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Girl Scout Ceremonies

What is a Girl Scout ceremony?

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 of 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 earn 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 (WAGGS) 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 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?
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'?
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?

The following chart provides the level of participation you can expect at various age levels:

Daisy Kindergarten	Brownie Grades 1-2-3	Junior Grades 4-5-6	Cadette Grades 7-8-9	Senior Grades 10-11-12
Choose a favorite song to sing	Choose songs and poems related to the theme	Decide on a theme	Decide theme	Plan and put on an area ceremony
Decide who they want to invite	Decide who they want to invite and make invitations	Decide when they want the ceremony	Find songs and readings	Select site and make arrangements
	Set up before ceremony	Find songs and poems	Work with Junior sister troop to plan bridging	Contact participants
	Serve refreshments	Make and serve refreshments	Make own props	Choose what to put in ceremony
	Help clean up	Clean Up		Conduct ceremony

Use the following chart to plan your 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 last, 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 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).

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

Alternate American Flag Ceremony

Materials: Large pot, small American Flag that can fit into the pot, large spoon, 7 red pieces of ribbon tied together, 6 white pieces of ribbon tied together, one blue ribbon, 13 stars cut from felt, cards with the ceremony parts written on them. *Put flag into the pot*

- Girl 1: Our flag has change many times over the past two hundred and thirty years. However, the 13 stripes have remained to represent the 13 original colonies.
- Girl 2: The red stripes are for courage (put red ribbons into the pot)
- Girl 3: The white stripes are for clean and honest living (add white ribbons into the pot)
- Girl 4: The blue on our flag is for truth and loyalty (add blue ribbon into the pot)
- Girl 5: The stars represent hope and opportunity (each girl who holds a star puts it into the pot)
- Girl 6: All together they blend to make our country what we want it to be. (Use the spoon to stir the pot).
- Girl 7: Ladies (and Gentlemen) – the flag of our Country (retrieve flag from inside the pot)
- Girl 8: Please join me in reciting our Pledge of Allegiance
- Girl 9: Let's also sing (patriotic song, This Land is Your Land, My Country Tis of Thee, America the Beautiful, The National Anthem, etc)

Four Freedoms Ceremony

Four girls stand holding the corner of a flag with one hand, a lighted candle or flashlight in the other. There is no other light in the room. Girls holding the flag remain silent.

- Girl 1: This banner is the EMBLEM OF FREEDOM. The color RED stands for the blood that has been shed by the many heroes through the years who have fought to preserve this emblem of freedom.
- Girl 2: There are 50 WHITE stars on this banner, one for each state in the Union over which the emblem of freedom flies.
- Girl 3: The stars are placed on a BLUE background which represents the Heavens for which we are ever reaching.
- Girl 4: This banner is the emblem of the greatest country in the world. It is great because the people who live in it are free to practice the Four Freedoms – the Freedom of Speech (**raise one candle**); Freedom of Religion (**raise second candle**); Freedom of the Press (**raise third candle**); and Freedom of Assembly (**raise fourth candle**).
- Girl 5: If we fail to protect our rights, fail to assist in preserving these Four Freedoms, we will take away Freedom of Speech (**blow out candle one**); Freedom of Religion (**blow out second candle**); Freedom of the Press (**blow out third candle**) and Freedom of Assembly (**blow out last candle**)
- Girl 6: This world of darkness which we have now created could be our heritage as it is in so many other countries. Let us be thoughtful of the privileges we have in our great country.
- Girl 7: (**Flashlight is shown on American Flag**). Let us be proud of this banner. Let us be thankful we live in the country it represents. Let's rise and together Pledge our Allegiance to the United States of America.

Recite the Pledge of Allegiance – sing a patriotic song

Fold the flag. Flashlight remains on the flag until it is completely folded. Turn off flashlight.

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. To follow are the elements of retiring an American Flag.

1. Lower the flag from the pole (or remove it from the staff) and carry it to the fire site.
2. Place the stars (as the audience sees them) in the upper left hand corner. This is an appropriate reading to start the ceremony:

“Remember as you look at the Flag, it is the symbol of our nation, it is red because of human sacrifice; blue because of the true blue loyalty of its defenders; and white symbolizes

liberty - our land of the free. The stars are symbols of the united efforts and hope in the hearts of the many people striving to keep America great.”

3. Cut the field of blue from the stripes - have someone hold onto this piece.
4. Cut each stripe from the “whole” and lay each piece, one at a time, across the flames. These are some ideas for appropriate readings for each stripe:

1st Stripe	The thirteen stripes stand for the thirteen original colonies which are: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.
2 nd Stripe	the white stripes stand for purity
3 rd Stripe	the red stripes stand for courage
4 th Stripe	“Give me liberty or give me death.” (Patrick Henry)
5 th Stripe	“One if by land, two if by sea” (Paul Revere)
6 th Stripe	“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution on the United States of America.”(Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America)
7 th Stripe	“We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal. They are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” (Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address)
8 th Stripe	“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” (Constitution of the United States of America)
9 th Stripe	“Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or press.” (Constitution of the United States of America)
10 th Stripe	“Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” (Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address)
11 th Stripe	“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.” (Constitution of the United States of America)
12 th Stripe	“Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country” (John Fitzgerald Kennedy)
13 th Stripe	“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”

5. After all the stripes have been burned, the field of blue is laid on the fire - all are silent until the entire piece burns to ash.
6. Out of respect, nothing should ever be added to the ceremonial fire after the Flag has been burned.
7. The ceremony ends with everyone departing in silence
8. After the ashes have cooled, they should be buried

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 Daisy Girl Scouts
 - Brownie Girl Scout Pin - worn only by Brownie Girl Scouts
 - Girl Scout Pin (traditional pin (eagle) or contemporary pin (three faces) - worn by Junior, Cadette, Senior and Adult Girl Scouts

Daisy Girl Scout Investiture 1

Perform a simple flag ceremony. Leader presents pins to girls

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

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

Daisy Girl Scout 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 Daisy Girl Scout pins.

Here is a sample design for a Daisy Girl Scout 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. (Daisy Story of Juliette Low Book)
- 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 handsign to the audience. (pg 41, the Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders)
- Pin each girl with her Daisy Girl Scout Pin, give them the give Girl Scout Handshake, and welcome them into Girl Scouting. (pg 41, The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders)
- 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.

Ideas for Daisy Investitures

- Play Daisy to Daisy (found in The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders)
- Invite a Brownie troop to help with the ceremony
- Have a flag ceremony

Have each girl hold a real or artificial daisy during the ceremony

Brownie Girl Scout 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 Brownie Girl Scout Woods?

Brownies: We do

Leader: What do you want?

Brownies: We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts.

Leader: Why?

Each girl gives her reason why she wants to be a Brownie Girl Scout. 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 Brownie Girl Scouts, 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.

Brownie Girl Scout 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 Brownie Girl Scout Woods?

Brownies: We do

Leader: What do you want?

Brownies: We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts.

Leader: Why?

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

“Twist me and turn me and show be the elf – I looked in the water and saw (girl responds: “myself”) Repeat for each girl. Ask her why she wants to be a Brownie Girl Scout. 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 Brownie Girl Scouts, 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: Brownie Girl Scout "Pond" (can be constructed from a piece of cardboard covered with foil and border with greenery, or use a mirror and border with greenery, or 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. The leader says:

Cross your little fingers, stand upon your toes
That's a bit of magic every Brownie knows
Now we all are standing in a forest glade
Listen very carefully, see the magic made

If the new Brownies have been sent 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 Brownie Girl Scouts!

The girls gather around the pond. Tell or read the Brownie Story

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

Brownie's Gold Walk

Room setting: Room should resemble woods with a "golden" trail marking the way to the Brownie Woods.

