

# Guidelines for Planning Girl Scout CEREMONIES



**girl scouts**  
of the jersey shore

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*Editor's Note: To conserve resources, we ask that you only print out ceremonies as needed and print on both sides of the paper. Also, this is a work in progress. Please check back regularly as ceremonies are added.*

*For additional resources, check with the Council's service centers for equipment that you can borrow (bridge, candle holders, flags, uniforms, etc.) and books and ideas. Also, consult with leaders and older girl members in your Region that can share ideas and help.*

# INTRODUCTION

## Basics of a Girl Scout Ceremony

### What is a Girl Scout ceremony?

A Girl Scout ceremony is one method used by members to express the ideals of the Girl Scout movement. It is also a symbol of honor recognizing a special event or circumstance.

### When are Girl Scout ceremonies held?

Girl Scout ceremonies may be held at anytime of the day or night; may be formal or informal; and may be held by a large or small group.

They are used to recognize accomplishments, special events, or to signify the beginning or end of a meeting. They provide a means to express feeling, friendship, patriotism and service.

### Who plans Girl Scout ceremonies?

Ceremonies for girls are planned by girl members with the guidance of adults. This is a time for the girls to express their ideas and feelings. They may invite guests or hold the ceremony for themselves.

Ceremonies for adults are planned by the adults involved. Similarly to the girls' ceremonies, this is a chance for the adult volunteers to express their ideas and feelings, as well as, honor their accomplishments. Guests are optional and dependent on the nature of the ceremony.

### How Are Ceremonies Planned?

All people appreciate the beauty, inspiration, and recognition that ceremonies here. For all ceremonies, it is important that each participant know in advance what to expect. If the ceremony needs rehearsal, that should be included in the plans.

Girls participate in planning the ceremony by using the information in this booklet. What follows are samples and ideas designed to inspire the girls. There are very few 'rules' for Girl Scout ceremonies but, *Girl Scout Essentials* and *Safety Activity Checkpoints* online (formerly in print as *Safety Wise*) should be consulted as appropriate.

When planning a ceremony have the girls keep the following questions in mind:

- What is the purpose of the ceremony?
- Who will be invited?
- Where will it be held?
- What equipment and materials might be needed?
- How will we begin/open the ceremony?
- What will be the focus of the ceremony?
- How will we close the ceremony?

These questions are part of Appendix 2 - Worksheet for Ceremonies.

Many of the following ceremonies can be combined for a lengthier program. For instance, a flag ceremony is usually part of an Investiture or Bridging Ceremony.



# An Overview of Types of Girl Scout Ceremonies:

## Opening and Closing Ceremonies *(start on page 6)*

The opening and closing ceremonies for meetings should be simple and short. You could have a flag ceremony, read a poem, sing a favorite song, play a short game, or say the Girl Scout Promise and/or Girl Scout Law.

The purpose of these ceremonies is to officially, not formally, signify the beginning or ending of the meeting or event. This will add structure to a meeting, which is particularly important for Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Girl Scouts.

## Flag Ceremonies *(start on page 8)*

Flag ceremonies are held to honor the symbol of our country. The flag ceremony may be held independently or as part of another ceremony. There are many varieties of indoor or outdoor ceremonies, folding the flag, non-traditional ceremonies, and proper disposal of the flag - to name just a few.

The ceremony may involve any number of participants, usually with a minimum of three --the Color Bearer (carries the American Flag), the Color Guard (protects the American Flag), and the Caller (calls the ceremony commands to the Color Bearer and Color Guard).



## Investiture Ceremony/Rededication Ceremony *(start on page 17)*

New members are welcomed into Girl Scouting with an Investiture. This happens once in each individual's lifetime. Annually, a Rededication ceremony can be held to rededicate members to the purpose and philosophy of the Girl Scout Movement. If some new members are being added to a troop with already invested members, the ceremony can incorporate both functions.

## Fly-up Ceremonies *(start on page 28)*

The very special ceremony where Brownie Girl Scouts receives their "wings" and become Junior Girl Scouts. Only Brownie Girl Scouts fly-up. All other levels use a Bridging Ceremony only.

## Bridging Ceremonies *(start on page 26)*

The ceremony for girls when moving from one program level to the next. The bridging process begins long before the ceremony takes place. Information about that process is in the level handbooks .

## Candlelight Ceremonies

A candlelight ceremony may be used to remind us of concepts and ideals such as the Girl Scout Promise and Law. There are many different candle ceremonies. This ceremony may be held separately or as part of another ceremony.

## Court of Awards

This ceremony is held to recognize the achievements of all levels of Girl Scouts. It is at this ceremony that members receive the recognitions they have earned - badges, patches, membership stars, and any other special awards or honors for girls and/or adults. Most frequently held at the troop/group level at the end of the year, it can be held anytime appropriate. For younger girls, a more frequent giving of awards is recommended.

## Girl Scouts' Own *(start on page 35)*

The main focus of a Girl Scouts' Own is based on a theme selected by the members of the group developing the ceremony. There are no specific guidelines for this ceremony except:

- It is a ceremony of sharing, reflection, and inspiration.
- It is usually a private ceremony and personal experience for the Girl Scouts involved.
- Each member has an opportunity to participate.

The information in these guidelines is an overview of Girl Scout ceremonies. Girls and adults are encouraged to use their own ideas and creativity when planning and designing ceremonies. However, the samples in this booklet should help you get started. You may also want to speak with other experienced leaders in your community and region or attend council sponsored workshops.

# Helping Girls Plan Their Ceremony

With a little help, Girl Scouts can learn to plan meaningful ceremonies. You may use the following questions to guide them in the planning process. Remember, the possibilities suggested here are meant to stimulate thought; the final decisions about the ceremony should rest with the girls

## What kind of ceremony do we want?

- A flag ceremony?
- An investiture? A bridging?
- A potlatch?

## Should we invite guests?

- Family-including brothers & sisters?
- Another Girl Scout troop?
- Friends?
- Adults in Girl Scouting?
- Adults from the community?

## Where will it be held?

- Indoors or outdoors?
- On the side of a hill or a place with a view?
- In a park or on a high building?
- By the water or a boat?

## What could be included in the ceremony?

- Girl Scout Promise & Law?
- A song, poem, dance, dramatization?
- Candles, lights, campfire?
- A flag, Girl Scout membership pins, World Association symbol?
- Footsteps, stair steps, a bridge?
- A mirror (for Brownie pool)?

## When will it be held?

- Early in the morning or at night?
- During troop/group meeting time?
- Any other time?
- A weekday or a weekend?

## How will we do it?

- Who will start the ceremony?
- Should we sit or stand?
- Should we speak together or individually?
- Do we need to learn something new?
- Do we need to rehearse?

## Special dates for a ceremony:

- February 22 ..... Thinking Day
- March 12 ..... Girl Scout Birthday
- October 31 ..... Juliette Low's birthday

## Special events for ceremonies:

- Investiture                      Dedication
- Bridging                         Fly-Up (Brownie Girl Scouts)
- World Pin Ceremony         Girl Scout's Own
- Girl Scout Meeting         Court of Awards

## Symbols used in ceremonies:

- Archway ..... the entering of a different atmosphere or phase
- Bridge ..... a crossing over, usually between program levels
- Dove/Olive Branch ..... peace
- Eagle ..... courage
- Flag ..... the banner of Girl Scouting, troop/group, council, state or country
- Friendship Stick ..... we are a sister to every Girl Scout
- Friendship Knot ..... made by a friend
- Friendship Circle ..... the unbroken chain of friendship
- Feather ..... nature
- Handshake ..... hello, welcome
- Lighted Candle ..... symbol of individuality puts attention of a concept
- Pebble ..... nature
- Planting a Tree ..... conservation
- Quiet Sign ..... quiet
- String/Yarn ..... the human line that binds us all together
- Signing your name ..... your own identity
- Swaying side by side ..... everyone agreeing to the same thought
- Trefoil ..... the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise
- Wishing Well ..... hopes and dreams

## Girl Scout Candle Colors:

Candles in a ceremony signify the spirit of Girl Scouting.

