significance of special times, allowing girls to share moments with others in a memorable way. Ceremonies are an integral part of Girl Scouting. Ceremonies reinforce values, pass on traditions, recognize accomplishments, strengthen friendships, and give life to the beliefs established in the Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law. Ceremonies are performed to honor special occasions, to recognize accomplishments or simply to begin and end a meeting. They provide a means for girls to express their feelings, friendship, patriotism and service.

Whatever the purpose or origin, ceremonies provide opportunities for girls to share their feelings and reflect on what they have accomplished individually or together. Like much of Girl Scouting, there are few hard and fast rules for planning and carrying out ceremonies; what really counts is that the occasion has special meaning for the participants.

A ceremony can be held at any time, day or night. It may be formal or informal, for a large or small group. Family, friends, another troop or sponsors can be part of the ceremony.

It is characteristic for all people to appreciate the beauty, inspiration and recognition that ceremonies provide. It is important that every girl or other participant is prepared. Plan a rehearsal if necessary. Confusion and uncertainty spoil the dignity and joy of the occasion.

This ceremonies booklet provides you with useful guidelines for creative Girl Scout ceremonies. They are designed to be adaptable and flexible to meet your needs. Certain ceremonies, such as flag ceremonies, should not be altered.

Several kinds of ceremonies have become part of the Girl Scout tradition. These include:

- **Investiture** - to welcome new members into Girl Scouting
- **Rededication** - members renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- **Court of Awards** - Girls receive recognition for special accomplishments
- **Bridging** - Girls celebrate passage from one level of scouting to the next
- **Patrol Leader Installation** - signifies acceptance of responsibility to the patrol and the troop

Other types of ceremonies that sometimes take less planning, or may even happen spontaneously:

- **Flag Ceremony** - to honor the Flag of our Country
- **Opening/Closing** - the beginning or end of a meeting
- **Scouts Own** - a quiet ceremony with a theme expressing feelings or ideas
- **Campfires** - for fun, friendship, or to celebrate a happy experience

Girls may want to celebrate special Girl Scout days with a ceremony. These special times include:

- **Juliette Low's Birthday** - October 31
- **Thinking Day** - February 22nd
- **Girl Scout Birthday** - March 12th
- **Girl Scout Week** - the week including March 12th
- **Leader Appreciation Day** - April 22

Girls may also want to celebrate other religious, cultural or national holidays

Girl Scout Ceremony Terms:

Thinking Day:	February 22 – Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world think of each other and exchange greetings to celebrate the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden Powell.
Girl Scout Birthday:	March 12, 1912 – the day Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Scouting in the United States
Leader's Day:	April 22 – a day to show appreciation to all volunteers and mentors
Founder's Day:	October 31 – Birthday of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scout movement in the United States. Juliette was born on October 31, 1860 and died of breast cancer on January 27, 1927.
Investiture:	A ceremony for one or more persons joining Girl Scouts for the first time. The person who is being invested makes the Girl Scout Promise, receives the appropriate membership pin and is formally welcomed to Girl Scouting.
Rededication:	A ceremony where girls and volunteers renew their commitment to Girl Scouting and remind themselves what the Promise and Law means to them.
Court of Awards:	A ceremonial presentation of recognitions and awards.
Bridging Ceremony:	A ceremony marking the movement of a Girl Scout from one level to another Fly-Up: A special bridging ceremony when Brownie Girl Scouts move (fly-up) to Junior Girl Scouts and receive their Brownie Wings.
Flag Ceremony:	A ceremony when an American Flag is presented, posted or retired
World Pin Ceremony:	A ceremony where girls acknowledge the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and receive their World Trefoil Pin.
Scout's Own Ceremony:	A themed ceremony, usually solemn planned by a troop and their leaders.

Ceremony Symbols

Arch	the entering of a different phase or atmosphere
Bridge	a crossing over
Dove	peace
Eagle	courage
Flag	the banner of the troop, Girl Scouting, state, or country
Friendship stick	we are sisters to every Girl Scout
Friendship circle	the unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts
Feather	nature
Handshake	hello, welcome
Lighted candle	symbol of individual light
Pebble	nature
Tree planting	respect for the earth
Quiet sign	quiet
String	the human line binding all humanity
Trefoil	the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise
Wishing Well	hopes and dreams
Blue	piety and sincerity
Green	youth and hope
Orange	strength and endurance
Purple	high rank and royalty
Red	bravery and courage
Silver/White	faith and purity
Yellow/Gold	honor and loyalty
Black	grief or sorrow

Planning Ceremonies

Girl Scouting operates on the principal that girls grow, learn and have fun by making decisions, doing and discovering for themselves. That is why it is important that the girls do as much of the planning for ceremonies as possible. Ceremonies are opportunities for the girls, not the adults, to express themselves. Girls should have a part in making their own memories.

Planning should include the girls' ideas and input. As the girls get older, their responsibility for planning should expand. Keep in mind that different levels and/or groups will have different abilities. Be flexible, let the girls make mistakes and learn from them. It is your function to guide the group and provide an environment for creativity. Use these questions to plan a ceremony:

1. What is the purpose?
2. What type of ceremony?
3. Where will the ceremony take place?
4. What date will it be on?
5. How long will it last?
6. Who will attend?
7. Do we want to make or buy invitations or invite guests online?
8. Will we have refreshments?
9. What will be the theme?
10. What will we do for an opening?
11. How will we express the theme?
12. What will the sequence of the ceremony be?
13. Who will do each part?
14. Do we memorize or use 'cue cards' or device/projector?
15. What equipment, props, etc. do we need?
16. Who will bring the equipment, etc.?
17. How will we set up the room/area?
18. What will we do for the closing?
19. Who will clean up?

Use the following chart to aid in the planning of your troops ceremony:

Ceremony Planner

Purpose:

Theme:

When:

Where:

Guests:

	Activities	Props	Who's Responsible
Before Ceremony:			
Opening:			
Main:			
Closing:			
Evaluate:			

Flag Ceremonies

Display, Customs and Care of the American Flag

The U.S. Flag always occupies a position of honor

- Carried in a procession, the U.S. Flag:
 - Positioned to the right of other flags or is in front of other flags
- When displayed, the U.S. Flag:
 - Must be to the flag's own right (the audience's left).
 - When grouped with other flags, (i.e., State, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Girl Scouts of the USA, Council, etc.), should be at the center, in front of, or higher than the other flags
 - When with another flag on crossed staffs, should be on the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag
 - When with the flags of two or more nations, should be flown on separate staffs of the same height. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace
- The U.S. Flag flies (held or on the flagpole) longer than other flags
 - Indoors, it is presented first, posted last
 - Outdoors, it is raised first, lowered last

The spoken portion of a ceremony takes place while the flag is flying

- Indoors, after the flag has been "posted" in the stand
- Outdoors, while the flag is flying from the pole
- If the Pledge of Allegiance is part of the ceremony it is done before other pledges or the Girl Scout Promise

The National Flag is raised and lowered by hand

- Do not raise the Flag while it is furled (folded)
- Unfurl, then hoist quickly and smoothly to raise to the top of the pole
- Lower it slowly with dignity

Flying the Flag at half mast

- Raise the Flag quickly to the top of the pole, and then lower it slowly to the half mast position
- When retrieving the flag, before lowering the flag, raise it quickly to the top of the pole and Then proceed to lower slowly with dignity

Saluting the Flag

- Hand is over the heart at the moment the Flag passes in front of you
- From the moment the first grommet is attached on the flagpole, until the Flag has reached the top
- From the moment the Flag starts to be lowered from the flagpole, until both grommets are in the hands of the Flag Bearer
- The Color Guard may salute only after immediately raising/posting or retrieving the Flag

Flag Protocol

- The Flag must only be displayed from sunrise to sunset, unless it is illuminated
- When it is raining an all weather Flag can continue to be flown
- The National Flag should never be displayed with the Union (blue field) down, except as a signal of dire distress
- Do not use the Flag as a portion of a costume, clothing, handkerchief, or other decorative item
- Take every precaution to prevent the Flag from becoming soiled. It should not be allowed to touch the ground, nor to brush against objects
- A flag that has become soiled may be washed according to the care instructions for that particular type of material
- A flag that has become tattered or worn should be destroyed by a dignified method, preferably by burning using proper procedures

A complete Flag Code, Public Law 829-77th Congress, is available from the United States Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. Important excerpts from the code are available in a booklet available from your local American Legion.