Leader: Come along and take my hand
We'll follow the path to Brownie Land
To find the woods, we'll walk the golden mile
But first, sing a song about a Brownie smile

(Girls sing "The Brownie Smile Song")

Leader: Becoming a Brownie is a special thing
We do our business in a Brownie _____

(New girls answer "Ring")

Leader: This is the door to the Brownie woods
Knock, then answer the way you should

Leader: Who comes to the Brownie woods?

Brownies We do

Leader: What do you want?

Brownies: We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts

Leader: Then enter the magic woods

Girls enter "the woods". Leader takes each girl to the pond, one by one. All Brownies in the woods repeat as she is turned around:

Leader: Twist me and turn me and show me the elf
I looked in the water and saw _____

Brownie: Myself!

Leader: Now is the time your Promise to make
But first give me the sign and handshake

All new girls give the leader the Girl Scout Sign and handshake, and say the Girl Scout Promise together. Leader pins the Brownie pins on upside down and says:

Leader: Now you're a special Brownie Scout
With your first good deed, turn your pin about.

Investiture Ceremony (Brownie to Junior Girl Scouts)

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 - Junior through 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 lives 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 (Junior through Adults)

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 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

Candlelight Investiture/Rededication Ceremony 3

- 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: Be friendly and helpful
- Girl 7: Be considerate and caring
- Girl 8: Be courageous and strong, and
- Girl 9: Be responsible for what I say and do. And to
- Girl 10: Respect myself and others
- Girl 11: Respect authority
- Girl 12: Use resources wisely
- Girl 13: Make the world a better place
- Girl 14: 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.

Candlelight Investiture/Rededication Ceremony 4

Materials: A large cut out of the trefoil (wooden or cardboard), a table and a Girl Scout pin for each girl or adult being invested.

Preparation: Girls or adults make a horseshoe formation. Sing an appropriate song.

Leader: This investiture is a ceremony designed to welcome girls and adults into the world of Girl Scouting. It is an international bond shared with girls and adults all over the world. You are becoming part of an organization that "links the youth of the world together."

The Girl Scout Promise contains three parts. This is why we use three fingers in the Girl Scout sign. The first part of the Promise concerns service to your God and country; the second is service to people everywhere, and the third is living the Girl Scout Law.

Recite the Girl Scout Promise.

With traditional style Girl Scout pin:

Leader: I believe you will always do your best to live up to the Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law so I will present you with your Girl Scout Pin. The trefoil symbol used by woodsmen, hunters and trappers is a sign of friendliness, courage, and strength. The eagle represents freedom. The branch stands for peace. The quills represent knowledge. The scroll turned upwards represents the Girl Scout doing her best to be cheerful. The pin is a symbol that you are a Girl Scout.

With contemporary style Girl Scout pin:

Leader: Your Girl Scout Pin shows the pattern of girls' faces. Young, vital girls eagerly looking forward to the future and what it holds for them. Wear your pin with pride and never forget the Girl Scout Promise for which it stands.

Sing an appropriate song.

Girl Scout Law Interpretive Poems

1. A Girl Scout tries her best to be honest and fair
(Fairness and honor shining bright, like a brilliant flame can split the night)
2. A Girl Scout tries her best to be friendly and helpful
(A hand held closed has nothing to bring, but open and giving, is a wonderful thing.)
3. A Girl Scout tries her best to be considerate and caring
(One kindness is small, but the magic it sends turns into two, and the chain never ends)
4. A Girl Scout tries her best to be courageous and strong
(Courage and strength, what love lies here; Bright as a smile, soft as a tear)
5. A Girl Scout tries her best to be responsible for what she says and does
(Smiles and laughter can make a burden light, and the sound of campfire singing brings a glory to the night.)
6. A Girl Scout tries her best to respect herself and others
(Grant us wisdom to keep in our memory what the worker wrought in stone, all that we send into the lives of others, comes back into our own)
7. A Girl Scout tries her best to respect authority
(To respect authority sometimes can be hard, but this is a need for you must follow that you may learn to lead.)
8. A Girl Scout tries her best to use resources wisely
(So much is given each of us as we go on our way, we must learn to spend life wisely, lest we waste one precious day.)
9. A Girl Scout tries her best to make the world a better place
Love for all things is one of heaven's keys.
10. A Girl Scout tries her best to be a sister to every Girl Scout
(When hearts seek hearts and hands seek hands, oceans are bridged and love links lands)

Girl Scout Promise Interpretation

- Part 1: This candle that I light shall shine as a symbol Girl Scouts are true to God and their Country.
- Part 2: May the light of this candle shine as a symbol that a Girl Scout's greatest desire is to be of service.
- Part 3: May the light of this candle shine as a symbol that a Girl Scouts are true to their ideals as interpreted by the Girl Scout Law.

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

To be friendly and helpful

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

To be considerate and caring

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

To be 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.

To be responsible for what I say and do

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

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

To respect authority

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

To use resources wisely - Our natural resources won't last forever. We will work to conserve them

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

To 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.

Symbolic Investiture/Rededication Ceremony

This ceremony can also be used on Thinking Day

All: Recite the Girl Scout Promise

Leader:: Juliette Gordon Low knew well that time flies swiftly,
Today is soon tomorrow,
And all of our tomorrows lie in the hands of our youth
Her gift to youth was Girl Scouting
And her dream a tree of fellowship grown from a tiny seed
She knew the seed would ripen
The tree grew
Nourished by faith
Watered by service
Tended by love

Girl 1: This candle is for the founder of Girl Scouting in the United States, Juliette Low.

Girl 2: We watch the glowing flame with grateful thoughts of Girl Scouts here and abroad who have put their friendship to a special test and found it true.

Girl 3: This candle is for the founder of all Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell.

Girl 4: We light the candles of friendship. These are symbols of our pledge as Girl Scouts of friendship to the entire world, and a special friendship to Girl Scouts everywhere. The flames are small, but burn steady and bright. We light them with the thoughts of friendship glowing steadily and brightly in our hearts.

Girl 5: This candle is for all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides wherever they may be tonight.

Girl 6: This candle is for service to our country.

Girl 7: This candle is for the hope of peace in every land.

Girl 8: This candle says "Good luck to all who are away from home."

Girl 9: This candle is for the Girl Scout law.

Girl 10: This candle is for the Promise we make as Girl Scouts.

Leader: We quench the flame of our candles, but the flame of friendship still glows in our hearts. May we always be true and helpful friends to each other and to all mankind

Leader pins each girl and exchanges the Girl Scout handshake. All candles are extinguished EXCEPT the Juliette Low candle. This candle is put out after the final song.

Sing "Girl Scouts Together" (or other appropriate song)

Flowers of Friendship Investiture/Rededication

Materials: Ten groups of flowers, a container to set flowers in, sachets or potpourri for each girl.

Girl 1: Welcome to our ceremony. In almost all countries and cultures there are ceremonies to mark important events in life - days of celebration, sad days, joyous days, days on which a special commitment is made, days that mark an achievement. Girl Scouts, too, have ceremonies to mark important events and significant days. We are here today to confirm or reaffirm our belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Girl 2: The Girl Scout Promise and Law are the foundation of all Girl Scouting. The Promise is like a basket that holds flowers. Flowers have always played an important role in human life. From the very earliest times, they have been given as tokens of love and respect and have served in ceremonies and rituals of all types. The flowers we mention in this ceremony symbolize the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law.

Girl 3: Please join me in repeating the Girl Scout Promise.