The following is a list of candle colors with special significance:

- Silver ..... the beginning of a new day, Cadette level achievements
- Yellow ..... Daisy Girl Scouts
- Pink ..... all girls in Girl Scouts and Girl Guides
- White ..... purity
- Gold..... Trefoil pin, Senior/Ambassador level achievements, highest level
- Turquoise ..... water
- Brown ..... earth
- Green..... plant life

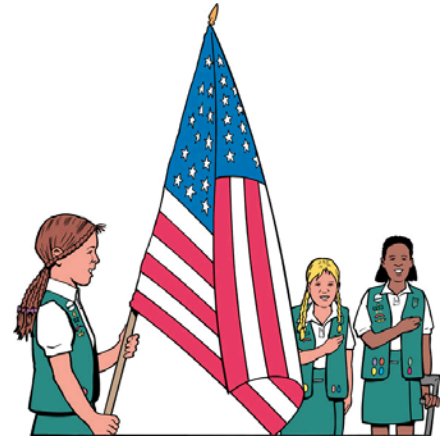
# OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

## Opening Ceremonies

Every Girl Scout meeting or program should have an opening and closing. They provide a frame in which to work. An opening signals to the girls that the meeting has begun and it is time to get down to business.

A typical opening ceremony is very short and simple. They will mean more if they are made up by the troop and varied from meeting to meeting. Some of the following may be included:

1. Flag ceremony
2. Reciting of the Promise and Law
3. Sing a song or recite a poem
4. Discuss a Girl Scout concept – such as a part of the Law or the meaning of the World Association pin



It is very important that the girls all get a chance to plan and participate in all the aspects of the ceremony. Use of a Kaper Chart with assignments for both the planning and the parts of the ceremony will insure that everyone gets a chance.

## Suggested Closing Ceremonies

The closing ceremony allows the girls a special moment to end the meeting and say good-bye. Allow enough time to clean-up and put away supplies and still have time for this important component to a successful meeting. There are a number of special activities that can conclude your meeting or event.

### Taps with Hand Motions

Day is done	[arms are held extended with palms down, shoulder level]
Gone the sun	[lower the arms slightly]
From the lakes	[turn palms up, raise arms slightly]
From the hills	[raise the arms higher]
From the sky	[raise arms level with top of head]
All is well	[lower arms to should height, place right hand on left elbow]
Safely rest	[cross left hand to right elbow]
God is nigh	[bow head onto crossed arms]

Sometimes this is followed with an enthusiastic leap in the air with arms opened wide and a shouted “Good night Scouts!” but others prefer to end quietly.

### Friendship Circle with Friendship Wish

*(illustrated on cover of this booklet)*

You may do Taps or another closing component first. For the Friendship Circle, girls stand in a circle with arms crossed right over left and grasping the hands of the person on either side (see cover illustration.) A designated person starts the passing of the friendship wish by thinking a silent wish and then symbolically passing the wish to the person on her right by gently squeezing her hand. That girl then thinks her own silent wish and continues the ‘squeeze’. As each girl makes her wish, she should put her right foot slightly forward to silently track the progress of the squeeze. This is repeated until the ‘squeeze’ has gone around the entire circle. When the originator receives the ‘squeeze’, she may say “God Bless the girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere. Goodbye” or a simple “Good night girls.” The girls drop their hands and leave in silence.

## Magic Tunnel

When girls are completely ready to leave (jackets on), the girls stand in to lines facing each other in a line to the door and making an arch with their arms. The farthest pair from the door goes under the arches, then the next two, and so on, until the tunnel vanishes with the last two girls leaving. This entire process is usually done in silence.

## Samples of Singing Our Way Out

A closing ceremony can be solemn or lively, silent or noisy. It's fun to try a variety of ways and here are some samples of fun ways to close a meeting.

### Clean-up Song

This one is good for younger girls. The children skip about the room arranging everything neatly, singing to the tune of "London Bridge"

Weave the magic in and out, in and out, in and out  
Weave the magic in and out, we are Girl Scouts.  
We have tidied everything, everything, everything.  
We have tidied everything, we are Girl Scouts.

Then, the girls line up before the leader:

[Leader] Is everything finished?

[Girls] Everything!

[Leader] Is nothing left?

[Girls] Nothing!

[Leader] Then begone! [Leader can wave a special 'good-bye wand' as girls leave.



### Good-bye Song

To the tune of "Good Night Ladies".

Good-bye (name of program level) [repeat three times]  
It's sad to see you go.

Can be sung while doing the Magic Tunnel.

### Another Good-bye Song

To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"

Now our Girl Scout meeting ends,  
Say good-bye to all our friends  
To our homes we Girl Scouts go  
Singing songs to let you know  
We are happy as can be,  
Working, playing, merrily.

### Variations of "Taps"

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

Evening: So good night, peaceful nigh  
Till the light of the dawn shineth bright.  
God is near, do not fear,  
Friend, good night.

# FLAG CEREMONIES

## Basic Outdoor Flag Ceremony

Flag/Color Bearer	The red sash, if worn, goes over the right shoulder and is tied with a square knot on the left hip.
Color Guards	Red sashes, if used are worn around the waist and tied on the left side. There may be any number of guards but it is usually an even number.
Color Guard	Flag bearer plus honor guards are referred to as Color Guard, in the singular.
Caller	The person who stands at the flag pole and calls commands.
Formation	The audience forms a horseshoe around the flagpole and stands with empty hands at side. Color Bearer and Guards then advance with the Color Bearer first and the guards behind two by two. They take position in front of flagpole and stand at attention facing the pole during the entire event. After the ceremony, the Color Guard is dismissed before the other persons present.
Silence	There is absolute silence by the Color Guard from the time the Caller starts the ceremony. The Color Guard is the official guardian of the flag, and does not sing, speak, or salute with others.
Program	The program part of the ceremony takes place after flag has been raised or before it is lowered. The program varies but often consists of the Pledge of Allegiance, the Promise and Law, patriotic or nature poetry, and songs. The Pledge of Allegiance should only be said once during the day.
Salute	When the flag is raised, the campers salute the moment the flag starts up by placing hand over heart until it reaches the top. When the flag is lowered, the hand is over the heart from when the flag starts down until the last clip is unfastened.
Raising or Lowering	The clasps on the rope should be the same distance apart as the eyelets in the flag. All clasps should be fastened on the flag before it is started upward. All Color Guards may hold the flag as the Bearer attaches it to the rope before raising it briskly to the top. At the closing ceremony, the first 2 Color Guards may step forward to catch the flag as it is lowered so that it does not touch the ground. The upper corner of the flag should be in the Color Bearer's hands before she unfastens the clasps.
Folding	The flag is held by the Color Guard with the blue field nearest the flagpole. It is folded lengthwise in half, then again lengthwise in half, folding the blue field underneath toward the outside. The guards farthest from the pole begin folding the flag in a triangle. They fold until they can pass it on to the other members of the Color Guard. This continues until the entire flag has been folded into a triangle.
Placing Folded Flag	The Color Guard resumes its original position. One member of the first couple steps up in front of the Color Bearer with the folded flag. She places it in the Bearer's outstretched hands so that it can be carried point forward, and then returns to position.
Return	The Color Guard may leave in the same formation as they entered or they may change it. As they leave, the campers may fall in behind.