The Color Guard of Honor

The purpose of the Color Guard of Honor is to protect the flag. Because this requires full attention, the members do not participate in any part of the flag ceremony (singing, speaking, etc.), but stand silently "At Attention"

The Color Guard may consist of any number. Ideally there should be at least two Color Guards for each flag. The minimum is one Color (Flag) Bearer and one Color Guard

Color (or Flag) Bearer - One per flag, if more than one flag is present

Hold staff (pole) at 30° angle in front of body, or hold folded flag (with point away from body) in front of body at waist level. Girls may wear red sash over right shoulder, tied in a square knot on left side of waist. Is responsible for putting flag in, or taking flag from, stand, or raising/lowering flag from flagpole

Color Guards - Stand on each side of the Color Bearer. Watch to see that the flag does not touch the ground. May wear red sash around waist tied in a square knot on left side. One or more members may assist flag bearer in posting/retrieving the flag from the stand/pole.

Caller - Only member of Color Guard to speak

Gives directions to audience and commands to Color Guard. Girls may wear red sash, same as Color Guard.

Line Leaders - Usually part of an outdoor Color Guard. Lead the audience into/out of the desired formation (usually a horseshoe in Girl Scouts). More on Page 10.

Indoor Flag Ceremonies

Opening Flag Ceremony

Please stand for the presentation of the flag

If you have an “audience”, such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.

Girl Scouts Attention

This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.

Color Guard Attention

If the Color Guard has been standing “At Ease”, it comes to “Attention”. It is also a signal to be ready to start.

Color Guard Advance

Indoors - The Color Guard carries the flag(s) toward the front of the room and stands in front of the flag stands. Outdoors - the Color Guard carries the flag to the flagpole

Color Guard, Post the Colors

Indoors - The Color Guard places the flags in the stands, the American Flag last. Outdoors - the Flag Bearer attaches the flag to the rope and quickly hoists the flag, the American flag is raised first.

Color Guard, Honor your Colors

The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to “Attention.” The Pledge of Allegiance, songs, poems, Girl Scout Promise, are done now.

Join me in the Pledge of Allegiance

Color Guard Dismissed

The Color Guard walks to the back of the room, or away from the flag pole.

Closing Flag Ceremony

Please stand for the retrieval of the flag

If you have an “audience”, such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.

Girl Scouts (or Horseshoe) Attention

This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.

Color Guard Attention

If the Color Guard has been standing “At Ease”, it comes to “Attention”. It is also a signal to be ready to start.

Color Guard Approach

Indoors - the Color Guard walks toward the front of the room and stands in front of the flag stands. Outdoors - the Color Guard walks to the flagpole

Would you all please join me in the singing of Taps

Singing Taps, poems, other songs, are done now, if desired.

Color Guard, Honor your Colors

The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to “Attention”

Color Guard, Retrieve the Colors

Indoors - the Color Guard removes the flags from the stands, the American Flag first. Outdoors - the Flag Bearer lowers the flag slowly and with dignity. The Color Bearers fold the flag(s).

Color Guard Dismissed

The Color Guard carries the flag to the back of the room, or carries the folded flag to an appropriate place.

The Color Guard remains at attention; they do not take place in any singing or speaking other than saluting the flag immediately after posting, or before retrieving. In a troop setting it is acceptable for girls to say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise only.

Flag Ceremony with flagpole (at camp)

During camp the flag is raised in the morning and lowered at sunset. Lower the flag if it rains regardless of time. Planning and conducting the ceremony or acting as a member of the color guard is both an honor and a responsibility. The ceremony responsibilities should be shared so all girls attending have an opportunity to learn and participate. Review and rehearsal will reduce anxiety and nervousness. The ceremony must be conducted with dignity and slowly so that everyone can hear, especially out of doors. Songs should be familiar to everyone.

Preparation

Assign positions for girls in the color guard. Everyone involved should practice carrying, raising, lowering and folding the flag. Review and practice the ceremony.

Formation

Assemble at the flagpole location. Girls arrange themselves in a horseshoe or a circle around the flagpole. All participants stand at attention as the color guard advances. The caller positions herself at one end of the formation.

The Color Guard

The color guard consists of one Color Bearer (person who leads the guards and carries the flag) and the guards (four to six girls) following behind the bearer arranged in pairs. The color guard may wear red sashes. The bearer wears her sash over her right shoulder, tied at the waist in a square knot. The guards wear their sashes around their waist, tied in a square knot on the left side.

The Ceremony

The color guard advances until it reaches the flagpole. The bearer holds the flag (folded in a triangle) on her forearms with the point forward. During the ceremony the color guard remains at attention and does not participate in any singing, saluting or speaking.

As the flag is raised, participants in the horseshoe (or other) formation salute the flag by placing their hand over their heart and remains quiet until the ceremony is concluded.

Raising the Flag

The bearer gives the flag to one of the guards to hold while she takes the rope from the flagpole and fastens the clasps to the flag eyelets. As she raises the flag quickly up the pole, the guards carefully unfold the flag insuring that it does not touch the ground or get tangled in the ropes.

Lowering the Flag

Color guard advances and stands at attention. The bearer lowers the flag slowly. As soon as the bearer can reach the flag, she catches the corners. The guard comes forward to hold the flag corners until the flag is removed from the clasps. The entire guard holds the flag flat and then folds it.

Folding the Flag

The blue field should be near the flagpole.

1. Fold the flag in half lengthwise – the blue field on the outside
2. If necessary, fold the flag in half lengthwise again (depends on the size of the flag) – the blue field on the outside
3. Two guards at the far end fold the end into a triangle toward the blue field, passing it to the next two guards. Keep the flag folds neat and smooth.
4. Continue folding the flag into the triangle pattern until only the blue field is showing.
5. Tuck the flag binding into the fold of the flag.
6. Guards resume their positions. The guard with the flag brings it to the Bearer and places it in her hands with the point forward. She returns to her original position in the guard.

Retiring the Guard

Guards turn and face each other. Each takes a step back making an aisle wide enough for the bearer to pass through them. After the bearer has passed, the guard falls in behind and proceeds to the end.

Flashlight Flag Ceremony

Materials: Four Flashlights; One Narrator; Four Flashlight Bearers; Flag Bearer; and Color Guards

Color Guard advances with Flag and posts Colors. Lights are turned out so that the room is in total darkness. Flashlight bearers turn on flashlights and direct light toward flag.

NARRATOR: What you see here tonight represents the past, present, and future. The stripes of Old Glory stand for the original thirteen colonies. The stars represent the present 50 states. The light and warmth of the four lights you see shining remind us of the four great freedoms - Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Assembly, Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion. Eliminate any one of these freedoms and our world would become darker and colder.

Narrator calls out the four freedoms slowly. As each is called a flashlight is turned off until the room is again in total darkness. Freedom of the Press; Freedom of Assembly; Freedom of Speech; Freedom of Religion

NARRATOR: In this world of potential cold and darkness, of rule by a few, stands the United States of America. Here the Four Freedoms do exist and are an example of warmth and light for all. Will you please join us in the salute to our flag? (Turn flashlights back on and direct light toward flag)

Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Explanation of the Pledge of Allegiance Ceremony

We often recite the Pledge of Allegiance without really listening to or understanding the meaning of the words we are saying. You can have each girl recite a portion, then the explanation. You can also have the girls put the meaning into their own words.

I	Me, an individual, a committee of one
Pledge	Dedicate all of my worldly possessions to give without self pity
Allegiance	My love and devotion
To the Flag	Our standard - Old Glory - a symbol of freedom - Wherever she waves there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts "Freedom is everybody's job!"
Of the United	United - that means we have all come together
States Of America	States - individual communities that have united into fifty great states - fifty individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united in a common purpose - love for country.
And to the Republic	Republic, a state in which power is given to representatives chosen by the people to govern; and the government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.
For which it Stands	This is what our Flag stands for - Our United States
One Nation Under God	Meaning so blessed by God
Indivisible	Incapable of being divided
With Liberty	Freedom - the right to live one's own life without threats or fear of retaliation
And Justice	The principle or qualities of dealing fairly with others
For All	Which means, boys and girls, ladies and gentlemen, it's as much your country as it is mine.