Girl 4: And now we will dedicate ourselves to living the Girl Scout Law I will do my best to be:

Each girl places one flower into the basket for each law

Girl 5: Honest and fair - This part of the law is represented by the white chrysanthemum. It shows truth, honor, trustworthiness, equality and fairness.

Girl 6: Friendly and helpful - The zinnia represents thoughtfulness about friends, while Baby's Breath represents generosity.

Girl 7: Considerate and caring - Together, a red and a white Rose stand for a warm and caring heart.

Girl 8: Courageous and strong - The garlic plant grows anywhere and has a strong flavor. It represents courage and strength of character and body. The Indian paintbrush shows cheerfulness even in difficulty.

Girl 9: And responsible for what I say and do - The gladiola symbolizes strength of character, maturity, and responsibility. Binding it with straw, we show that we honor our word and keep our agreements.

Girl 11: And to respect myself and others - The white Rose and white zinnia show that we hold ourselves worthy and good - Winter Greens symbolize the harmony we try to keep between ourselves and others.

Girl 12: respect authority - The daffodil represents careful thought, attention, and concern. With the daffodil, we are saying that we hold others in high regard.

Girl 13: use resources wisely - The foxglove shows thriftiness. When we use our resources wisely, we are being thrifty.

Girl 14: make the world a better place - The cattail represents the peace we are trying to bring to the world when we help others. The Caladium shows the great joy and delight we take in the world around us.

Girl 15: and be a sister to every Girl Scout - With the striped carnation, we are saying that we think about those Girl Scouts and Guides who are not here with us. It helps indicate our love for our fellow Scouts and Guides.

Closing: The sachet symbolizes our dedication to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Flowers alone do not last. The sachet (or potpourri), a combination of color, texture, shape, and aroma of each of the symbolic flowers, will always remind us of our commitment. A gift of fragrance is a gift of remembrance.

Values of Life Rededication (Junior/Cadette/Senior)

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 electric 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.

Adult Investiture/Rededication Ceremony 1

- Leader: Today we came in silence as we rededicate ourselves to Girl Scouting. We light three candles signifying the three parts of our Promise as together we renew it.
- All: On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country (*light candle*)
To help people at all times (*light candle*)
And to live by the Girl Scout Law (*light candle*)
- Leader: Our opportunity comes to us through value - the right to grow through our experience in the Promise and Law. This candle becomes a bright as we realize our golden opportunities (*light candle*)
- Adult: On my honor I will TRY. I cannot succeed if I do not try. So I will try, I may not always succeed but I will grow with every new experience as I put into practice the Promise and Law
- Leader: Our goal is to help girls be good citizens today and active citizens tomorrow (*light candle*)
- Adult: I am proud of God and my country. And on my honor I will try to serve God, my country, and help people at all times to the best of my ability.
- Leader: The Girl Scout loves her country and has knowledge of its relationship to the world (*light candle*)
- Adult: All women are sisters. We learn that there are many likenesses in all people, but where there are differences we gain exciting opportunities of understanding
- Leader: The pathway of Girl Scouting grows broader and other people become involved (*light candle*)
- Adult: Others need me. It is good to know that I have skills and knowledge which can make someone else happier
- Leader: Opportunities to develop into a more capable person are given to the Girl Scout as she assumes her role within the troop (*light candle*)
- Adult: I am a link in the golden chain of Girl Scouting. It can be no stronger than each link
- Leader: Each Girl Scout is an individual and by keeping herself forever fit, she is better ready to serve others and to enjoy everyday living (*light candle*)
- Adult: It is my privilege to keep myself physically fit, to live with kind thoughts and unselfish deeds and to keep myself morally strong
- Leader: And so the light grows brighter as it now fills this room and these hearts with the flame of accomplishment (*light candle*)

Each new leader receives a Girl Scout pin. Recite the Girl Scout Promise. Give the Girl Scout handshake.

Adult Investiture/Rededication 2

- Part 1: Girl Scouts are not a world apart, but a part of the world. As we dedicate ourselves today, let's keep in mind ways in which we can make Girl Scouting an even stronger part of our world. Here are some thoughts:
- Part 2: Juliette Low frequently reminded the National Board, when much organizational planning had to be done, we mustn't lose sight of the girls. The girls must always come first.
- Part 3: Thomas Edison said "Genius is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration."
- Part 4: Thank you for loaning me your daughter. For letting her make me smile - Thank you for letting her be a Girl Scout - It's an organization worthwhile - Author Unknown
- Part 5: We cannot learn from one another - until we stop shouting at one another; until we speak quietly enough so that our words can be heard as well as our voices. - Richard Nixon
- Part 6: Girls are the only reason for Girl Scouting. Everything in Girl Scouting is designed for their particular needs and interests
- Part 7: You don't have to think about doing the right thing. If you are for the right thing then you will do it without even thinking. - Maya Angelo (I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings)
- Part 8: Girl Scouts are multi-cultural. We not only welcome, but seek members from all racial, ethnic, religious, and socio-economic groups.
- Part 9: Look up and not down - Look forward and not back - Look out and not in - Lend a hand
- Part 10: According to Peter Drucker, often called the founding father of the discipline of management, the best run organization in the United States is the Girl Scouts. Tough, hardworking women can do anything.
- Part 11: When in charge – ponder; When in trouble – delegate; When in doubt – mumble
- Part 12: Ideas are clean. They soar in the supreme heavens. I can take them out and look at them, they fit in books; they lead me down that narrow way; and in the morning they are there. Ideas are straight - but the world is round, and a messy mortal is my friend - come walk with me in the mud... - Hugh Prather
- Part 13: Girl Scouting is people, people like you who give their time, their energy, and their love to help prepare today's girl for tomorrow's world.
- Part 14: Please join in reciting the Girl Scout Promise

Golden Link Investiture/Rededication Ceremony

Materials: Gold construction paper, cut into strips (one strip per girl); one strip with troop number; stapler.

Write each girl's name on the front of the strip. On the back of the link write "I am a link in the chain of the world of Girl Scouting. May I always keep my link strong and bright." Leader has one link with troop number on it.

Girls form a horseshoe – leaders are at open end.

Leader: Does anyone here wish to join Girl Scouts? If so, please step forward.

Girls/adults joining the troop come forward and receive her strip of construction paper, then return to the horseshoe

Leader: Does anyone here wish to rededicate themselves to Girl Scouting? If so, please step forward.

Girls/adults joining the troop come forward and receive her strip of construction paper, then return to the horseshoe. Each girl repeats the following:

Girl: "I am a link in the chain of the world of Girl Scouting. May I always keep my link strong and bright" as she links her strip to the next girl's

Leader: My link represents and unifies us together as Girl Scouts. Let's recite the Girl Scout Promise.

Recite the Girl Scout Promise.

Leader: Welcome to Girl Scouting!

Sing "*Make New Friends*"

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 Brownie Girl Scouts to Junior Girl Scouts is usually called Flying Up.
- For all other age levels (Daisy, Junior, Cadette and Senior) it is called Bridging

Who: Girl Scouts, their leaders, parents, Brownie 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 Brownie 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:

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

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.

A bridge out-of-doors at a park or forest preserve
An arch of colored paper
Stepping stones cut out of cardboard – one for each 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 Daisy Girl Scout and what she looks forward to as a Brownie Girl Scout

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 Brownie Girl Scouts)

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

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

- BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT: These flowers represent the spirit of Girl Scouting. This spirit is often represented with the Daisy, which was our founder, Juliette Low's, nickname.
- BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT: The first three flowers represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.
- DAISY GIRL SCOUT 1: On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country
- DAISY GIRL SCOUT 2: To help people at all times
- DAISY GIRL SCOUT 3: And to live by the Girl Scout Law
- DAISY GIRL SCOUT 4: I will do my best: To be honest and fair
- BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT: This means that you will always tell the truth and that you will share things and take turns with others.
- DAISY GIRL SCOUT 5: To be friendly and helpful
- BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT: 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.
- DAISY GIRL SCOUT 6: To be considerate and caring
- BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT: This means that you will respect the feelings of others and care about how they feel and what they think
- DAISY GIRL SCOUT 7: To be courageous and strong
- BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT: 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.
- DAISY GIRL SCOUT 8: To be responsible for what I say and do.

BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT:	This means that you will be careful about what you say and do so that you don't hurt other people or things
DAISY GIRL SCOUT 9:	To respect myself and others
BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT:	This means you will try to be the best person you can be, and will be courteous to others.
DAISY GIRL SCOUT 10:	To respect authority
BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT:	This means you will respect adults, obey the law and will cooperate with others.
DAISY GIRL SCOUT 11:	To use resources wisely
BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT:	This means you will try not to waste paper, will turn off the lights, and turn off water faucets after you use them.
DAISY GIRL SCOUT 12:	To make the world a better place
BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT:	This means you will help with a neighborhood clean up, put litter in trash cans, and treat all animals kindly.
DAISY GIRL SCOUT 13:	To be a sister to every Girl Scout
BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT:	This means you will be a kind friend to everyone, not just to a few people

Fly-Up Ceremonies

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

Formation: A Bridge; Junior Girl Scouts in a horseshoe formation on one side of the bridge; Brownie Girl Scouts 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 pins. Brownie Wings, Girl Scout pins, Membership Stars with green discs; brown construction paper cut to represent stones (write a 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 Brownie Girl Scouts 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 Brownie Girl Scout.

Share memories

Leader: You may wear your Brownie Girl Scout wings on your Junior Girl Scout 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 Junior Girl Scout, repeats the Girl Scout Promise. The leader gives the girl her Girl Scout Pin. They exchange the Girl Scout handshake. Girl joins the Junior Girl Scout 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

Brownie Girl Scouts sit on one side of the room in a Brownie Ring; Junior Girl Scouts 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 Junior Girl Scouts, new adventures you've been told.

Brownie Leader: I would like to present my Brownie Girl Scouts 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 Junior Girl Scouting 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 Junior Girl Scouts 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 Cadette Girl Scouts Ceremony 1

Girls stand in horseshoe formation. Recite the Girl Scout Promise

Leader: The trail of Scouting winds wide and long
From Brownies and Beanies and sit-upons
To campouts and Juniors and Badges to earn
So much to do, so much to learn
Then over the bridge and on to Cadettes
With memories and pleasures we'll never forget
Now (girl's names), Scouts tried and true
Cross over the bridge, we give them to you
A gift of a girl is a precious thing
Take care and great joy they will bring

Junior leader presents each girl with Bridge to Cadettes patch and a candle with a silk daisy attached. Cadettes cross over the bridge. After all girl are in the horseshoe:

Leader: The daisy symbolizes your dedication to the Girl Scout Movement, which was started by our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, and began in our country an March 12, 1912. Juliette Low's nickname was Daisy. You are following in her footsteps as you become a unique and caring influence in today's and tomorrow's world.

On table - 1 candle for each world color (red, orange, yellow, blue, and purple) and a green candle representing Girl Scouting. Also, need one white candle with a daisy. Cadettes light appropriate candles

- Girl 1: *(White Candle with Daisy)* The light of Cadettes I share with you as you explore the Girl Scout World through Interest Projects, Service, Career Exploration, and leadership opportunities.
- Girl 2: The red candle stands for the World of Well-Being, which helps young women understand themselves, their values, needs, emotions, and strengths, while also being aware of what it takes to be physically fit.
- Girl 3: The orange candle stands for the World of Today and Tomorrow, which lets a young woman look into the hows and whys of things, to solve problems and to recognize the ways their present interests can build toward future ones.
- Girl 4: The yellow candle stands for the World of the Out-of-Doors. Explorations in this world can help a young woman to enjoy and appreciate her natural environment and to take action to protect and preserve her world and environment.
- Girl 5: The blue candle stands for the World of People. This world can help a young woman to build pride in her own heritage, while appreciating the uniqueness of each culture and the common theme of all peoples.
- Girl 6: The purple candle stands for the World of the Arts, to develop a personal taste and appreciation for the many art forms and things of beauty in the world around them.

After each Color of the Worlds candle is lit, light the green candle saying:

Girl 7: From the light of the world of Girl Scouting, may your Girl Scout world ever grow

Each girl takes her white candle and lights it from the green one as the leader says:

Leader: From the Girl Scout Worlds, take your light into the world and let it shine forth with love and knowledge.

Girls return to horseshoe

Sing "Girl Scouts Together" or "When E'er You Make A Promise"

Bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts Ceremony 2 (with Cadette Girl Scouts)

Materials: Candles (one for each Junior Girl Scout)

Junior Girl Scouts form a horseshoe at one end of the bridge; Cadette Girl Scouts form a horseshoe on the other side. The leader gives each Junior Girl Scout 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 Cadette Girl Scout.

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

Cadette Girl Scout: 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?

Junior Girl Scout: 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 Cadette Girl Scout 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 Cadette Girl Scouts Ceremony 3

Leader: We present to you a Silver Key, which symbolizes that you are seeking to unlock the door to Cadette Girl Scouts 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 Cadette Girl Scout?

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 Cadette Girl Scout the Silver Award.

Bridge to Senior Girl Scouts Ceremony 1

Materials: Eight (8) White Candles, Candle holder

Cadette Girl Scouts form a horseshoe at one end of the bridge; Senior Girl Scouts form a horseshoe on the other side. The leader gives each Cadette Girl Scout 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 Senior Girl Scout.

Leader: When you are a Senior Girl Scout, your life is filled with action. Senior Girl Scouts have many opportunities coming their way. You can take part in special events and activities planned by Senior Girl Scouts. 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 Senior Girl Scout 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 Senior Girl Scout 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 Senior Girl Scouts Ceremony 2

Senior Girl Scout: Tonight we celebrate with Cadette Girl Scouts 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 Senior Girl Scout Program. Please recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law with us.

Senior Girl Scout: 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.

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

Senior Girl Scout: (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 I.D 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 that 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 flag 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 Brownie Girl Scout 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
Junior Girl Scouts are true and kind
So now I give you your Brownie Wings
So you may fly to bigger things

The Brownie crosses the bridge. Junior Girl Scouts line up on the other side. Junior Girl Scouts greet them on the other side of bridge and escort each of them to their horseshoe. Junior Girl Scout 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. Cadette Girl Scouts 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 Cadette Girl Scout the Girl Scout handshake before they cross the bridge. Senior Girl Scouts meet them on the other side and escort them to their horseshoe.

Close ceremony by singing Girl Scouts Together

THINKING DAY CEREMONIES

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 white 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.

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, Macy's, Our Cabana, Olave House and Sangam.