## Flag Ceremony Commands

### Opening Ceremony:

Girl Scouts attention  
Color Guard attention  
Color Guard advance  
Color Guard post the colors  
Color Guard salute the colors  
Girl Scouts, the flag of your country  
We will now say the Pledge of Allegiance  
[Program-GS Pledge or anything appropriate]  
Color Guard dismissed  
[Possible camp announcements]  
Girl Scouts dismissed

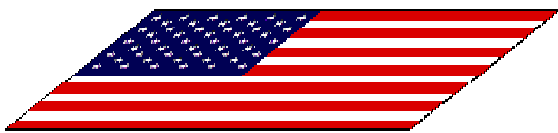
### Closing Ceremony:

[Any camp announcements]  
Girl Scouts attention  
Color Guard attention  
Color Guard advance  
[Program-Taps or anything appropriate]  
Color Guard salute the colors  
Color Guard retire the colors  
Color Guard dismissed  
Girl Scouts dismissed  
[may substitute "Campers" or other term for "Girl Scouts", when appropriate]

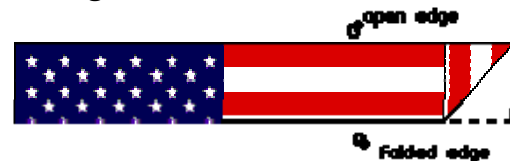
## Folding the U.S. flag

Special care should be taken that no part of the flag touches the ground. The Flag is carefully folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat, emblematic of the hats worn by colonial soldiers during the war for Independence. In the folding, the red and white stripes are finally wrapped into the blue, as the light of day vanishes into the darkness of night.

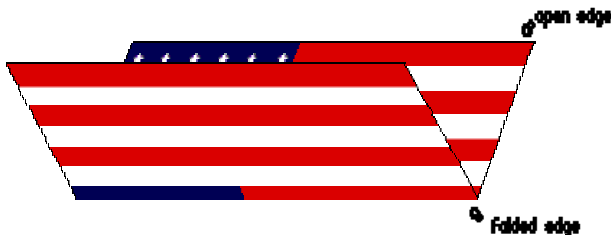
The custom of this special folding is reserved for the United States Flag alone.



1. To properly fold the Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person (or persons) so that its surface is parallel to the ground.



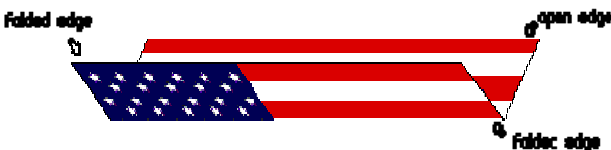
4. Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.



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



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



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



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



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

# Basic Indoor Flag Ceremony

The Flag Ceremony is a tribute to the flag we honor. The ceremony should be well planned, performed smoothly, and with dignity. **Practice** the ceremony so it will be conducted with pride and confidence.

## Participants:

- Caller ..... The individual in charge of the ceremony. The Caller gives the commands.
- Color Bearer .... The individual(s) that hold the flag(s). One bearer per flag.
- Color Guards ... The individuals who guard the flag(s). The Color Guards may walk on either side of or behind the Color Bearer.
- Color Guard..... When given in the singular text, this is the group of bearer(s) and guard(s) together. When only the American Flag is to be used: there are a minimum of three members of the Color Guard - the Color Bearer and two Color Guards. If an additional flag is added, another Color Bearer is needed. For large events, plan to have 2 guards for each bearer. Additional Color Guards may be added to allow for more participants.

## Formation:

The participants should form a horseshoe formation with the open end for the Color Guard to enter & exit. The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guard(s) enter with the flag and face the horseshoe. Reminder - the United States flag is to its own right. That means that the person holding the U.S. flag is to the right of any other flags. Another option is to have the other flags follow the U.S. flag in and out of the formation.

## Order of Ceremony:

**Posting the Colors:** The Caller gives the following commands:

1. **Girl Scouts, Attention** [*The audience stands with empty hands at sides*]
2. **Color Guard, Attention** [*The Color Guard(s) and Color Bearer(s) stand at attention.*]
3. **Color Guard, Advance** [*The Color Guard(s) and Color Bearer(s) enter with the flag(s)*]
4. **Girl Scouts, The Flag of Your Country, Please join me in saying The Pledge of Allegiance** [*The Color Guard(s) and Color Bearer(s) stand silently at attention. Everyone else recites the Pledge.*]
5. **Let Us Sing** \_\_\_\_\_ [*At this point a song may be sung, patriotic or other wise, and/or a reading may be done.*]
6. **Let Us Now Say The Girl Scout Promise.** [*Can add the Girl Scout Law and anything else appropriate.*]
7. **Color Guard, Post The Colors** [*The Color Bearer(s) place(s) the flag(s) in the stand(s). Post other flags first: American Flag last.*]
8. **Color Guard, Honor Your Colors** [*The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guard(s) step back and salute the flag by placing their hands over their hearts.*]
9. **Color Guard, Dismissed** [*The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guard(s) return the way they entered with the U.S. flag first.*]

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

**Retiring the Colors:** The Caller gives the following commands:

1. **Girl Scouts, Attention** [*The audience stands with empty hands at sides*]
2. **Color Guard, Attention** [*The Color Guard(s) and Color Bearer(s) stand at attention.*]
3. **Color Guard, Advance** [*The Color Guard(s) and Color Bearer(s) stand in front of flags*]
4. **Let Us** \_\_\_\_\_ [*At this point a song may be sung or a poem read. The Color Guard remains silent.*]
5. **Color Guard, Honor Your Colors** [*The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guard(s) salute the flag by placing their hands over their hearts briefly.*]
6. **Color Guard, Retire The Colors** [*The Color Bearer(s) pick-up the flag(s) from the stand(s), with the U.S. flag first.*]
7. **Color Guard, Dismissed** [*The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guard(s) return the way they entered.*]
8. **Girl Scouts, Dismissed** [*Everyone departs the formation. The formal program or part of the evening may be followed by an informal part such as refreshments or collecting of paperwork.*]

# Flag Etiquette

Citizens of the United States of America are justly proud of their rights and freedoms. The most obvious symbol of our country is the U.S. flag. As part of that pride, the U.S. flag must be properly displayed and handled at all times. The following is adapted from the US Code Title 36 Chapter 10 that covers Patriotic Customs. For further details, go to <http://www.usflag.org/us.code36.html#36>

- The flag should not be raised before sunrise or allowed to remain up after sunset unless properly lighted.
- It should not be displayed in bad weather.
- The flag should never be draped in any form, used as a cover (except over a coffin), used to carry other items, have anything placed upon it, nor displayed on a float unless flown from a staff.
- The flag is not to be used for advertising, decoration on napkins, pillows, handkerchiefs or any other item intended to be used and discarded. Nor is to be worn as a costume.
- Red, white, and blue bunting may be used for draping and decorations.
- The flag should always be permitted to fall free. It may be attached to a pole or hung by one edge only.
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it - ground, floor or water.
- It should be kept clean and fresh. When soiled, it should be laundered with care. When it becomes tattered or torn, it should be retired with dignity, preferably by burning.



The right side of the flag is considered the side of honor. Since honor is shown to the flag - not to the color guard or the audience - it is the flag's own right that must be remembered. When displayed with other flags, the flag of the United States should be on the right side. When carried in a procession with other flags, the Flag of the United States is always at the right or carried in front of the centerline of flags.