- adapted from a recording by Red Skelton

Flag Retirement Ceremony

When the U.S. Flag becomes tattered or worn, it should be disposed of by burning. Contact your local American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars to perform the ceremony for you.

This is a very solemn ceremony and should be done with the utmost respect and reverence for the flag to be retired. Explain this ceremony **thoroughly** to the girls so that they don't go home and tell their parents that they "burned a flag at Girl Scouts."

A complete Flag Code, Public Law 829-77th Congress, is available from the United States Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. Important excerpts from the code are available in a booklet available from your local American Legion.

Investiture and Rededication

Investiture and rededication ceremonies can be celebrated in many ways. These two ceremonies can be easily combined.

1. Investiture takes place the **first time** a girl or an adult joins Girl Scouting. The person being invested:

Says the Girl Scout Promise

- Saying the Girl Scout Promise can be done individually or as a group, depending on the age of the person(s) being invested. Investiture should be a special time, not a scary one.

Receives the appropriate Girl Scout pin

- At this time, Daisies may also receive their beginning certificate.

Is welcomed into Girl Scouting

- Explain to the girl or adult that when she is invested, she is agreeing to subscribe to the values and principals of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

2. Rededication takes place each year a girl or adult renews her membership in Girl Scouting. It does not matter if they are consecutive years or if there has been a break. As part of the ceremony, girls and adults participating in the rededication recite the Girl Scout Promise

- If you have girls/adults rededicating and investing at the same ceremony, do the rededicating first - then those girls and adults can assist with investiture.

3. Girls and Adults must wear the appropriate Girl Scout Pin:

- Daisy Girl Scout Pin - worn only by Girl Scout Daisies
- Brownie Girl Scout Pin - worn only by Girl Scout Brownies
- Girl Scout Pin (traditional pin (eagle) or contemporary pin (three faces) - worn by Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors and Adults

Girl Scout Daisy Investiture 1

Perform a simple flag ceremony. Leader presents pins to girls

Leader: To begin your Girl Scout years
You will be wearing a Girl Scout Daisy pin.
Sharing friendship, fun and adventure
Let us now begin.

Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise; Leader pins the girls. Girls sing a Girl Scout Daisy song.

Girl Scout Daisy Investiture 2

Welcome girls and parents at the door. Have girls sit with their parents until you are ready to start the ceremony. You may design your own ceremony any way you wish; as long as it includes the opportunity for the girls to make the Girl Scout Promise and receive their Girl Scout Daisy pins. Here is a sample design for a Girl Scout Daisy Investiture Ceremony:

- Call girls to the front, seat them in a half circle, facing you; you face the audience, read or tell the story of Juliette Low. (*Here come the Girl Scouts: The Amazing All True Story of Juliette "Daisy" Low and her Great Adventure* by Shana Corey is one example of a great picture book to share. See the council shop for more options)
- Have girls stand and face the audience. As a group, girls make the Girl Scout sign and recite the Promise. Briefly explain the meaning of the hand sign to the audience. (See the Daisy Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting)
- Pin each girl with her Girl Scout Daisy Pin, give them the give Girl Scout Handshake, and welcome them into Girl Scouting. (See the Daisy Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting)
- Make a Friendship Circle, sing "Make New Friends".
- Give each girl her Beginning Year Certificate.
- Invite parents and girls to share refreshments.

Daisy Poem 1

I'm a Daisy standing tall	(stand tall)
I'm a Daisy, friends to all	(wave to friends)
I'm a Daisy, helping everyday	(hands out, palms up)
Living my life in the Girl Scout way	(give Girl Scout Sign)

Daisy Poem 2

Daisies are the happiest flowers that I've ever seen
Dancing in the sunshine with their leaves of green
Their faces always smiling bright, cheerful all the while
Anyone who sees their dance will surely have to smile
It takes a bit of magic to see the "Daisy Dance"
As the circle in the sunlight who will gaily leap and prance
A girl is not a flower; we all know it's true
But pretty girls who dance and sing, in aprons of true blue
Will make the magic of the flowers seem real enough, no doubt
Especially when these girls exclaim "I'm A Daisy Scout"

Daisy Circle

Make and tape a large paper daisy to the floor. Write the names of the girls in the troop on the petals. Use the Daisy Circle to group the girls before, during and at the closing of the ceremony.

Girl Scout Brownie Investiture 1

Materials: A “pool” made of aluminum foil or any foil or reflective material.

Preparation: Prior to the ceremony, read the Brownie Story. Send girls outside the room (with adequate supervision); set up the pond area. One at a time girls knock on the door.

Leader: Who comes to the Girl Scout Brownie Woods?

Brownies: We do

Leader: What do you want?

Brownies: We want to be Girl Scout Brownies.

Leader: Why?

Each girl gives her reason why she wants to be a Girl Scout Brownie. Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise. One at a time the leader gives each girl the Girl Scout Handshake and receives her Brownie pin, pinned upside down. Girls gather around the pond.

Leader: Now that you are all Girl Scout Brownies, each of you must perform three good deeds. Once you do your good deeds, tell me about them and I will turn your pin around!

Sing a song such as Make New Friends or the Brownie Smile Song.

Girl Scout Brownie Investiture 2

Materials: A “pool” made of aluminum foil or any foil or reflective material.

Preparation: Prior to the ceremony read the Brownie Story. Invite parents to attend.

Send girls outside the room (with adequate supervision); set up the pond area. One at a time girls knock on the door.

Leader: Who comes to the Girl Scout Brownie Woods?

Brownies: We do

Leader: What do you want?

Brownies: We want to be Girl Scout Brownies.

Leader: Why?

Each girl comes in one at a time and approaches the leader. The leader takes her to the pond and says:

Leader: Twist me and turn me and show me the elf – I looked in the water and I saw (girl responds: “myself”) Repeat for each girl. Ask her why she wants to be a Girl Scout Brownie. After she answers, the leader gives each girl the Girl Scout Handshake and receives her Brownie pin, (pinned upside down.) Girls gather around the pond.

Leader: Let’s recite the Girl Scout Promise.

Leader: Now that you are all Girl Scout Brownies, each of you must perform three good deeds. Once you do your good deeds, tell me about them and I will turn your pin around!

Sing a song such as “Make New Friends” or “The Brownie Smile Song” to end the ceremony.

Brownie Pond Investiture

Materials: Girl Scout Brownie "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 use a real one!); Brownie Pins for each new member

Lay pond on the floor in the middle of the ceremony area. New members are sent outside the room with the assistant leader or if they stay in the room, the girls should be gathered on one side of the pond opposite the troop.

Leader: 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 out of the room, the girls knock on the door

Leader: Who comes to the Brownie woods?
Brownies: We do!
Leader: What do you want?
Brownies: We want to be Girl Scout Brownies!

The girls gather around the pond. Tell or read the Brownie Story. The Brownie Story can be found in the Brownie Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting

Leader: Who comes first/next to the Magic Pond?

Co-Leader reads girls names one at a time. The leader turns girls around, one by one:

Leader: 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:

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

Brownies can help clean up the "magic" while the leader sings this song (My Fair Lady tune)

Leader: 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

Investiture Ceremony (Girl Scout Brownie to Girl Scout Junior)

Leader: Why do you want to be a Girl Scout?
(Girl response)

Leader: What does it mean to make a promise?
(Girl response)

Leader: Please recite the Girl Scout Promise.

Reciting the Promise can be done by each girl individually or by all of the girls together. If the girls are having trouble remembering all the words, prompt them with questions like "Do you promise to serve God and your country...?"

As she makes the Promise, the girl uses the Girl Scout sign and the other girls in the troop stand quietly.

Attach the Girl Scout Pin over the girl's heart, and tell her she is now a Girl Scout. Give her the Girl Scout handshake to welcome her into to Girl Scouting.

The girl faces the troop and they can welcome her with the Girl Scout sign, Girl Scout handshake or by singing a song.

Candlelight Investiture 1 – Girl Scout Junior to Adult

Materials: Table, thirteen white candles, two candleholders (one for the Girl Scout Promise and one for the Girl Scout Law), matches or lighter, large cardboard cutout of the trefoil, a Girl Scout pin for each girl)

Girls stand in a horseshoe formation.