Thinking Day Ceremony 3

Girl Scouts form a circle or horseshoe with ten candles in a trefoil candleholder on a table in the center. Each girl represents a country and lights one of the candles as she recites her part of the Girl Scout Law

- Leader: Today is Thinking Day, the joint birthday of our founders, the late Lord Baden-Powell, and his wife, Olave Baden-Powell, our World Chief Guide. On this day Girl Guides and Girl Scouts everywhere gather to think of their sisters throughout the world, and to send them greetings. In our international family we are bound together by the unseen chain of our three fold Promise and the Law. Let us now bring in the Law in the words of other countries.
- Leader: The first law from Sweden
Part 1 A Girl Guide speaks the truth and keeps her word
- Leader: The second law from Finland
Part 2 A guide is loyal and respects the convictions of others
- Leader: The third law from Argentina
Part 3 A Guide serves and helps other people without expecting reward or praise
- Leader: The fourth law from Norway
Part 4: a Girl Guide is friendly to all and a good comrade
- Leader: The fifth law from Australia
Part 5 the Girl Guide is grateful and courteous
- Leader: The sixth law from Austria
Part 6 A Girl Guide sees God in nature and therefore protects plants and animals
- Leader: The seventh law from Haiti
Part 7 A Girl Guide obeys without question and does nothing in halves
- Leader: The eighth law from Belgium
Part 8 the Girl Guide is always good-tempered
- Leader: The ninth law from Italy
Part 9 A Girl Guide is hardworking and thrifty, and takes care of other people's property
- Leader: The Tenth law from Luxembourg
Part 10: a Girl Guide has self-respect
- Leader: These are our laws. We try hard to keep them so that the spirit of Girl Guiding may bring light into the world, as our candles bring light into the room. While each part of the law is followed, the flame of the Girl Scout spirit will never die.

Thinking Day Ceremony 4

Materials needed: Eight small candles with holders, one large candle with drip catcher, large cardboard cutout of the World Association trefoil in appropriate colors
Nine girls representing Finland, Brazil, Italy, India, Ghana, Japan, Great Britain, and America - carry small, unlighted candles

Spirit of Friendship (carries a large candle - Light it prior to the ceremony)

Place the cutout of the WAGGGS Pin in the center of the floor. Girls form a semi-circle around the trefoil facing the audience or form a large circle around the trefoil.

Spirit of Friendship: (step forward) My name is Friendship. Every night and day, I knock upon the doors of the world. I cry to be let in. Too many times I'm turned away, because the people fear - but when youth lifts the latch, I walk straight in! You bid me welcome, Sisterhood of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of the world. So, on this day when thoughts and friendship travel fast and far, I come among you to renew our pledge of fellowship, and to hear once more your law.

Troop: A Girl Scout will do her best to be a sister to every Girl Scout

Spirit of Friendship: Let us speak in many languages the pledge of friendship and of sisterhood.

Finland: *(Step forward, walks to Friendship, lights her candle, returns to the left base of the trefoil where she places her candle in the holder and kneels beside it):*
Finland's my home, where sun at midnight shines on mountain snow; where work and service light us, like our sun. Friendship and peace are the aims of Girl Guides in our land. Our hope is that soon in all the world there shall be no more night.

Brazil: *(Step forward)* Brazil's my country. Beneath the Southern Cross the mountains plunge into a palm fringed sea. This wonderland, our home, teaches us Guides reverence for all creation, love our friends.

Italy: *(Step forward)* From Girl Guides of Italy, I bring you greetings! While war still raged, we organized our troops

India: *(step forward)* And from the Asian continent I come, bearing good wishes from our Indian Guides

Friendship: Italy, India, light your flames, and ring our trefoil round with stars of trust

Ghana: (Light candle from Friendship, light candle on trefoil) From another continent I am bringing you greetings from Ghana. At home, the trefoil makes us all as one, links us, regardless of our race or creed. So to our sisterhood honor and love

Japan: (Similar action to Ghana's) Happy are we, in far Japan, because we are your sisters, too, and share the Law and Promise, and the fun of being Girl Guides. I light this candle for my friends at home.

- Friendship: I call now on the country where your dream of fellowship became born the dreamer of the dream, who made it come to life throughout the world; the birthplace of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell
- Great Britain: (Similar action) Greetings from Great Britain's Guides who reach across the sea to grasp your hands
- Friendship: Lastly on the United States I call. One nation formed from many, where men live at peace together, and where friendship walks at will
- United States: (Similar action) Over three million strong, we Girl Scouts of the United States seek understanding and true fellowship among us at home. With our friends around, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides, we shall keep faith

Sing "Make New Friends" as the countries pick up their candles and return to their places in the semi-circle. The Spirit of Friendship also returns to her original position. The troop leaves as they came - in silence.

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). The pattern for the Trefoil pieces is on the following page)

- 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.

World Association Flag Ceremony

- Materials: World Association Flag or the same pieces as the World Trefoil Pin Ceremony)
Index cards to write individual parts. Depending on how many girls are participating, divide the parts equally. Or one girl can read all of the questions, and other girls can respond.
- Girl 1: What is the World Association Flag?
- Girl 2: The World Association Flag of every Girl Guide and Girl Scout where there are World Association troops all over the world.
- Girl 3: Why is the World Association Flag blue?
- Girl 4: It represents the color of the sky which is all around the world.
- Girl 5: Why do we have a trefoil on the World Association Flag?
- Girl 6: The three leaves of the trefoil stand for the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. Every Girl Guide and Girl Scout pin in the world have a trefoil on it
- Girl 7: There are two stars on the World Association Flag. What does the left star stand for?
- Girl 8: The left star stands for the promise every Girl Guide and Girl Scout tries to live by
- Girl 9: What does the right star stand for?
- Girl 10: This star stands for the Girl Scout Law which every Girl Guide and Girl Scout lives by.
- Girl 11: What does the pointer mean?
- Girl 12: The pointer represents a compass needle leading the way. It points to the heavens and stands for our faith.
- Girl 13: Why does the trefoil have a flame?
- Girl 14: The flame represents love of humanity
- Girl 15: Why is there a circle around it?
- Girl 16: The circle represents the circle of friendship in our worldwide association.
- Girl 17: Why is the blaze white?
- Girl 18: It represents the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts commitment to peace.
- Girl 19: Why are there three golden blocks above the blaze?
- Girl 20: They symbolize the three-fold promise made by Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world.

Juliette Low World Friendship Fund Story

This game is appropriate on Juliette Low's birthday (October 31), on Thinking Day (February 22) or at any event when contributions to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund are made.

ACTIONS: World, stand and spin once.
Juliette Low, join hand with person on right and left.
Girl Scout or Girl Scouting, smile and give the Girl Scout sign.

Once upon a time there was a lady whose name was Juliette Low. She became interested in Scouting through her friends, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, when she visited them in England. They started Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts there.

Juliette Low thought Girl Scouts was a wonderful idea. When she returned to America, she decided to start a Girl Scout troop. So on March 12, 1912, in her home town, Savannah, Georgia, Juliette Low started the first Girl Scout troop in her part of the world.

After that she traveled all over our country, helping to start more Girl Scout troops. Juliette Low believed Girl Scouting was such a fine thing that she wanted to see Girl Scout troops all over the world. She knew that Girl Scouting would help girls to become friends and would help toward world peace and good will.

Juliette Low died in 1927, and her friends decided that the greatest tribute that could be paid to such a charming lady would be to continue working towards the realization of her dream of world friendship. A memorial fund was started. It was called the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. Each year all Girl Scouts in the United States are given the opportunity to bring money for this fund which helps Girl Scouting all over the world.

When Girl Scouts drop your money into your Juliette Low World Friendship Fund box, you can imagine the far places of the world to which this money will travel and the ways it will help Girl Scouts. This money will help buy a Girl Scout uniform for a girl in Belgium who can't afford one, or help send older Girl Scouts from our country to Our Chalet, an International Camp in Switzerland, where Girl Scouts from all over the world get together to learn more about each other, or maybe it will help to start new Girl Scout troops in other countries.

No one knows what parts of the world this money may travel - no one knows the ways in which it will one day come back to us in new friends. But we all know that as we give our money to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, we are helping to spread Girl Scouting around the world.