Height, too, is considered a mark of respect. When state, troop, or other flags are used, the flag of the United States is raised first and lowered last so that no other flag is ever above it. This holds true when flags are picked up and posted - for the flag of the United States is picked up first and posted last.

When flags of two or more nations are being displayed, they must be flown from separate poles of the same height. The flags should be the same size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above the other in time of peace.

When carrying the flag, the bearer holds it directly in front of her with the heel of the staff in her left hand. Holding the staff with the right hand, from the upper side, not underneath, supports the weight of the flag.

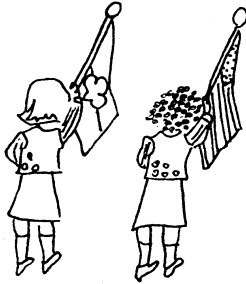
A salute to the flag (Girl Scouts use the civilian salute of placing the right hand over the heart) is given when the flag is being raised or lowered. During an outdoor flag ceremony, all persons present should salute the flag when the first loop is fastened to the flag rope and hold the salute until the flag reaches the top. At retreat, the salute begins when the flag starts down and is held until the second loop is loosened from the flag rope. When the flag is passing in a parade or in a review, all present should face the flag, stand at attention and salute. When saluting, nothing should be in the person's hands.

When the flag is flown at half-staff, it should be hoisted to the top for an instant and then lowered halfway. At sunset, it should be raised to the peak again before final lowering.

When the National Anthem is played or sung and the flag is displayed, all present should stand and face the flag, giving the salute. If the flag is not displayed or within view, everyone stands at attention while the anthem is played.

# Correct Flag Positions for Displays and Carrying

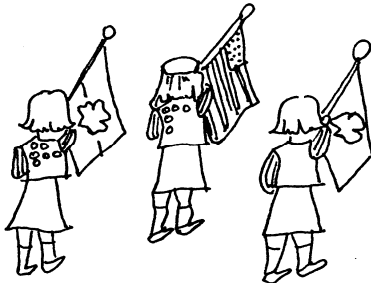
When carrying two flags, the U.S. flag is on the right.



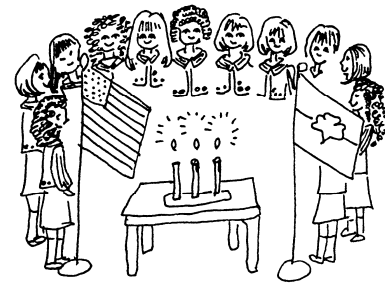
When standing in a line, the U.S. flag is to the right and at the same level as other flags. If the Pledge of Allegiance is said, the bearer steps to the center in front of the other flags.



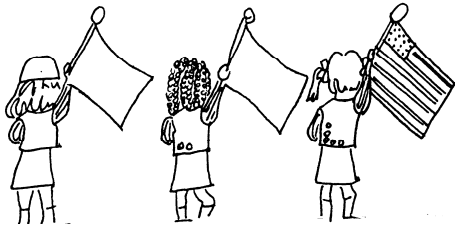
When carrying three or more flags, the U.S. flag can be in the center front



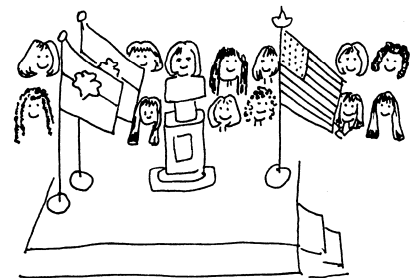
When posting the flags at the same level not on a platform, the U.S. flag is right of audience



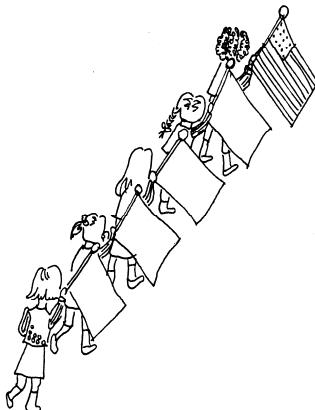
Or with multiple flags in a straight line, the U.S. flag is on the furthers right



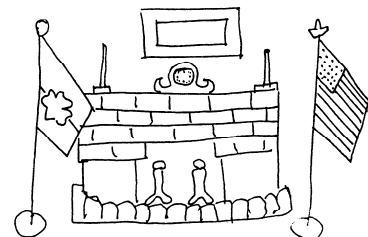
On a platform, the U.S. flag is on the right of the speaker.



When carrying many flags down a narrow aisle, the U.S. flag is first



Against a wall, the U.S. flag is to the right of the audience.



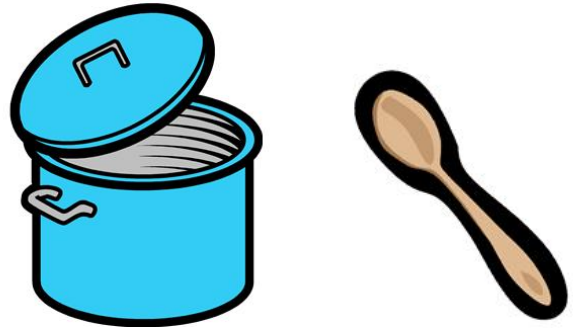
# BEYOND THE BASIC FLAG CEREMONIES

## Sample of The Making of the Flag for Older Girls Also known as A Recipe For a Flag

*This ceremony could be part of a longer ceremony and is appropriate for older girls. Girls can use the following suggested words and music or create their own words and select their own message. You may also want to divide or share parts to accommodate more girls participating.*

### Equipment:

U.S. flag, folded  
Large pot  
Long spoon  
Pieces of red, white, and blue paper and stars



### Arrangement:

Hide flag in large pot on table in center of area

### Ceremony:

*Girls enter humming "America the Beautiful"*

- Girl Scout #1: Red is for Valor. For the courage of all women who, with a dream in their hearts, crossed the oceans to begin life anew in a free land. For the bravery of women who, with hope and faith, crossed the prairie and mountains of our vast land. For the steadfastness of those women who, through all adversities, shoulder the country's burdens to emerge as strong individuals. *[put red paper into the pot]*
- Girl Scout #2: White is for Purity. For the integrity of all women whose fortitude wove the strands of diverse cultures into an integral national heritage. For the piety of all women whose faith formed the foundation upon which our country was built and continues to grow. *[put white paper into the pot]*
- Girl Scout #3: Blue is for Justice. For the foresight of all those women who created an atmosphere in which each of their children would develop to their fullest potential. For the perseverance of all those whom who contributed their talents to further the development of our country. *[put the blue paper into the pot]*
- Girl Scout #4: Stars are for Dreams. For the dreams of the future so that the generations of tomorrow may fulfill the promise of the past 200 plus years; so that the visions of our fore bearers will be revitalized and the future will hold hope and promise for all generations to come. *[put the stars into the pot]*
- Girl Scout #5: *[stirring the pot]* Stirring are the stories of my Stars and Stripes. I symbolize the soul of America, typifying her ideals and aspirations, her institutions and traditions.
- Girl Scout #6: *[remove the flag and hand to two girls to hold up in display]* This flag, which we honor and under which we serve is the emblem of our unity, our power, thought and purpose as a nation. Please join me in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Everyone, except two girls holding flag, say the Pledge of Allegiance in unison.*