Leader: Three candles represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

Girl 1: The first candles shall shine as a symbol that Girl Scouts are true to their God and their Country (light candle)

Girl 2: The light of the second candle shall shine as a symbol that a Girl Scout's greatest desire is to serve her country and to help people (light candle)

Girl 3: The light of the third candle shall shine as a symbol that Girl Scouts are true to their ideals as interpreted by the Girl Scout Law (light candle)

Leader: The Trefoil, which is the Girl Scout emblem, lies before you. Each candle we light represents one part of the Girl Scout Law. I will do my best to be:

Girl 4: honest and fair

Girl 5: friendly and helpful

Girl 6: considerate and caring

Girl 7: courageous and strong

Girl 8: and responsible for what I say and do

Girl 9: and to respect myself and others

Girl 10: respect authority

Girl 11: use resources wisely

Girl 12: make the world a better place

Girl 13: and be a sister to every Girl Scout

Sing "When E'er you Make a Promise" Girls/adults to be invested stand before the leader.

Leader: On your honor will you try to serve God and your country, help people at all times and live by the Girl Scout Law?

Group recites the Girl Scout Promise. Present each person a pin; exchange the Girl Scout handshake.

Leader: Welcome to Girl Scouting.

Sing "Girl Scouts Together"

Candlelight Investiture/Rededication Ceremony 2 – Girl Scout Junior to Adult

Before you hold a ceremony involving an open flame, make sure that your facility is aware of the open flame situation and that your environment is safe. Open flame or candle smoke can cause fire alarms to go off. If your ceremony is outside, make sure that there are no fire restrictions currently enforced in your community.

Materials: Candle Holder with thirteen places or holes; fourteen candles (three of one color representing the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise; ten of another color representing the Girl Scout Law, and one used to light the candles); matches or lighter; Note cards containing the Promise and Law (one card for each part of the Promise and Law)

Arrange participants in a horseshoe formation around a table with ceremonial candles. Open end of the horseshoe should be towards the audience.

Give the first girl a candle and light it. This is the candle that will be used to light all the others.

Give the other participants one of the note cards

Girl 1: Explaining the meaning of “investiture” or rededication and the symbolism of the three candles for the Girl Scout Promise and the ten candles for the Girl Scout Law.
Girl 2: The Girl Scout Promise: On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country
Girl 3: To help people at all times
Girl 4: And to live by the Girl Scout Law.
Girl 5: The Girl Scout Law: I will do my best to be honest and fair
Girl 6: friendly and helpful
Girl 7: considerate and caring
Girl 8: courageous and strong
Girl 9: and responsible for what I say and do.
Girl 10: And to respect myself and others
Girl 11: respect authority
Girl 12: use resources wisely
Girl 13: make the world a better place
Girl 14: and be a sister to every Girl Scout

Leader: At this time the girls of Troop ____ will rededicate themselves to the service of Girl Scouting.

All returning members are called forward. They recite the Girl Scout Promise; adults greet them by exchanging the Girl Scout handshake with each girl. The girl returns to the horseshoe.

Leader: Now our new members will be invested into Girl Scouting.

Leader, or one of the rededicated girls, calls each new girl and adult forward. Each new member then recites the Girl Scout Promise, individually, or as a group. The new members are welcomed into Girl Scouts and they receive the appropriate Girl Scout pin, give the Girl Scout handshake and return to the horseshoe formation.

There are many variations of this Candlelight Ceremony. If your girls are too young to light candles, or if candles are not allowed where you meet, small flashlights can be substituted. Before or after the ceremony a troop may choose to have a flag ceremony or sing a song.

The following are examples of different Girl Scout Promise and Law interpretations that can be substituted in the ceremony or can be adapted to fit your girl's ideas and your troops needs.

Girl Scout Promise and Law Interpretation

Each girl can light a candle as she says her part.

The Girl Scout Promise:

On my honor, I will try

It is a big promise to live up to, and the first words mean "I will do my very best".

To serve God and my country

I will honor God and will be faithful to my own religion. I will be a good citizen of my country.

To help people at all times

I will be ready and willing to help people anytime that I am needed.

And to live by the Girl Scout Law

I will try everyday to make the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law a part of my life

The Girl Scout Law:

I will do my best to be honest and fair

This means that people can trust us and that we treat others as we would like to be treated

friendly and helpful

We make ourselves useful, not just at home and among our friends, but whenever we see the chance to help

considerate and caring

We are thoughtful of the rights and feelings of others, and we care about them

courageous and strong

Having courage and strength doesn't mean that we face things without fear, only that we try to do them whether or not we are afraid.

responsible for what I say and do

We cannot blame others for our own thoughts, words or actions

and to respect myself and others

We have to like ourselves before we can like others, and we must respect other people for whom and what they are

respect authority

Rules are made to protect people and their rights. We follow rules without argument

use resources wisely

Our natural resources won't last forever. We will work to conserve them

make the world a better place

We try to make our world a better place through our words and actions

and be a sister to every Girl Scout

Girl Scouts have friends all over the world and we share the same principals in our Promise and Law

Other Girl Scout things to include in the ceremony:

Be Prepared

This is the Girl Scout motto. Girl Scouts learn to do things so they are ready for bigger and better adventures, so they are ready to help, so they are ready for anything.

Do a Good Turn Daily

This is the Girl Scout slogan. Good turns are kind things you do without being asked. You do not receive a reward, but you feel good inside.

The Girl Scout Pin

The pin has the shape of a trefoil. Trefoil means three leaves. The leaves of the pin stand for the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

The Girl Scout Uniform

The uniform shows everyone we belong to the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. We take pride in wearing it and we are expected to live up to the standards of Girl Scouting when we have it on.

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

This association brings together Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from many countries, and we each gain a little by learning how other people live and honor their Girl Scout and Girl Guide heritage.

Ending

As each candle adds more brightness to our ceremony, each good deed, each promise fulfilled, each daily giving brightens the life of each Girl Scout and makes her a person we are all proud to know.

Values of Life Rededication – Girl Scout Junior to Ambassador

Leaders and girls together can decide which values they feel are appropriate and meaningful to the Girl Scout program.

Materials: Trefoil; Candles and candleholder. Use flashlights or battery operated candles if lighted candles are not allowed in your meeting place.

Leader: (*pointing to the trefoil*) The emblem you see before you represents the Girl Scout program. The seven candles represent seven rays of sun. We will now tell you what each of the seven rays stand for.

Girls stand on each side of the board so it is visible to all. One candle is lit for each value as it is read.

Girl 1: Wisdom - does not necessarily mean superior knowledge. It means putting to the right use the knowledge one possesses.

Girl 2: Courage - is not the quality that enables people to meet danger without fear, it is being able to meet danger in spite of one's fear.

Girl 3: Charity - is not limited to donations to people less fortunate. It is acceptance of others even when you do not understand them.

Girl 4: Justice - is the practice of dealing fairly with others without prejudice or regard to race, color, or creed.

Girl 5: Faith - is the conviction that something unproved by physical science is true. A good example is when an eight year old said Faith is when you turn on the light switch, you know the light will come on.

Girl 6: Hope - means to expect with confidence. Always hope for better things to come. A person without hope is of little help to herself or her community.

Girl 7: Love - There are many kinds of love - love of family, love of home, love of fellow humans, love of God and love of country.

Bridging and Fly-Up Ceremonies

When a Girl Scout moves from one level of Girl Scouting to the next it is called bridging. Bridging ceremonies typically take place toward the end of the year and can easily be combined with a Court of Awards ceremony.

- Advancing from Girl Scout Brownies to Girl Scout Juniors is usually called Flying Up.
- For all other age levels (Daisy, Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador) it is called Bridging

Who: Girl Scouts, their leaders, parents, Girl Scout sister troop
 What: Ceremony to make the transition from one level of Girl Scouts to another
 Where: At your meeting place, school, church, community room
 When: The girls have reached the last level year. Ceremony is performed at the end of the year.
 Why: Bridging is an important milestone for girls moving to the next level of Girl Scouts. At this time they receive certificates, membership pins, membership stars with the appropriate colored disc (signifying the girl has been a member of Girl Scouts for one year), and earned patches or bridging awards
 How: By sending invitations to guests. Guests can include the girls, leaders, parents, and perhaps the sister troop you have done bridging activities with. Include the date, time, place, and a note regarding refreshments if being served

Girl Scout insignia are traditionally presented to girls as they fly-up or bridge:

Age Level:	Automatically Given:	Must Be Earned:
Girl Scout Daisy	Membership Star with blue disc Ending Certificate Brownie Girl Scout Membership Pin (optional)	Bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts
Girl Scout Brownie	Membership Star with green disc Brownie Girl Scout Wings Girl Scout Membership Pin (optional)	Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts
Girl Scout Junior	Membership Star with yellow disc	Bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts
Girl Scout Cadette	Membership Star with white disc	Bridge to Senior Girl Scouts
Girl Scout Senior	Membership Star with red disc	Bridge to Ambassador Girl Scouts
Girl Scout Ambassador	Membership Star with blue disc	Bridge to Adult Girl Scout

Note about Bridges:

A bridge is a symbolic crossing from one level to the next. It can be a real bridge or one that is made to be used indoors.