Juliette Low Ceremony

This ceremony is appropriate to present money to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, on Thinking Day (February 22nd) or on Juliette Low's birthday (October 31st)

Materials: American flag, small table centrally located, two candles with candlesticks, flowers or leaves arranged on table

Participants: Two Girl Scout Masters of Ceremony, Leader, other troop members

Girls form a horseshoe. The Color Guard enters. Salute the flag and the sing a patriotic song. At the conclusion of the flag ceremony, post the flag at the side of the table. The Color Guard takes its place in the horseshoe. The Masters of Ceremony step forward to the right and left of the table.

Girl 1: I light this candle for Juliette Low who started our Girl Scout organization in 1912. Even though she is no longer with us, her spirit continues to lead us constantly to greater growth and fellowship. Today there are over three million Girl Scouts in the United States (light candle)

Girl 2: Juliette Low's desire was to bring love and understanding to all girls in every land. Her dream is coming true, for today Girl Scouts and Girl Guides have members around the world. I light this candle to honor our founder, Juliette Low, and all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides the world over (light candle)

Each girl adds her contribution into the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, and then returns to the horseshoe formation

Girl 3: When you became a Girl Scout, you made a promise. Let's rededicate ourselves by reciting the Girl Scout Promise.

Girl Scout Week Ceremony

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

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

Keeper of the Ashes Ceremony

After a campfire is out and cooled, gather a few of the ashes in a small container such as a film canister or medicine bottle. These ashes are awarded to one girl at the campout who best exemplifies the Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law in her life. The entire group writes down the name of one of the girls in the troop and puts it into a container. The leaders collect the container and in the morning announce the next Keeper of the Ashes. The new keeper may wish to say a few words of thanks. The Keeper brings the ashes to the next campout and the ceremony is repeated. The ashes from the previous campfire are added to the fire ring before the campfire is started.

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

The purpose of an opening or closing ceremony is to officially open or close a meeting. A brief simple ceremony can quickly establish a spirit of unity.

Brownie Rings or Patrols can take turns planning and carrying out the ceremony each week.

- Brownies can open their meeting by singing "Round, and Round, and Round about"
- Have a flag ceremony
- Repeat the Girl Scout Promise or Girl Scout Law
- Sing a song

MEMBERSHIP STAR CEREMONY

Generally membership stars are given to the girls during a Court of Awards ceremony. However, a special ceremony for membership stars can be held.

Girls gather in a large circle. Place a cardboard star (covered with aluminum foil) in the center of the circle. The leader calls each girl to the large star and gives her the membership star and disc. She says:

"Keep this star bright by night and day, with many good turns along your way."

After all girls have received their stars, girls may share one of their favorite activities from the past year.

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 Award 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.

Brownie Try-It Ceremony

Decorate with samples of the completed activities, Try-Its. Girls could draw pictures of the activities they did.

Leader: To complete a Brownie Try-It, our troop choose to work on the following Try-Its: name the Try-Its). Let's tell about what we tried and learned. (Ask each girl to name one thing they tried to do on a Try-It activity. Present each girl with her Try-It award).

Brownie Court of Award Ceremony - Tree of Knowledge

Prepare a tree with branches (use a real tree, or a paper tree). Cut out construction paper leaves and write an activity on each leaf that girls have completed to earn the awards.

Perform flag ceremony; sing an appropriate song.

Leader: This is the Tree of Knowledge. The tree trunk represents Girl Scouting. Each branch represents an area of interest. Each leaf represents the knowledge and skill we acquired as we branched out to explore each area.

Each girl reads the activity on her leaf and ties or tapes it to the tree.

After all leaves are attached, present the girls their awards.

Close the ceremony with a Brownie Ring and a Friendship circle (or squeeze).

Junior/Cadette Court of Awards

Write each letter of the word BADGE on a 9 x 12 piece of paper or poster board. Write the explanations on the back of the appropriate letter. Girls may create their own ideas for each letter.

B stands for **Badges** to be given today - What is a badge? It is a symbol of an accomplishment.

The scrap of colored material is not as important as the job that was done to earn it.

A is for **Awards**. We are rewarded for new knowledge, new skills learned, and new opportunities.

D stands for **Deeds**. Good deeds done now and in the future for family, friends, and the community. These good deeds were done with the knowledge and skills acquired through our badge work.

G stands for the **Girl** in Girl Scouts and the growth we achieve through living the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

E is for **Eagerness** and **Energy** necessary to earn badges. Badges require hard work and are not always easy to accomplish. Badges present challenges and satisfaction in accomplishment.

S stands for so many things. **Service** to others, **Self-Development**, and most important, **Self-Respect** - the way you feel about yourself as a person.

Leader: Today we receive our awards as recognition of our accomplishments.

Bouquets of Badges

Make daisies from construction paper. Use double sided tape or staple badges to the center of each flower. The girls' name, troop number, etc. can be written on the daisy petals. Add a wire stem and leaves and place in a vase and you have a table decoration for your ceremony.

Ideas for Presenting Awards

- Wrap the awards in festive packages
- Put badges on pipe cleaner stems and put in a flower pot
- Put in a plastic egg for a springtime ceremony
- Put outdoor recognitions on leafy branches or pine boughs, In a bandana on a stick, on a wood plaque
- Put Life skill recognitions on a paper doll chain, attach to international flags, or on small U.S. Flags
- Put recognitions from the World of Well Being
- On cardboard hearts
- On tongue depressors
- Put Science and Technology recognitions on paper airplanes, attached to pencils or rulers
- Attach Art and History recognitions paintbrushes or sheet music, In crayon boxes, strung on balloons, with a photograph of something girls did

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 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:

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

How long should it last?

Daisy/Brownie Girl Scouts: 10 minutes
Junior Girl Scouts: 10-15 minutes
Cadette Girl Scouts: 15-20 minutes
Senior Girl Scouts: 20-30 minutes

Theme: Friendship

Sing "Hello"

Recite a Poem: New Friends and Old Friends by Joseph Parry

Make new friends, but keep the old
Those are silver, these are gold
New-made friendships, like new wine
Age will mellow and refine

Friendships that have stood the test
Of time and change - are surely best
Brow may wrinkle, hair grow gray
Friendship never knows decay

For 'mid old friends, tried and true
Once more we reach and youth renew
But old friends, alas, may die
New friends must their place supply

Cherish friendships in your breast
New is good, but old is best
Make new friends, but keep the old

Those are silver, these are gold

Sing "Make New Friends"

Sing "Friendship"

Friendship is a shiny thing, a steady beam of light
A lantern on a lonely street, a song far in the night
A smile, a touch of a loving hand, a quiet moment on a hill
And, oh, what a happy little child bringing home a daffodil

Friendship is a binding tie of one soul to another
A gentle soft relationship as children to a father and a mother
Raindrops thumping on an autumn leaf, an outpost on a hill
And, oh, what a happy little child bringing home a daffodil

Friendship is a happy thought, warmth in your heart
Friends are those who understand, friends will never part
Of two people very much in love in a world that is never still
And, oh, what a happy little child bringing home a daffodil

Friendship feels so warm inside, it heals a broken soul
The road is rough but in the end a love we all shall know
So grab the gladness 'round your heart and let friendship shine through
Remember love and the daffodil and how they both grew
And, oh, what a happy little child bringing home a daffodil

Poem by Albert Camus

Don't walk in front of me
I may not follow
Don't walk behind me
I may not lead
Walk beside me
And just be my friend

Taking Hold of Hands (a story)

A country girl was on her way to school with her little neighbors. The school bell was ringing and they must climb the hill. It was winter and the path was icy; to slip backward was easier than to climb forward. A little maid turned to lead and encourage the group, calling cheerily, "Let's take hold of hands, its easier taking hold of hands".