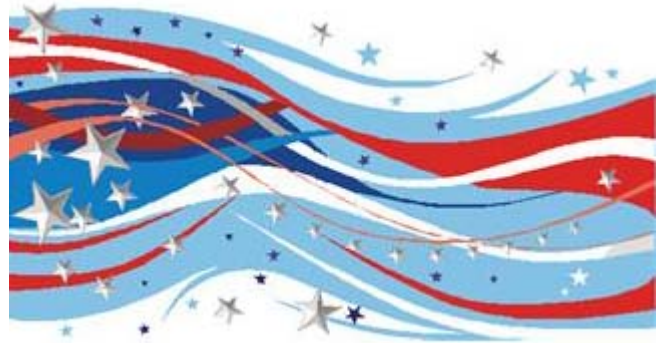
*This is followed by the singing of a patriotic flag song, such as "You're a Grand Old Flag"*



## Sample of The Making of the Flag for Younger Girls

### Equipment:

Large container  
Colored poker chips (red, white, and blue) sorted by colors into clear cups  
Stars  
One stir stick or magic wand  
Flag (hidden in bottom of pot with an edge accessible to pull out)



**Arrangement:** Girls stand in a semi-circle behind a chair or stool holding a container and facing the audience.

### Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: We are going to fix a treat for you that is really grand. And make a recipe – greatest in the land.

Girl Scout #2: In first, we will put a heaping bunch of red for courage true. *[pour in red chips]*

Girl Scout #3: And then we will add for justice – dash of heavenly blue *[pour in blue chips]*

Girl Scout #4: For purity, we will now include a layer of snowy white *[pour in white chips]*

Girl Scout #5: We will sprinkle in a pinch of stars to make it come out right.

Girl Scout #6: *[stirring with spoon]* We will stir and stir and then you will see what we have made is ... *[pull out flag]* Old Glory! Our flag is the most beautiful flag in the world; Let us always be loyal to it. Please stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Variation: For very young girls, a Leader may be a narrator while the girls perform the actions. You could also assign two girls to each part, one to read and one to add the ingredient.

## Sample of Old Glory Flag Ceremony

**Equipment:** Ahead of time, place a U.S. flag floating upon a staff or hanging from above (use a fan to get the flag to “wave”), spotlight the flag from the back of the room, use a microphone for the speakers, if necessary. Have the four speakers out of sight, if possible.

**Formation:** Audience is seated facing a stage or the front of the room with the flag displayed alone

### Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: I am the flag of the United States. The symbol of a nation that has loved, above all else, its freedom, justice, rights, and equality.

Girl Scout #2: I am the country’s glowing Stars and Stripes. Red is for endurance, courage and strength; white is for the purity of high ideals; and blue is for loyalty, truth and faith

Girl Scout #3: I am Old Glory - flag for which people serve, that right may conquer; flag for which people strive for better and higher ideals.

Girl Scout #4: I am the flag of the United States. Let us rise and pledge allegiance to our flag. *[recite pledge]*

## Sample of Explanation of the Pledge Ceremony



*This is an example of how girls can reflect on the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. The girls can use these words or create their own.*

### **Equipment:**

A United States flag prominently displayed

### **Formation:**

Girls form semicircle facing audience. If fewer girls are available, go back around the semicircle. This ceremony can be held indoors or outdoors.

### **Ceremony:**

- Girl Scout 1: We often recite the Pledge of Allegiance without really listening or understanding the meaning of the words we are saying. Each of us is going to say a word or phrase from the Pledge and then say what it means to us.
- Girl Scout 2: I - me, an individual, a committee of one
- Girl Scout 3: **Pledge** - dedicate all of my worldly possessions to give without self-pity
- Girl Scout 4: **Allegiance** - My love and devotion
- Girl Scout 5: **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!"
- Girl Scout 6: **Of the United** - United - that means we have all come together
- Girl Scout 7: **States of America** - States - individual communities that have united into fifty great states all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united in a common purpose love for country
- Girl Scout 8: **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
- Girl Scout 9: **For Which it Stands** - This is what our Flag represents: Our United States
- Girl Scout 10: **One Nation Under God** - Meaning, so blessed by God
- Girl Scout 11: **Indivisible** - Incapable of being divided
- Girl Scout 12: **With Liberty** - Which is freedom - the right to live one's own life without threats or fear of retaliation
- Girl Scout 13: **And Justice** - The principle or qualities of dealing fairly with others
- Girl Scout 14: **For All** - everyone. It's as much your country as it is mine

## Sample of a Flag Retirement Ceremony

*Sometimes called a Flag Disposal Ceremony, the correct way to dispose of a ragged or permanently stained U.S. flag is to hold a solemn ceremony while burning the flag and then burying the ashes. There is no single, correct ceremony but dozens of variations are available on the web. The American Legion is a good source of information, as well.*

### Equipment:

Flags needing retirement	Scissors
Shovel	Matches
Bucket of water	Wood for fire



**Formation:** Audience in a horseshoe formation at a safe distance from the fire, flag disposal unit behind the fire. Two girls hold the flag while one girl cuts the flag into pieces.

### Ceremony:

Girl Scout 1: When the U.S. Flag becomes tattered or worn, it should be disposed of by burning. Remember as you look at the flag, it is the symbol of our nation.

[The girls holding the flag step forward with the stars in the upper left corner as the audience sees them. The girl with the scissors cuts the blue field from the stripes and hands it to Girl Scout #1. She then cuts each stripe from the "whole" and lays each piece across the flames. As each stripe enters the flames, the following reading can be spoken.]

Girl Scout 2: The thirteen stripes stand for the original colonies, which are: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.

Girl Scout 3: The white stands for purity.

Girl Scout 4: The red stands for courage.

Girl Scout 5: The blue stands for loyalty.

Girl Scout 6: "Give me liberty, or give me death."

Girl Scout 7: "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."

Girl Scout 8: "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 of the United States of America."

Girl Scout 9: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Girl Scout 10: "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or press."

Girl Scout 11: "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."

Girl Scout 12: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state because they are female."

Girl Scout 13: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

Girl Scout 14: "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

[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. Out of respect, nothing should ever be added to the ceremonial fire after the flag has been retired. The ceremony ends with everyone departing in silence. After the ashes have cooled, they should be buried. Please remember, this is a very solemn ceremony and should be done with the utmost respect and reverence for the flag to be retired. It might also be noted that you need to explain this to the girls so that they don't go home and tell their parents that they burned a flag at Girl Scouts, without giving an explanation as to why it was done.)



# INVESTITURE AND REDEDICATION CEREMONIES

## Introduction

When a girl or adult becomes a Girl Scout for the first time, she is welcomed with an Investiture Ceremony. As new girls are added to existing troops, they must be invested but the other girls may participate as a Rededication. In addition, a Rededication can be held at any new level to acknowledge the change of program level.

Families should be sent invitations well in advance of the ceremony. Evening ceremonies are suggested to give families an opportunity to attend. Try to give each girl a kaper (task) such as opening/closing flag ceremony, greet guests at door, hand out programs, and show guest to seats. The ceremony may be followed by refreshments.

During this ceremony, new members, both girls and adults make their Girl Scout Promise, adopt the Girl Scout Law as their own, and receive their membership pins. Traditionally, the pins are first put on upside down - to be turned right side up when the first good deed is done. New Leaders, of course, have already done a good deed - they have agreed to be a Girl Scout Leader!

In planning an investiture, you must remember that it can be done in many ways. The ceremony can be held indoors or outdoors. A candle lighting ceremony is most impressive for an investiture, and a brief flag ceremony usually begins the program. The interpretation of the Trefoil, World Association pin, or Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law are nice additions to the basic investiture.