Examples:

- Bridge out-of-doors at a park or forest preserve
- An arch of colored paper
- Stepping stones cut out of cardboard – one for each part of the Girl Scout Law
- Turn a card table upside down and string crepe paper between the legs.

Daisy Bridging Ceremony 1

Opening

- Form a circle and call each girl's name. Explain why you are having this ceremony

Celebration

- Perform a flag ceremony OR recite the Pledge of Allegiance
- Recite the Girl Scout Promise together
- Leader or girls recite the Girl Scout Laws
- Each girl tells her favorite part of being a Girl Scout Daisy and what she looks forward to as a Girl Scout Brownie
- The girl walks across the bridge
- When she reaches the other side, give her a certificate, a membership star with a blue disc, and a Brownie Girl Scout pin
- Exchange the Girl Scout handshake

Closing

- Form a circle
- Sing "Make New Friends"
- Sing "Taps"
- Do the Friendship Squeeze
- Dismiss the girls
- Refreshments (optional)

Daisy Bridging Ceremony 2 (with Girl Scout Brownies)

This ceremony is designed for an older Girl Scout troop to participate in the ceremony.

Materials: One daisy (real or paper) for each Girl Scout Daisy

- Girl Scout Brownie: These flowers represent the spirit of Girl Scouting. This spirit is often represented with the Daisy, which was our founder, Juliette Low's, nickname.
- Girl Scout Brownie: The first three flowers represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.
- Girl Scout Daisy 1: On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country
- Girl Scout Daisy 2: To help people at all times
- Girl Scout Daisy 3: And to live by the Girl Scout Law
- Girl Scout Daisy 4: I will do my best: To be honest and fair
- Girl Scout Brownie: This means that you will always tell the truth and that you will share things and take turns with others.
- Girl Scout Daisy 5: To be friendly and helpful
- Girl Scout Brownie: This means that you will ask a new girl to play with you and when you see a job that needs to be done, and you can do it, you will be willing to help do it.
- Girl Scout Daisy 6: To be considerate and caring
- Girl Scout Brownie: This means that you will respect the feelings of others and care about how they feel and what they think
- Girl Scout Daisy 7: To be courageous and strong
- Girl Scout Brownie: This means you are willing to try new things, even though you may be a little scared and that you will stand for what is right.
- Girl Scout Daisy 8: To be responsible for what I say and do.
- Girl Scout Brownie: This means that you will be careful about what you say and do so that you don't hurt other people or things
- Girl Scout Daisy 9: To respect myself and others
- Girl Scout Brownie: This means you will try to be the best person you can be, and will be courteous to others.
- Girl Scout Daisy 10: To respect authority
- Girl Scout Brownie: This means you will respect adults, obey the law and will cooperate with others.
- Girl Scout Daisy 11: To use resources wisely
- Girl Scout Brownie: This means you will try not to waste paper, will turn off the lights, and turn off water faucets after you use them.
- Girl Scout Daisy 12: To make the world a better place
- Girl Scout Brownie: This means you will help with a neighborhood clean up, put litter in trash cans, and treat all animals kindly.
- Girl Scout Daisy 13: To be a sister to every Girl Scout
- Girl Scout Brownie: This means you will be a kind friend to everyone, not just to a few people

Fly-Up Ceremonies

A Girl Scout Brownie “flies up” to Girl Scout Juniors at the end of the second year of Brownies and receives her Brownie Wings. Girl Scout Juniors participating in this ceremony can be very effective. Parents should be also involved.

Formation: A Bridge; Girl Scout Juniors in a horseshoe formation on one side of the bridge; Girl Scout Brownies in a Brownie Ring (holding hands) on the other side of the bridge.

Materials: a real or imaginary bridge; Brownie Girl Scout wings; Girl Scout Membership pins, Membership Stars with green discs; brown construction paper cut to represent stones (write a part of the Girl Scout Law on each stone); Refreshments (optional)

Fly Up Ceremony 1

Leader: Since this is the last time that you will be together as Girl Scout Brownies let’s all sing our “Brownie Smile Song.”

Sing “Brownie Smile Song”

Leader: The time has now come for you to take wings and fly-up to Junior Girl Scouts. I have enjoyed having you in my troop for the past years. We’ve had so much fun together, learning new songs and games, going on hikes, trying to do a good turn daily (*add other activities you’ve done*). I hope that our activities have created great memories for you. Let’s share our favorite memories about being a Girl Scout Brownie.

Share memories

Leader: You may wear your Brownie Girl Scout wings on your Girl Scout Junior Sash or Vest. It gives me much pleasure and joy to present them to you and I hope that you wear them proudly.

Give each girl wings

Girls: (In unison) Now its time to say goodbye, break the ring and out (girl name) flies.*

*Girl leaves the circle, goes to the leader and a Girl Scout Junior, repeats the Girl Scout Promise. The leader gives the girl her Girl Scout Pin. They exchange the Girl Scout handshake. Girl joins the Girl Scout Junior horseshoe. *Repeat for each girl.*

Leader: Every time you make the Girl Scout Promise you will remember that it is a very personal promise. It is personal because it means that you are taking a code of honor which you will try to live by.

Sing “When E’re you Make a Promise”

Fly-Up Ceremony 2

Girl Scout Brownies sit on one side of the room in a Brownie Ring; Girl Scout Juniors sit in a horseshoe (the open end toward the audience) on the other side of the room. Place the stones between the two groups and tape them down to the floor.

Sing Girl Scouts Together, found in the Girl Scout Pocket Songbook

*Girl Scouts together, that is our song
Winding the old trail, rocky and long
Learning our motto, living our creed
Girl Scouts together in every good deed*

Brownie Leader: You've been a Brownie and you've earned your wings of sunlight gold. Now you're ready for Girl Scout Juniors, new adventures you've been told.

Brownie Leader: I would like to present my Girl Scout Brownies their wings; they are ready to fly-up to the next level of Girl Scouting. As I call your name, please come forward

Junior Leader: Each step of Girl Scout Juniors will be filled with fun and adventure. As a troop, we welcome you to Junior Girl Scouting.

The Brownies walk on the stepping stones and enter the horseshoe. With the Brownies facing the Juniors, the Brownies give the Girl Scout sign and recite the Girl Scout Promise.

Brownies and Juniors face each other and walk forward to the stepping stone. Both girls recite the Law. The next pair of girls come and stands on Law #2; recite the law. Repeat until all girls have participated. If there are less than 10 Brownies participating Junior Girl Scouts may fill in

Junior Leader: With the help of (*Brownie Leader's Name*) we would like to present our new Girl Scout Juniors with their Girl Scout membership pin.

Pin on Girl's left side over their heart. Give the girls their Membership Stars with green disc.

Brownie Leader: Let's sing "Make New Friends"

End the program in a Friendship circle and do the friendship squeeze.

Bridge to Girl Scout Cadettes Ceremony 1 (with Girl Scout Cadettes)

Materials: Candles (one for each Girl Scout Junior)

Girl Scout Juniors form a horseshoe at one end of the bridge; Girl Scout Cadettes form a horseshoe on the other side. The leader gives each Girl Scout Junior a candle. The leader brings one girl at a time to the center of the bridge. When they reach the center of the bridge, they are met by Girl Scout Cadette.

Leader: May I present Girl Scout Junior _____, who is eager to accept the challenge of Cadette Girl Scouting.

Girl Scout Cadette: I, _____, challenge you, _____, to serve your younger sister Girl Scouts, your community, and your country; as we have served you. If you accept this challenge, I will light your candle in respect, that you will live your challenge to the fullest. Do you accept this challenge?