Our life is an adventure in comradeship which calls for the taking hold of hands. All growth in understanding involves sharing in the understanding which other people have won. We are highly privileged if we can join hands with them and share what they have learned through costly experience.

But we should remember always that we must give as well as receive. For, much as we need the experience of others, it is equally true that others need the experience which we have won and which we alone can give.

Theme: Girl Scouts

All: Sing a song about Girl Scouts (Girl Scouts Together, Make New Friends)

Girl: **G** is for Girl - that's why we are here

Girl: **I** is for Interest - without that we wouldn't care

Girl: **R** is for Ready - to start to take our place in the world

Girl: **L** is for Living - the Girl Scout way

Girl: **S** is for Seeking - to learn, to explore

Girl: **C** is for Country - we'll try to do our share and more

Girl: **O** is for Obligation - to live up to the Promise we've made

Girl: **U** is for Unity - together, one for all

Girl: **T** is for Trust - without that, we'd all fall

All: I am a Girl Scout

Girl: I have a Promise. It has three parts. Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world are sisters and friends in this Promise.

All: Repeat the Girl Scout Promise

Girl: I have a Law. This is the code by which I try to live. This law should be used daily in every Girl Scout's life - in all she does in work and play.

All: I am a Girl Scout. Repeat the Girl Scout Law, sing "When E'er You Make A Promise" (Sing Together, pg. 25)

Girl: I have a motto - Be Prepared. This means that I can be depended upon, whenever I am needed. This is my duty - to be ready when called upon.

All: I am a Girl Scout

Girl: I have a slogan - Do a good turn daily. I will try to help other people.

All: I am a Girl Scout

Girl: I have a sign. This I give whenever I repeat my Promise. It is important to stand erect to show my pride in belonging. This reminds me to think straight and to realize my duty as a citizen. I give the Girl Scout sign to other Girl Scouts and Girl Guides because it is the sign of friendship. The three fingers stand for the three parts of the Promise.

All: I am a Girl Scout

Girl: I have a uniform and am proud to wear it. It must be neat at all times. When in uniform, I try harder than usual to obey the Girl Scout Law.

All: Sing "On My Honor"

Theme: Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law

Recite the Girl Scout Promise. Each group tells what the Law means to them.

Sing: "Girl Scouts Together"

Read a short story or poem

Sing: "When E'er You Make a Promise"

Divide girls into pairs or equal groups, one for each part of the Law.

P Partnership with God and our fellow man

R Responsibility, which, when accepted, makes us a better person

O Opportunities, many opportunities that come to us through Girl Scouting

M Moments that we'll treasure always

I Individuality, the mark of a strong person

S Service, the foundation of Girl Scouting

E Experiences, little ones and big ones, too.

L Laughter, an effective medicine for all aches and pains, emotional & physical

A Adventure: the kind of thing that can change an ordinary day into a momentous one

W Work, good and simple, without it we could not live - merely exist

All: And remember always, a smile is the trademark of a Girl Scout

Sing "Taps"

OTHER CEREMONIES

Building the Girl Scout Pin (Traditional)

As each girl says her part, light a candle as a symbol of the three parts of the Promise and the ten parts of the Law

Girl 1: Our Girl Scout pin is symbolic of our fundamental beliefs - beliefs which have not changed since our beginning. Beliefs which help each girl attain the highest development of which she is capable. This pin is in the shape of a trefoil, meaning three-fold, and reminds us of the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

All: On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country...

Girl 2: We learn to find God in nature, to recognize spiritual values as more important than material ones, to seek the beautiful, and to see God in other people. Girl Scouts learn devotion to and seek pride in their country.

All: On my honor, I will try: to help people at all times...

Girl 3: In her consideration for others, a Girl Scout learns to give generous, selfless service. She comes to realize that service to others is an expression of dedication to people.

All: On my honor, I will try: to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl 4: The Girl Scout Law is a guide for daily living - stated simply enough for a young girl to apply to her own life, profound enough to serve as a measuring post for adults. Think about the people you admire; what makes you admire them - friendliness, dependability, enthusiasm to serve. These are the qualities that the Girl Scout Law helps us attain.

- Girl 5: Tying together all parts of the Promise and serving as its foundation is the fact that we pledge on our honor to try. When we are discouraged, when we have made mistakes, our Promise reminds us that the best we can do is to keep on trying with a sincere effort. We do more than believe in our Promise, we try to live by it. Our pin is symbolic of our Promise, and we are here to explain the parts of our pin tonight.
- Girl 6: The eagle is a bird of great endurance and strength. It is used on the Great Seal of the United States to represent power and strength. We wear it on our pin because we are chartered by the Congress of the United States.
- Girl 7: The Shield represents protection. In the design of the Great Shield of the United States, it rests only on the eagle to show that we are a self-sufficient government. One of our aims in Girl Scouting is to become self-reliant citizens.
- Girl 8: In the right talon of the eagle is an olive branch representing peace. To show that we are a peace loving nation, the eagle's head faces the olive branch. Girl Scouting is similarly a peace-time movement.
- Girl 9: However, the arrows show preparedness to fight for our ideals. As Girl Scouts, we prepare ourselves to cope with every situation and emergency.
- Girl 10: On the scroll are the words E Pluribus Unum, meaning one from many. There are many states but one nation. In the United States we have three million in Girl Scouting. Each one is an individual personality, each one has her own place, but we are working in one organization toward one goal according to the ideals that we have in common.
- Girl 11: The G.S. on the pin stands for Girl Scout. It means many different things to many different people. All of us have to decide what it means to us - new friends we have made, things we have learned, understandings about people we have gained, experiences we could have not have had except as a Girl Scout. The list is almost as endless as the number of people in the organization.
- Girl 12: Three candles lighted here represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. Ten candles lighted here represent the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law. All rise and join us in singing Girl Scouts Together.

Building the Girl Scout Pin (Contemporary)

- Girl 1: Our pin is symbolic of our fundamental beliefs which have not changed since our beginning. Beliefs which help each girl attain the highest development of which she is capable. This pin is in the shape of a trefoil, meaning three-fold, and reminds us of the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.
- All: On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country...
- Girl 2: We learn to find God in nature, to recognize spiritual values as more important than material ones, to seek the beautiful, and to see God in other people. Girl Scouts learn devotion to and seek pride in their country.
- All: On my honor, I will try: to help people at all times...
- Girl 3: In her consideration for others, a Girl Scout learns to give generous, selfless service. She comes to realize that service to others is an expression of dedication to people.

- All: On my honor, I will try: to live by the Girl Scout Law.
- Girl 4: The Girl Scout Law is a guide for daily living - stated simply enough for a young girl to apply to her own life, profound enough to serve as a measuring post for adults. Think about the people you admire; what makes you admire them - friendliness, dependability, enthusiasm to serve. These are the qualities that the Girl Scout Law helps us attain.
- Girl 5: Tying together all parts of the Promise and serving as its foundation is the fact that we pledge on our honor to try. When we are discouraged, when we have made mistakes, our Promise reminds us that the best we can do is to keep on trying with a sincere effort. We do more than believe in our Promise, we try to live by it. Our pin is symbolic of our Promise, and we are here to explain the parts of our pin tonight.
- Girl 6: Our pin retains the original trefoil. However, Girl Scouting is changing and we want the public to see what we are today, so we present a new symbol, a new face for Girl Scouting.
- All: We are contemporary.
- Girl 7: Girl Scouting offers informal and useable education to help prepare us to live in a world of fast changing needs and resources. The open edges of the trefoil signify our openness and flexibility to change. The three faces face to the right - to the future.
- All: We are pluralistic.
- Girl 8: Girl Scouts is available to all girls. We must commit ourselves to a goal of racial, cultural, and socio-economic diversity and respect and appreciate that diversity.
- All: We are independent.
- Girl 9: Through new concepts of volunteerism, Girl Scouting is a major organization - locally, nationally, and worldwide - will help us grow and develop values and achieve our full potential.