## Sample Daisy Girl Scout Investiture Ceremony #1

### Equipment:

Daisy Girl Scout pin for each new girl

The Promise Center patch for each new girl

Large cut-out of a daisy flower with center and petals as detailed in the Daisy Girl Scout handbook. Number the backs of the petals to keep in the correct order.

Poster board with some method of fastening daisy center and petals to it



### Arrangements:

Each Daisy Girl Scout is given a petal (or two) and waits to the side in order until beckoned forward by the leader. The center can also be placed by a girl or the leader. One Leader can narrate the actions while the other pins the girls. Or the narration can be alternated between them.

### Ceremony:

Leader: You are about to become Daisy Girl Scouts. Together we will explore all the fun and adventure of Girl Scouting. We are named Daisy Girl Scouts because that was our founder Juliette Gordon Low's nickname.

Leader: The center of everything in Girl Scouts is the Promise. *[center is stuck on poster board]* Around that we place the Daisy Petals representing the ten parts of the Law that we will learn about. *[girls come forward with the appropriate color indicated]*. Light blue is for honest and fair. Yellow is for friendly and helpful. Spring Green is for considerate and caring. Red is for courageous and strong. Orange is for responsible for what I say and do. Purple is for respect myself and others. Magenta is for respect authority. Green is for use resources wisely. Rose is for make the word a better place. Violet is for be a sister to every Girl Scout. We will soon earn our petals as today we earn The Promise Center Together by reciting the Girl Scout Promise. *[Promise is recited in unison]*

Leader: *[calls each girl by name and puts on her Daisy Girl Scout pin and hands her the Promise Center patch]* Welcome to Girl Scouts!



## Sample Daisy Girl Scout Investiture Ceremony #2

### Equipment:

Petals cut from large poster board; clothespin glued on inside edge of petal; yellow center Styrofoam spray paint or yellow tissue or yellow poster board, something clothespin will grip on to.

### Arrangements:

The girls carry yellow daisy center to middle of stage area. Leader on left could use small table for a bowl of daisies, Daisy Girl Scout pins (which need to be removed from card before investiture) and certificates (if desired.) Two girls can carry daisy petals and place by Leader on the right of center stage.

### Ceremony:

Leader or troop committee Chairperson welcomes families, introduces leaders. One Leader or girl acts as flag ceremony Caller. Color Guard enters, followed by remaining Daisy Girl Scouts - two by two forming a single line across stage behind flags and Color Guards.

First girl on far right peels off, comes to Leader on right who hands her a daisy petal. Girl goes to center, hooks clothespin on end of petal to wire around center of yellow center. Girl sits or squats at edge of petal. Each girl in turn gets a petal and hooks it to center. When the Daisy is complete, girls stand. As Daisy Girl Scouts stand, they lift the daisy they have made holding their petal, forming a circle and say or sing:

Round and round our petals turn,  
Begin our Girl Scout time to learn.  
Daisy - Daisy Girl Scouts are we,  
We will grow and serve - you'll see.

Girls line up one after the other, raise their right hands and with the help of the Leader, say their Girl Scout Promise in unison.

The girls sit down. One remains standing and goes to the Leader on the left who pins on her Daisy Girl Scout pin. She gives the Girl Scout Sign and is handed a daisy flower which she can take to her parent(s) and joins her family. Each Daisy Girl Scout, in turn, leaves her petal and goes to be pinned. The daisy the girls made remains on the floor. This ends the Investiture. Refreshments are served.

Number of girls in Daisy Girl Scout troop/group determines number of daisy petals. Girls may need part of several meetings to learn their part in the ceremony.

## Sample Brownie Girl Scout Investiture Ceremony

*Brownie Girl Scouts have a unique story that forms part of their investiture ceremony. Before planning the ceremony, girls should become familiar with the story of the helpful elves that is the basis of the Brownie Girl Scouts.*

### Equipment:

A "pool" can be constructed in the center of the Brownie Girl Scout Ring by using a mirror edged with greens or a cardboard circle covered with aluminum foil may also be used.

### Formation:

Brownie Girl Scout inductees are sent outside the room with a co-leader. The troop/group helps to construct the pool and then sits around it. (Significance of the pool may be explained by reading, dramatizing or referring to the Brownie Girl Scout Story.) The Assistant Leader with the new Brownie Girl Scouts knocks on the door. The Leader with the troop/group asks, "Who comes to the Brownie Girl Scout woods?"

Girls: "We do."

Leader: "What do you want?"

Girls: "We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts."

Leader asks why, and the girls give their own reasons.

Girls enter and stand by the pool.

Each girl is then asked to recite the Girl Scout Promise. (Help her if she is shy.) As she recites the Girl Scout Promise, she gives the Girl Scout sign. Leader pins her and tells her she is now a Brownie Girl Scout. She welcomes her to Girl Scouting and invites her to come sit by the pool.



### You may wish to use the following variation:

Take each prospective Girl Scout to the pool.

Turn her around as the members of the troop/group say, "Twist me and turn me and show me the elf. I looked in the water and saw \_\_\_\_" Everyone pauses and waits. The girl looks in the magic pond and sees a Brownie Girl Scout, herself, peering back. She completes the sentence with "myself".

Proceed now with the investiture: Ask her why she wants to be a Brownie Girl Scout; have her say the Girl Scout Promise; then, pin her and welcome her into Girl Scouting.

It is important to the girls to have their parents, or other supportive adults, present at the investiture. Perhaps a little play based on the Brownie Girl Scout Story might precede the ceremony.

Traditionally, the Brownie Girl Scout pin is pinned on upside down. When the girls have done a good deed it is turned right side up.

## Sample Investiture when New Girls are Added to a Troop



**Equipment:** Girl Scout pins; posters showing the following: proper level Girl Scout Pin, Girl Scout Sign, Girl Scout Handshake, Girl Scout Motto and Girl Scout slogan. A suitable Girl Scout song could be playing in the background.

**Formation:** All girls walk in two lines. Lines split by girls walking to form a horseshoe. The leader(s) go first, then the speakers carrying their posters, the rest of the troop, then the new members at the end of the line. They will form the closed end of the horseshoe.

### Ceremony:

**Leader:** Today we are about to invest these (number) girls with the (Girl Scout Pin/Daisy Pin/Brownie Pin). At this Investiture Ceremony we welcome you into Girl Scouting. You will make your Promise and say the Law.

**Girl Scout #1:** [steps in front of the horseshoe and holds up her poster] The Girl Scout Pin (or Daisy or Brownie Pin) has the shape of a trefoil. Trefoil means three leaves. These three leaves stand for the three parts of the Promise.

**Girl Scout #2:** [steps forward and holds up her poster] The Girl Scout sign is made with three fingers, which stands for the three parts of the Promise. You give the sign whenever you say the Promise, when you are invested, receive a badge or patch, or greet another Girl Scout.

[All give the Girl Scout Sign and repeat the Promise.]

**Girl Scout #3:** [steps forward and holds up her poster] The Girl Scout Handshake is a formal way of greeting another Girl Scouts. You shake with the left hand and give the sign with your right hand. [Girl demonstrates with leader.]

**Girl Scout #4:** [steps forward and holds up her poster] The Girl Scout motto is, "Be Prepared." It means that Girl Scouts learn how to do things so they can be ready and able to help. The first letter of each word, B and P, stand for the initials of Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting.

**Girl Scout #5:** [steps forward and holds up her poster] The Girl Scout slogan is, "Do a good turn daily." It means that each girl will do something every day to help someone else. You do not receive an award for doing a good turn, but you feel good inside.