Girl Scout Junior: I will accept this challenge (Cadette lights the candle)

Leader: _____, please recite the Girl Scout Promise.

Both girls cross the bridge and return to the Cadette horseshoe. Girls in the Cadette horseshoe congratulate the new Girl Scout Cadette and welcome her (exchange the Girl Scout handshake). Repeat for each girl until all girls are bridged.

Close the ceremony by singing a song or taps, friendship circle, etc.

Bridge to Girl Scout Cadettes Ceremony 2

Leader: We present to you a Silver Key, which symbolizes that you are seeking to unlock the door to Girl Scout Cadettes as you begin your work on the Silver Leadership and Silver Award. Wear it as a symbol that you are in pursuit of the gold at the end of the Rainbow of the Girl Scout World.

Girls cross the bridge. After they cross the bridge:

Leader: You are about to enter another adventure of Girl Scouting. You will find yourself entering a world of new experiences where you will gain an understanding of your own self worth and individuality. As you accept more responsibility you will experience a growth in your knowledge, abilities and judgments. In these tools place your new enthusiasm for the future - use them wisely.

Leader: _____, are you willing to accept the challenges and responsibilities of a Girl Scout Cadette?

Girl: I am

Leader: As you say the challenges, light the candles before you as a symbol of this acceptance.

The Challenge of Cadette Girl Scouting:

- I challenge myself to a greater understanding human life
- I challenge myself to better serve the people of the world
- I challenge myself to accept the changing world of tomorrow
- I challenge myself to have a better insight and appreciation for the arts
- I challenge myself to understand and preserve the out-of-doors
- I challenge myself to learn leadership and provide service
- I challenge myself to accept and live the challenge of living the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- I challenge myself to achieve the highest Girl Scout Award as a Girl Scout Cadette, the Silver Award.

Bridge to Girl Scout Seniors Ceremony 1

Materials: Eight (8) White Candles, Candle holder

Girl Scout Cadettes form a horseshoe at one end of the bridge; Girl Scout Seniors form a horseshoe on the other side. The leader gives each Girl Scout Cadette a candle. The leader brings one girl at a time to the center of the bridge. When they reach the center of the bridge, they are met by a Girl Scout Senior.

Leader: When you are a Girl Scout Senior, your life is filled with action. Girl Scout Seniors have many opportunities coming their way. You can take part in special events and activities planned by Girl Scout Seniors. You can be a delegate or a member of the Girl Scout Council Board of Directors and help plan council activities. You may be selected for one of the many GSUSA Destinations open to Girl Scouts each year. As a Girl Scout Senior you can begin work on the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouts. We invite you to get involved!

Girl: I pledge as a Girl Scout Senior to: (light candles - *return to horseshoe*)

- Uphold the highest ideals of womanhood as expressed in the Promise and Law
- Be thoughtful and considerate and assume my share of responsibility in the activities of my troop
- Be a better citizen of my community and prepare myself for the duties and responsibilities of adult citizenship in a democracy
- Realize my deep commitment to volunteer my services wherever and whenever needed
- Keep myself healthy and the world around me as safe as I can make it
- Seek new knowledge and the skill to use it
- Increase my knowledge and understanding of the peoples of the world toward the goal of peace
- Prepare myself for the future

Leader: As you begin your journey to the Gold Award we give you a gold key to help you unlock new doors in the world. Keys have an interesting history. They were first used in Biblical times, quite large, made of wood; and carried as a sign of prestige. We hope that you will carry your key as proudly as the first keys were carried and that this key will open many doors and worlds in Girl Scouting. Welcome to Senior Girl Scouts.

Bridge to Girl Scout Seniors Ceremony 2

Girl Scout Senior: Tonight we celebrate with Girl Scout Cadettes who are ready to bridge into Senior Girl Scouting. It is our purpose to show you many options of the Senior Girl Scouting program and to get to know each other. We know that you have prepared yourselves well and will want to use your experiences to extend your knowledge and to explore new interests. We know too, that you will adhere to the belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law which underlies the activities in the Girl Scout Program. Please recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law with us.

Girl Scout Senior: There are so many worlds to explore! There is the World of Yourself, partly known, but still full of mysteries and surprises. There is the World of People, like you and unlike you, girls and boys, men and women, little children and senior citizens. There is the Outdoor World, and there are the worlds of laughter and beauty and career and growing up to be a woman.

Girl Scout Senior: It gives us much pleasure to present you with a gift* to represent your bridging from Girl Scout Cadettes to Girl Scout Seniors. As your name is called, please come forward to receive your gift.

Girl Scout Senior: *(after all girls have received gifts)*
Let us be friends in everything of duty and of play
And in whatever other deeds we do from day to day
Let us be kind and generous to those who cross our path
And not allow ourselves to live in jealousy or wrath
Let us consider what we have and how much we can spare
To spread the sunshine with us to others everywhere
For, after all, our happiness to some degree depends
On how we go about the task of comforting our friends
So let us follow friendliness with every step we take
And do some worthy deed each day for someone else's sake

Sing an appropriate song

*Gift ideas: Daisies, Yellow Roses, Personalized ID Pin, Membership Star, Part of the Senior Uniform, Certificate, Bridge Patch

Teen Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony

Materials: One per girl: Candles, Flowers, bandana (a dime tied in one corner);
Each girl provides a token gift for their parents.

Girls form a horseshoe – facing their families and friends. Give each girl a candle

Leader: Do you, as a Girl Scout, accept the challenge this candle represents, to shed your light as a Girl Scout in all that you do, say and think? Do you accept the challenge of being a guiding light to your peers and following the ideals exemplified by this candle of an unwavering flame of truth and goodness?

Girls: Yes (or we will, we do)

Leader: *(Give each girl a flower)* Do you as a young woman accept today's responsibilities to seek knowledge, to explore careers and accept the challenge of an active role in this changing world?

Girls: Yes (or we will, we do)

Leader: *(Give each girl a bandana)* The versatility of this bandana, a tradition in Girl Scouting, is your reminder of the meaning of our motto – "Be Prepared." Do you accept the challenge that this bandana represents?

Girls: Yes (or we will, we do)

Leader: I congratulate you on your step forward in Girl Scouting and I look forward to seeing your progress and the good work that you do both for yourself and your community. With this in mind, please join me in renewing our Girl Scout Promise to Girl Scouting.

Repeat the Girl Scout Promise

One girl: Mothers and Fathers, you have stood by our side to help, comfort and support us as we have grown. Now that we are becoming young women, we will need your help and support even more. Accept this small gift as our token of thanks for making us what we are and for helping us to become what we want to be.

Combined Levels Fly Up and Bridging Ceremony

Girl Scouts who are bridging form a circle on one side of the Bridge (one circle for each level).

Girl Scouts who are not bridging make a horseshoe on the other side of the Bridge (one horseshoe for each level)

Opening: Flag ceremony; sing an appropriate patriotic song (i.e., National Anthem, America the Beautiful, God Bless America)

Daisies to Brownies (Bridging)

Brownie Leader: Come on girls and join our ring; here we plan most everything.

Brownies go to Daisies and lead them across the bridge and to their horseshoe. Give the Daisies a Bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts Patch, Ending Certificate, or membership pin

Brownies to Juniors (Fly-up)

Brownie Leader: Now it's time to say good-bye; break the ring and out you fly.
(Call each girl's name).

The Girl Scout Brownie drops out of the circle and walks to the leader. Together they walk to the bridge. Leader gives her Brownie Wings, and says:

Brownie (Name) you are just about
To become a Junior Girl Scout
In the troop you soon will find
Girl Scout Juniors are true and kind
So now I give you your Brownie Wings
So you may fly to bigger things

The Brownie crosses the bridge. Girl Scout Juniors line up on the other side. Girl Scout Juniors greet them on the other side of bridge and escort each of them to their horseshoe. Girl Scout Junior Leader presents the new Juniors with a Girl Scout pin.

Junior to Cadette (Bridging)

Junior leader: From Brownies to Juniors you did fly
But the time has come to say good bye
From this point forward you will get set
To enjoy the fun and opportunities as a Cadette

Junior leader stands at end of the bridge and bids good-bye to each girl before they cross the bridge. Girl Scout Cadettes greet them on the other side of bridge and escort each of them to their horseshoe.