How to Grow a Girl Scout Volunteer

Make a card for each of the following words to make a garden.

Peas: Promptness, perseverance, preparation, participation, presence, purity, and performance

Squash: squash unfairness, squash criticism, squash indifference,

Lettuce: Let us delegate responsibility, Let us give assistance whenever, necessary, Let us recognize the importance of pooling ideas and encourage full and free ideas and encourage full, and free discussion before decisions are made. Let us appreciate and respect the attitudes of other people, Let us encourage cooperation, Let us arrive in advance of scheduled meetings, with all materials needed, Let us be prepared

Turnips: Turn up for meetings, Turn up with enthusiasm, Turn up with new ideas, Turn up with a smile

The harvest is one terrific Girl Scout Volunteer

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 Girl Scout's Prayer

Help us to be good Girl Scouts
Girls whom the world can trust,
Help us respect our neighbor's rights
And never be unjust.

Help us as Americans
To be worthy of the flag we bear
Then help us as real Girl Scouts
Proud of the uniform we wear.

Help us to be clean
In thought, word, and deed
And help us to follow the law
That is in the Girl Scout creed

Teach us to love our fellow man
And then to serve him, too
Help our actions to count
In everything we do.

Give us strength to carry on
And do our part each day,
Make a place in this world for us
And help us fill it, I pray.

Make us what we ought to be
And in Thy footsteps fall,
Help us to live for others
O great Girl Scout of us all.

Investiture Ceremony Poem

These golden trefoils in my hand
Upon our new Girl Scouts we will bestow
But first the meaning that the trefoil bears
The spirit of our Promise we must know

Three gold leaves that the trefoil wears
Threefold the Promise that it bears
To serve God and your country dear
To bring others hope and cheer

And everyday in every way
The Girl Scout Law we learn to obey
And yet another message too
These three gold leaves should bring to you

There are three ways each girl should grow
Three sides of life each Girl Scout should know

Your body is the temple of your soul
Build it strong and straight and fair
In God's great out-of-doors your kingdom lies
Health and happiness await you there

In beauty, too, in this great land
Our God made so fair
Seek long for Beauty, and even more
Make beauty where no beauty was before

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

Around the Campfire

Come place a log around the fire
A sign of friendship true
Then you may sit and talk with me
And I shall talk to you

I've learned to see with open mind
The grandeur near at hand
And all that nature gives to us
I've tried to understand

The years have flown since last we sat
Beside a campfire bright
But I have longed to talk to you
As we shall talk tonight

I do not long for distant shores
But just to have the time
To roam about these mountain woods
And make them really mine

I have not traveled far in miles
But with my questing eyes
I've found unbounded beauty waits
Beneath these spacious skies

I'll place more wood upon the fire
To keep our campsite bright
For I am glad that you, my friend
Are here with me tonight

Discovery

Today I smiled and all at once
Things didn't look so bad
Today I shared with someone else
A bit of hope I had
Today I sang a little song
And felt my heart grow light
And walked a happy little mile
Without a cloud in sight
Today I worked with what I had
And longed for nothing more
And what seemed like only weed
Were flowers at my door
Today I loved a little more
Complained a little less
And in the giving of myself
Forgot my weariness

A Girl Scout Leader's Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and excitement of your meeting, remembering that this is one sign of good Scouting.

Go as far as possible without surrender.

Be on good terms with all your fellow leaders.

Plan your programs carefully and cheerfully.

Listen to others; even the youngest Daisy Girl Scout. She will give you many moments of joy.

Avoid loud and aggressive gatherings of Leaders, except when you're part of one.

If you compare your troop with others, do not become vain or bitter, for success can only be judged by the smiles on their faces.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep in mind the aim of the movement, however hard to understand at times, it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution with your troop funds, for a Girl Scout works hard for her money. But let this not blind you to what Girl Scouting is all about.

Be yourself.

Have fun. Don't burn out too soon; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, those girls are depending on you.

Take kindly the counsel of your Service Team; they will help you all that they can.

Nurture strength of spirit in case of a failure, but do not blame yourself... you have done your best. Don't forget, what you think of as failure may be super fun to your Girl Scouts.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are the most important person in Girl Scouting! We need more adults like you to help the youth of this world. And whether or not it is clear to you, you are molding the future of this country.

With all its hard work and sometimes frustration, it continues to fulfill Juliettes dream.

Angel in Green – a Poem

Having left mortal earth I passed through Heaven's gate
And while anxiously awaiting the outcome of my fate
I walked amongst the angels all robed in purest white
Whereupon I saw a figure that cast a greenish light

She sat upon a misty cloud, a harp held to her breast,
In a flowing, blowing gown of green, unlike all the rest;
I asked what great deed she'd done to earn the special hue
That gave her color where others had none, or maybe just a few.

She said, on earth I sought no fame, fortune was not my goal
I shunned the power of politics and worked without a toll;
I spent time with children, helping them to grow
For as you reap in life, so must you learn to sow.

You see, she said, the dividend while growing up I'd share
I repaid where many others were too self involved to care;
Girl Scouts was my choice of roads to follow in my quest
For among the girls I found a love deeper than the rest.

A teacher was I, my work was hard, I had no diploma or pay
But where family and institutions failed I helped them find the way;
The lessons I taught were obscure and difficult to see
For they didn't have names like spelling or math or geometry

They were lessons in life delivered through guided experience
And they taught such things as character, spirit, and confidence;
Though on earth my life was blessed, it's even more so today
For when I look down I see my work as my girls show others the way.

On earth Girl Scouting taught me to leave things better than before
And the same applies to that mortal place where life never was a bore
Now having lived by that Girl Scout rule in every earthly endeavor
I have become an Angel in Green and shall be a Girl Scout forever.

The Red, White and Blue

What does our flag mean to you?
Does it mean just colors - red, white and blue?
Just a piece of cloth that proudly waves
From buildings tall and soldier's graves

Or does it mean people like you and me
Who love this land of liberty?
People whose skins may be brown or white
But bravely work for freedom and right?

Can you see in its folds the mountains and hills
Wide flowing rivers and picturesque rills
Fields golden with ripening grain
And cowboys roaming across the plain

Cities with skyscrapers stately and tall
And towns and villages large and small
Farms that supply our tables with food
And orchards and forests that yield fruit and wood?

These are the things in our flag that I see
Symbol of a nation that loves liberty
So to our flag let us pledge to be true
God bless you and keep you, dear Red, White
and Blue

A Careful Soul

A careful soul I have to be,
A little Girl Scout follows me.
To a narrow path I must stay,
For if I don't, she too, will stray
I must choose my deeds with care.
For all I do, she too, will dare.
My words I guard and softly speak
And I must love the strong and the weak.
Oh, I must be fair, from the start.
And boldly lead with a steady heart.
In all I say and all I do.
I promise to strive to be true.
Because you know
Where're I go
A careful soul I have to be
A little Girl Scout follows me!

The American's Creed

I believe in

The United States of America as a
Government of the people, by the people, for the people
Whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed
A democracy in a republic
A sovereign Nation of many sovereign States
A perfect Union, one and inseparable
Established upon those principals of freedom, equality, and justice
And humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country
To love it; to support its Constitution
To obey its laws, to respect its flag, and
To defend it against all enemies

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 ld 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

(Chorus)

'Cause there's plenty more where I come from
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.