**Girl Scout #6:** [At this point the speaker will say each part of the Law with the rest of the troop repeating. If there are enough girls in the troop, each one may say a part of the Law.]

**Leader:** And do you, new members, each promise to keep these ten parts of the Girl Scout Law to the best of your ability?

**New Members:** We do.

**Leader:** And will the rest of you promise to keep these ten parts of the Law?

**Troop Members:** We will.

[Entire group joins in song, "When E'er You Make a Promise."]

**Leader:** And now we come to an important part of our ceremony, for this is the time we invest the new members of our troop. [One Leader hands the pin to the other Leader who pins the new girl, then gives the sign and the Girl Scout Handshake.] We welcome you as a new member of Troop \_\_\_\_\_.

[To formally dismiss the troop, the leaders about face and with the troop following in line, walk to another part of the room and disband. It is also fitting that at this time your troop may like to celebrate with some small refreshment.]

# Sample of Traditional Investiture for Junior, Cadette, Senior, Ambassador, & Adult Girl Scouts



## Equipment:

A small table, three large candles with holders, ten small candles with holders, matches or lighter, a wooden or cardboard trefoil on which is written the Girl Scout Law, and Girl Scout pins (one for each person to be invested - unpinned for convenience in presentation).

## Arrangement:

Girls usually like to be invested by their Leaders. Anyone who is already currently a member of the troop/group may conduct the beginning of the ceremony - formation of the horseshoe, presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance and patriotic song or Girl Scout song). Leader explains the meaning of investiture, and this is followed by the lighting of the candles.

## Ceremony:

Leader: "The three candles represent the Girl Scout Promise. This candle that I light shall shine as a symbol that Girl Scouts are true to God and their country." [Light first candle] "May the light of the second candle shine as a symbol that a Girl Scout's greatest desire is to serve." [Light the second candle] "And may the light of the third candle shine as a symbol that Girl Scouts are true to their ideals as interpreted by the Girl Scout Law." [Light the third candle].

"The trefoil which is the Girl Scout emblem lies before you. We shall place before it ten candles, representing the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law." [Ten girls, chosen previously, come up to the table one by one, take a small candle, light it from a large candle; and as it is placed in the candle holder set before the trefoil, recite the part of the Law assigned. After each part of the Law is recited, the troop/group might sing the appropriate verse of the Girl Scout Chant. The *Girl Scout Chant* is found in the "Sing Together" songbook.]

Each girl to be invested is brought forward by her Patrol Leader or a troop/group member who says, "(girl's name) wishes to become a Girl Scout".

Leader: "On your honor, will you try: to serve God, your country and to help people at all times and live by the Girl Scout Law?" Each girl answers, "Yes, I will". Then as both girl and Leader make the Girl Scout Sign, each girl repeats the Girl Scout Promise. The Leader then pins on the Girl Scout pin, saying something to each girl, such as, "This pin tells everyone that you are a Girl Scout. I know you will be proud to wear it." The Girl Scout Handshake (shaking hands with the left hands while giving the Girl Scout sign with the right hand) is exchanged by Leader and new Girl Scout, while Leader says, "I welcome you into the Girl Scout Movement and as a member of troop/group #\_\_\_"

Adaptations should be made to suit the number of girls to be invested, age of girls, etc.

If more than four or five girls are to be invested at one time, it is advisable to have them brought up to the Leader in several groups rather than all at once. If the troop/group is new, and everyone is being invested, the girls should stay in their places in the horseshoe and the Leader could go from one girl to the next. Although it is advisable to have each girl make her Girl Scout Promise individually, when there are more than six or eight girls, the Girl Scout Promise should be made simultaneously by all members of the group.

When welcoming girls into the organization, you may wish to tell them something about the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; show them the World Flag or pictures of Our Chalet, Our Cabaña, Sangam, Pax Lodge, etc.

## Sample of Basic Investiture for Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts

*This is basic sample that should be adapted by the girls. There is no 'correct' or 'required' component beyond a pledge to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.*

**Equipment:** Pins for new members

**Arrangement:**

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

**Ceremony:**

Girls in Troop: Why have you come here?

Joining Girls: To be (level) Girl Scouts.

Leader: As Girl Scouts you will be expected to uphold the meaning of the Promise and the Law. Do you know what it means when you say, "On my honor"?

Joining Girls: Yes, we do.

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

Joining Girls: Yes, you may.

[Girls give the Girl Scout sign and repeat Promise]

[At this time, the adults and current troop members may also give the Girl Scout sign and repeat together the Girl Scout Promise as a form of rededication.]

[Leader pins the membership pin to girls' clothing]

Leader: This pin tells everyone you are a Girl Scout. I know you will wear it proudly. The three leaves of the trefoil represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. May you find joy in working together, fun in playing together, and excitement in discovering together.

[The Leader then gives the Girl Scout Handshake to each new Girl Scout]

Leader: Welcome to Girl Scouting and (level) Troop #\_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Be careful to coach the new girls in advance that the Girl Scout Handshake is left hands shaking while holding the Girl Scout sign with the right hand.



# Sample Flowers of Friendship Rededication Ceremony

*Appropriate for both adult and girl member ceremonies.*

**Equipment:** Ten bunches of flowers, a large container to set flowers in, one smaller for each girl

**Arrangement:** The troop forms a semicircle around the back of a table upon which the equipment is placed.

## Ceremony:

**Leader:** Welcome to our rededication ceremony. Tonight, we are here to reaffirm our belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law. 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.

Please join me in repeating the Girl Scout Promise. [Everyone recites the Promise.]

And now we will dedicate ourselves to living the Girl Scout Law. [As each part of the Law is read, the corresponding flower is placed in the basket or vase.]

**Girl Scout #1:** I will do my best to be honest and fair. This part of the law is represented by the white chrysanthemum. It shows truth, honor, trustworthiness, equality and fairness.

**Girl Scout #2:** friendly and helpful. The zinnia represents thoughtfulness about friends, while baby's breath represents generosity.

**Girl Scout #3:** considerate and caring. Together, a red and a white rose stand for a warm and caring heart.

**Girl Scout #4:** 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 Scout #5:** 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 Scout #6:** and to respect myself and others. The white zinnia shows that we hold ourselves worthy and good. Wintergreens symbolize the harmony we try to keep between ourselves and others.

**Girl Scout #7:** respect authority. The daffodil represents careful thought, attention, and concern. With the daffodil, we are saying that we hold others in high regard.

**Girl Scout #8:** use resources wisely. The foxglove shows thriftiness. When we use our resources wisely, we are being thrifty.

**Girl Scout #9:** 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 Scout #10:** 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.

**Leader:** This arrangement of flowers symbolizes our dedication to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Flowers alone do not last. This bouquet, 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.



Following the ceremony, one of each type of flower could be made into a bouquet for each of the girls. Flowers may be substituted for any mentioned in this ceremony, depending on the season and availability.

# Sample Welcoming Ceremony for New Leaders

**Arrangement:** The participants form a horseshoe. There are five speakers.

## Ceremony:

- Leader#1: As I welcome you to your new position as a Girl Scout leader, I give to you:
- the adventure of seeing a girl try something new
  - the joy of seeing a girl smile at you as she sings around the campfire
  - the pride in seeing her progress in understanding herself, her troop, her community, and the world
  - the friendship and trust of friends, the heritage and future of a great movement, and the gift of a young spirit
- All Speakers: I am a Girl Scout leader.
- Leader#2: I have the courage to teach girls the time-tested foundations of the Girl Scout Movement and how to stand by their values in a changing world.
- Leader#3: I try to teach girls to take responsibility for their actions and make a positive difference in their world.
- Leader#4: The Promise and the Law are a commitment for all persons in Girl Scouting to do their best.
- All Speakers: I am a Girl Scout Leader.
- Leader#1: I can help them be their best by a sincere desire to bring out the talents in every girl.
- Leader#2: I can help girls to seek opportunities for service and to develop skills for doing service well.
- Leader#3: I will lead the girls by example.
- Leader#4: I hope that girls can learn to recognize and appreciate the likenesses as well as the differences among human beings.
- All Speakers: I am a Girl Scout leader.
- Leader#1: Everyone, please join me in reciting the Girl Scout Promise.