Cadettes to Senior (Bridging)

Cadette leader: As you joined us to help make a well rounded troop ready to meet the challenges of Cadette Scouting, we too must say good-bye as you move on to Senior Girl Scouting.

Cadette leader stands at end of bridge and gives each Girl Scout Cadette the Girl Scout handshake before they cross the bridge. Girl Scout Seniors meet them on the other side and escort them to their horseshoe.

Close ceremony by singing Girl Scouts Together.

Thinking Day Ceremonies

Thinking Day is a good time to contribute to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. The money in this fund provides opportunities for international exchange programs to expand friendship around the world. The fund provides opportunities for girls who are enthusiastic about Girl Scouting, have worked hard in their respective communities but may not be able to afford a trip to places such as Our Chalet, Edith Macy Center, Our Cabana, Pax Lodge and Sangam.

Thinking Day Ceremony 1

Materials: Five colored candles (black, red, white, yellow, cream); candle holder – use the cream candle to light the other four

Leader: Girl Scouts come from many lands
All with smiles and helping hands
Though they speak a different language
The Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law are the same

Girl 1: I light the black candle in friendship for all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in the world who are proud of their dark skin. Watch the flame closely

Girl 2: I light the red candle in friendship for all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in the world who are proud of their red skin. Watch the flame closely

Girl 3: I light the white candle in friendship for all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in the world who are proud of their white skin. Watch the flame closely

Girl 4: I light the yellow candle in friendship for all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in the world who are proud of their yellow skin. Watch the flame closely

Leader: Have you noticed that the light from one candle is the same as the other? The culture and color of the nations vary – but we all have the basic needs. We wish to be recognized, called by name and loved. Let's strive every day to highlight the ideas of international friendship and understanding (blow out cream candle)

Thinking Day Ceremony 2

- T Thinking Day is celebrated February 22nd. This is the birthday of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, who organized and did so much for scouting.
- H He, Lord Baden-Powell, founded Boy Scouting in 1907. At a boy rally in 1909, girls appeared who were most interested in the movement. They wanted in too.
- I In 1909 as a result of the Boy Scout rally, Lord Baden-Powell founded the Girl Guides of England; out of this grew our own Girl Scouts.
- N Nothing went very smoothly at first. Small companies were formed who did mostly Boy Scout drills and badges. In 1912 the girls had their own handbook.
- K Knowing little about Girl Guiding, Princess Mary did have an interest and inspected companies on different occasions. She gave many gifts of money to help Girl Guides really get on their feet.
- I International Council was founded in 1928. This helped bind the Girl Guides closer together. During wars the Girl Guides did many good many things. Their most helpful service was in hospitals and telegraph offices.
- N No one can ever forget Juliette Gordon Low, who founded our Girl Scouts in America in 1912. She lived in England and prompted her interest there. She was a good friend of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.
- G Great was this organization started in Savannah, Georgia, Mrs. Low's main wish, at first, was to have an International Conference in the United States. In May, 1926, at Camp Macy, in New York, twenty-six different countries had this conference.
- D Day by day this movement, started by Lord Baden-Powell, has increased, not only in size, but also in its activities. Even though girls from different countries do not wear the same color or style uniform, their interest and activities are very similar.
- A And let us remember that the word Friendship means much to all, and International Friendship means even more
- Y You are a part of this, so let us all join hands in a friendship circle with wishes for all that is good for all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides the world over.

World Trefoil Pin Ceremony

- Materials: A large felt board with a blue background. Cutouts of the World Trefoil Pin, made from felt (Blue felt 10 x 7; yellow felt (parts of the World Trefoil); White felt (flame); gold felt (blocks); index cards).
- Girl 1: These leaves represent the four corners of the earth. It is the emblem of friendship among people. Upon this background we will place the trefoil known to all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides throughout the world. I place mine with the hope that we may soon again clasp friendly hands around the world (add leaf)
- Girl 2: I place my leaf for all those that come from the high mountain regions. May the world again know what it means to be safe (add leaf)
- Girl 3: This leaf I place for those who come from farms, plantations, and ranches, it is with the hope that hunger shall be driven from places far and near that I place this leaf (add leaf)
- Girl 4: This stem represents the arts and sciences, through them all women are sisters. May they become friends through understanding (add stem)
- Girl 5: The stars in the two leaves of the trefoil stand for the promise and laws. They are the leading stars which we shall always keep before us (add stars)
- Girl 6: The vein or line the compass needle which will always give us the right course or way in scouting (place compass needle)
- Girl 7: This flame like base, the flame of the love of mankind, symbolizes the highest thought in international friendship. It completes the whole. I put it here with the hope that there will one day be life abundant for all ages and races and creeds. May this flame encircle the world with good will and always burn brightly and intensely in the heart of all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides (place outside circle with flame)
- Leader: The golden trefoil represents the sun shining in a blue sky which is over all the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of the world. And now let us all recite our Girl Scout Promise, which is universal.

Recite the Girl Scout Promise. Pins are given to girls by the leader and are pinned on each other by her buddy or the girl next to her. Exchange the Girl Scout handshake.

Girl Scout Week Ceremony

Cast: Seven speaking parts, extra girls for non-speaking parts

Materials: Make a large poster board daisy for each girl to hold. On each daisy, print the appropriate day of the week. (for example Sun-Daisy, Mon-Daisy, etc.) You could also print the poem for that day on the back of each daisy card

Sun-Daisy: My name is Sun-Daisy and we're here to speak
About Juliette Low and Girl Scout Week
Just before the Civil War, Juliette was born
In Savannah, Georgia one October morn

Mon-Daisy: Daisy was her nickname throughout her living days
She loved games and writing and performing in plays
When Daisy grew up she began the Girl Guides
Her first troop was in Scotland with seven girls by her side

Tues-Daisy: Daisy sailed to America. March 12 was the day
She started a troop called Girl Scouts U.S.A.
Eighteen girls met with Daisy very eager to start
To make uniforms and badges each doing her part

Wednes-Daisy: Daisy spoke of the Law for all Girl Scouts to learn
And told of requirements for badges to earn
The troop went on hikes along nature trails
Watching birds of all kinds and recording details

Thurs-Daisy: Sports were important to keep the girls fit
Basketball was the first game to become a big hit
Daisy told the girls of camp under stars shining bright
Destination - Camp Lowlands the first Girl Scout campsite

Fri-Daisy: For the rest of her life Daisy spread the word 'round
To millions of girls in town after town
Shortly after her death a World Friendship Fund began
To honor this grand lady and her work through the land

Satur-Daisy: Each year we partake in a friendship celebration
With Scouts 'round the world and with great dedication
We'll remember Juliette Low of whom we will speak
And we're proud to be Girl Scouts* each day of the week

Campfire Ceremonies

Lighting a campfire could be considered a ceremony, but with a little planning it can be more meaningful. The hours spent around a campfire are often a girl's most treasured memories of Girl Scouting. It is a perfect way to close the day or a special event.

To begin:

- Is everyone dressed for the weather
- Is the site dry
- Is there a special entrance
- Enter the site by:
 - o carrying candles or flashlights
 - o Singing
 - o Enter in silence

During:

- Award presentation
- Teach new songs
- Perform skits
- Make presentations
- Honor special guests
- Enjoy a special drink or snack in silence

The ending:

- Sing quiet songs
- Sing taps
- Friendship circle or squeeze
- Sing while leaving the campfire area

Helpful Hints:

- Keep the ceremony moving – don't have long pauses
- Set a duration, i.e., 45 minutes to 1 hour long
- Make sure there is space for everyone to see and hear
- Prepare for mosquitoes, smoke and cold weather
- Leave them wanting more!

Flashlight Ceremony

This ceremony/game helps girls to follow directions and have fun at the same time. One person is designated the leader. Girls remain silent and do what the lead person does. If she makes noise, her flashlight is turned off. At the end see how many girls can follow the leader and the rules! Or you can use the flashlights and this game like Simon Says – anyone who “misses” turns off their light

1. Put it in your right hand
2. Turn it on
3. Point it toward the sky
4. Make big circles
5. Make little circles
6. Point it at your toes
7. Point it your elbows
8. Put it on your cheek
9. Point it behind you
10. Put it in your other hand
11. Point it to the side
12. Put your hand over it
13. Put it under your chin and grin
14. Write your name with it
15. Shine it on the fire
16. Hold it with both hands
17. Turn it off
18. Put it on the ground beside you.

Court of Awards Ceremonies

What is a Court of Awards?

Girl Scouts receive their earned awards or recognitions for their accomplishments in the form of patches, badges, pins and certificates. This ceremony is called a Court of Awards ceremony. This ceremony can be held monthly, semi-annually or at the end of the year or throughout the year. A Court of Awards ceremony may be used as a closing ceremony for a project the whole troop has worked on or recognitions individual girls have earned over a period of time.

There are many creative ways to present girls' recognitions. Demonstrations or displays adds interest to the ceremony especially if non-Girl Scouts are invited. A candle lighting ceremony such as the Promise and Law candle ceremony used for investitures is very appropriate and effective. A Court of Awards can be a formal ceremony with invited guests; parents, troop support committee, program consultants and sponsors, or it can be a simple ceremony when the girls are presented with recognitions at the end of a regular troop meeting. A Court of Awards ceremony should be an opportunity for girls to feel proud of their accomplishments.

Ceremony Preparation

- Prepare recognition items ahead of time
- Package each girl's awards in a bag, on a vest or sash, on a piece of felt or on a ribbon (this Will save time pinning the girls)
- Emphasize the effort each girl made to earn her awards not the number of awards earned.
- Hold award ceremonies frequently, especially for younger girls. These can be very simple ceremonies at the end of a troop meeting for example.
- Recognize each girl individually by name.

Scout's Own Ceremonies

What is A Scout's Own ceremony?

A Scout's Own ceremony is a special ceremony that expresses the spirit of Girl Scouting. It's an opportunity for girls to express their thoughts and feelings. Girls, with the help of their leaders, plan and carry it out themselves. Lord William Baden-Powell, the founder of Boy Scouts, describes the Scouts Own ceremony as a voluntary uplifting of their hearts - in thanksgiving for the joys of life, and a desire to seek inspiration and strength for greater love and service for others.

It is not a performance. If parents and public are part of the group everyone is expected to participate. It is **NOT** a religious ceremony and does not take the place of going to church, synagogue or temple. It may be held anytime, any day, indoors or outdoors, at troop meetings or while camping. It may be used to open or close a meeting or special occasion.

Girls may choose a special location to hold their ceremony. It is a Girl Scout custom to walk quietly to the place where the ceremony is held and leave quietly after it is over. Designate a silent arch such as a tree branch, special rock, doorway, path, etc. that girls enter and stay quiet as they approach the ceremony location. As girls leave, they remain quiet until they pass back through the arch.

A Scout's Own ceremony usually has a theme. The theme can be decided by the girls. Usually it is about important or inspirational ideas, such as the meaning of the Promise or friendship. This ceremony may occur on a national holiday or a Girl Scout special day like Juliette Low's birthday, Thinking Day or Girl Scout Week.

Ways to express the theme:

- Songs for everyone to sing
- Music
- Poems or Quotations
- Words written by a troop member
- Choral reading
- Stories and legends
- Girl Scout Promise
- Pledge of Allegiance
- What the theme means to each Girl Scout

Planning a Scout's Own ceremony

The ceremony theme should have a central idea such as the Girl Scout Promise or the Girl Scout Law, a holiday or a Girl Scout day such as Thinking Day. The sun, moon, or nature can also be celebrated in a Scout's Own.

Leaders can provide advice to girls when they are making a choice. Discuss with them program selections; distinguish between value and what is unworthy of inclusion in this type of ceremony.

Girls, with the assistance of their leaders plan the ceremony. Girls may decide to use one or a variety of ways to present the theme (dramatization, singing, choral reading, musical interludes, or background music). Participation by all is desirable, but not mandatory. Girls are encouraged to share their personal thoughts by passing around a special item that each person holds while she speaks like a decorated stick, a special stone.

An attitude of quietness will make the ceremony more meaningful. When, the program is over, Girl Scouts quietly leave with a feeling of inspiration

How to Plan:

1. Choose a theme (Girl Scout Laws, Girl Scout Promise, our country, people, citizenship, nature, special occasions or holidays, local history).
2. Determine how the theme will be used
3. How will the Scout's Own Ceremony open
4. Organize order of program
5. Decide who will lead the girls to and from the ceremony
6. Decide what parts need to be filled
7. Decide how to end the ceremony

Where to have it:

- At a meeting (opening, closing, spontaneously when all girls reflect on a shared experience)
- At Camp (sunrise, campfire, sunset)
- Quiet place on a trail

How long should it last? :

Girl Scout Daisy / Brownie: 10 minutes

Girl Scout Junior: 10-15 minutes

Girl Scout Cadette: 15-20 minutes

Girl Scout Senior / Ambassador: 20-30 minutes

Poems

The Brownie Story

For those who've come, I'm here to share
The Brownie Story with girls who care

For once, a long time ago
When fairies and elves in England did grow
Two little girls as normal as you
Lived with their father and grandmother, too!

Their father, a tailor, worked hard all day
And Granny, very busy, had no time to play
The girls loved to play and dance and sing
They could make a game out of any old thing

Then one day the father, a wise old man
Told of the magic of Brownie Land
He told them of the Brownies who work and dust
And clean for their families without making a fuss

Granny told them to look for a magical place
Where the wise old owl might show them the face
Of a Brownie who was willing to clean and sew
And dance and sing, 'cause Brownies love that, you know!

Our two found the owl with the answers to share
With all the little girls waiting way out there
Said he Go to the Magical Brownie Ring,
Join all the Brownies in everything.

Deep in the woods when the moon is out
Go to the pond - turn yourself about
You'll find magic that starts with a rhyme
And this magic circles the world in time

Twist me and turn me
And show me the elf
I looked in the water
And saw myself

Now all of us know of the magic Brownie woods
Where each little girl helps as she should
Where trees and flowers and the rain and the sun
Are friends of children who join Scouting fun

A Leader's Promise

I will do my best:

To be honest about my girls abilities and fair to their talents

To be friendly and helpful because my girls deserve the best

To be considerate and caring even when things don't work out

To be courageous and strong because my girls need me

To be responsible for what I say and do because others are depending on me

To respect myself and others, after all, I am a Girl Scout

To respect authority, and the girls

To use resources wisely by not wasting the potential in each girl I work with

To make the world a better place by sharing my best, and not sharing when necessary

To be a sister to every Girl Scout and care for each Girl Scout as family

Ceremony Songs

Brownie Smile Song

I've got something in my pocket
That belongs across my face
I keep it very close at hand
In a most convenient place
I'm sure you wouldn't guess it
If you guessed a long-long while
So I'll take it out
And put it on
It's a great big brownie smile.

Girl Scouts Together

Girl scouts together, that is our song
Winding the old trails, rocky and long
Learning our motto, living our creed
Girl Scouts together in every good deed.
Girl Scouts together, happy are we
Friendly to neighbors, far o're the sea
Faithful to country, loyal to home
Known as true Girl Scouts where ever we roam

Hello

Hello, Hello, Hello, Hello
We are glad to greet you
We are glad to meet you
Hello, Hello, Hello, Hello

Make New Friends

Make new friends
But keep the old
One is silver
And the other's gold
A circle is round
And has no end
That's how long
I'm going to be your friend
Fare the well
Good luck to thee
When I'm gone
Please remember me

When E're You Make a Promise

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

On My Honor

Chorus:
On my honor I will try
There's a duty to be done and I say aye
There's a reason here for a reason above
My honor is to try and my duty is to love
People don't need to know my name
If I've don't any harm then I am to blame
If I've helped another, I've helped me
If I've opened up my eyes to see

(Chorus)

I've tucked away a song or two
When you're feeling low there's one for your
If you need a friend then I will come
'Cause there's plenty more where I come from

(Chorus)

Come with me where the fire burns bright
We can even see better in a candle's light
And we find more meaning in a campfire glow
Than we'll ever find in a year or so

(Chorus)

We've made a promise to always keep
And pray "softly falls" before we sleep
We'll be Girl Scouts together and when we've gone
We'll still be trying and singing this song

(Chorus)

Taps (Day is Done)

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the Lake
From the hill
From the sky
All is well
Safely rest
God is nigh

Fading light
Dims the sight
And a star
Gems the sky,
Gleaming bright
From afar,
Drawing nigh,
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise,
For our days,
Neath the sun,
Neath the stars
Neath the sky,
As we go,
This we know
God is nigh.