## Sample Recognition of Leaders Ceremony

**Formation:** Three leaders and four girls stand facing the audience

**Ceremony:**

Leader#1: I thought I heard a girl call.

Girl #1: I need a leader.

Leader#2: She called for a leader. You answered her call. The challenge is truly yours.

Girl #2: "The Challenge of the Children" by Joan McEniry

Girl #3: We are the present ... and the future too! Remember, when we turn our eyes to you to point the way, that we must learn to walk these paths ourselves against the day when you no longer lead us by the hand.

Girl #4: Teach us the meaning of the code we need, for soon there will be those whom we must lead in ways which you have shown.

Girl #1: And, having taught us, show us that you are not afraid for us to walk alone.

Girl #2: The present is in your strong hands. The future is in ours. Teach us to love the beauty of our land.

Girl #3: But help us too .. to reach for stars! To gather to ourselves the dreams that beckoned once to you.

Girl #4: Teach us those things that we must know to make your dream .. our dream come true!

Leader#3: You did hear the call. Not from one girl but from a thousand. You answered that call. Each of you perhaps only for a few girls, each in your own best way.

Leader#1: Your answer was firm as you offered your hand to help. You do not try to do everything. Parents, teachers, clergy, friends, all help to mold her life. But you offer her something beyond -- not to replace, but to expand.

Leader#2: For you have given her a place to put all she has learned into practice, a place where she can experiment on her own without fear of mistakes; where you help her find laughter and joy in what she tries to do; and show her things she may never have seen - a campfire at night, a forest stream.

Leader#3: And help her to know, and learn to love, all kinds of girls who, like her, are trying to find their places in life. The hand you have offered has been steady and sure. With you, girls have found hope and trust.

All Leaders: Your grateful Council thanks you for responding to the call of thousands of girls, past and present. You leaders are a vital link in their Girl Scout Circle of Friendship.

All Girls: You heard the call. You accepted the challenge. You have made your Promise. Will all leaders join us in singing, "When E'er You Make a Promise."



# BRIDGING CEREMONIES



## Introduction

In order to create a smooth transition from one level to the next the planning for the actual bridging ceremony should begin as early as possible. Earning the actual Bridging recognition is optional but is recommended and involves a number of activities between multiple levels.

This ceremony should be planned by and have meaning for the girls participating. It may be planned jointly by the younger troop and its sister troop of the next level, or by either of these troops. Both troops and both troop leaders participate in the ceremony. While samples in this book refer to a specific level, most can be adapted for use at any level.

The essential parts of the ceremony are:

1. Each girl rededicates herself to Girl Scouting by making the Girl Scout Promise.
2. Each girl is welcomed into her new troop.

Each troop forms a horseshoe with the open end facing a bridge that separates them. The bridge may be symbolic or an actual bridge. Suggestions include a bridge in a park or constructing one of paper strips outlining the 'bridge'. There are some portable bridges for borrowing from the Council's service centers.

A typical ceremony has a farewell from the troop that the girls are leaving. Each girl then gives the Girl Scout Handshake to her leader of the old level followed by a solitary walk over the bridge. On the other side of the bridge, the girl is met by a girl of the next level and taken to the Leader where she is welcomed with a Girl Scout Handshake and a verbal welcome. Ideally, each girl who bridges has a welcoming girl sponsor on the far side of the bridge. However, even one girl and one leader as a reception group is sufficient. For Ambassador Girl Scouts who are bridging, the reception is by an adult Girl Scout.

At either end of the bridge, there are pins and recognitions that can be given as appropriate. The bridging patch for each level must be earned. Instructions for this are in each of the level handbooks. The bridging patch is usually given (if earned) along with an annual membership star by the troop that the girl is leaving. If a new level membership pin is needed (Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts) that is given by the new level leader.

After all the girls have crossed the bridge, the whole troop can recite the Girl Scout Promise and/or sing a song such as "When E'er You Make Promise" or "Girl Scouts Together". Both songs may be found in the Girl Scout Pocket Songbook.

| What is given out at each level (Bridging Award must be earned):

Daisy to Brownie.....Brownie pin, Bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts Award, membership star with disk

Brownie to Junior .....Trefoil membership pin, Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts Award, membership star with disk, Brownie Girl Scout Wings

All other levels .....Bridge to Cadette/Senior/Adult Girl Scouts Award/Pin, membership star with disk

## Sample Bridging Ceremony for Daisy Girl Scouts

The Troop/Group Committee should be involved with the planning of the Bridging Ceremony and families should be invited. Girls can design and produce family invitations for the event, plan refreshments, decide if they want the ceremony with the whole sister troop/group, the entire school area, or with a few Brownie Girl Scout representatives.

### In Advance:

Meet with Brownie Girl Scouts at least once (hopefully two or three times). Have the older girls teach Daisy Girl Scouts the Brownie Smile Song; share adventures and stories about their troop/group; and learn the Girl Scout Handshake (to be used at the Bridging Ceremony).

Each girl in the troop/group makes a petal of a daisy flower approximately 12" long and puts her name on it). Leaders make the stem and center of daisy. The stem should be approximately 18" to 24" and the center approximately 5" in diameter. Buy or make small bees to attach to petal of daisy for each girl. Also a sign could be made saying "Good-Bye Daisy Girl Scouts".

### Ceremony:

Have girls stand in circle or horseshoe around their daisy flower. Ask girls if they have worked with a Brownie Girl Scout to learn what Brownie Girl Scouts do? (Name some things.) Make this very brief.

Leaders ask:                   Are you ready to cross over to be Brownie Girl Scouts?

Girls respond:                As you can plainly see  
We are really ready to be  
Brand new Brownie Girl Scouts

Leaders read on:            Old friendly bee came out to see  
You take the path so new  
Now make the sign and leave behind  
Your Daisy Girl Scout smock of blue

As you read the part about "friendly bee", girls move forward toward daisy flower. Leader and helpers take "bee" from flower petals and pin on girl's shoulder.



# Sample Brownie Girl Scout Fly-Up Ceremony #1

*While all Girl Scouts bridge from one level to the next, only Brownies 'fly-up' to Junior Girl Scouts. All Brownie Girl Scouts receive their wings at the end of third grade. In addition, as with all the levels, there is an earned Bridging Award available.*

## Equipment:

Bridge may be made of wood, or a cardboard arch, or it may be made of paper strips laid flat on the ground. Optional – Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts Award (if earned), Brownie Girl Scout Wings, membership star with disk



## Arrangement:

Brownie Girl Scouts assemble on one side of bridge with their leaders. Junior Girl Scouts are on opposite side with a leader.

## Ceremony:

Brownie Leader mentions each girl who is flying up by name and tells something about her.

Leader:                    Now it's time to say goodbye,  
                                  Break the Ring and out you fly

Second Leader takes girl to the bridge and says:

Brownie (her name), you are just about  
To become a Junior Girl Scout.  
In the troop/group you soon will find  
Junior Girl Scouts are true and kind.  
So now I give you Brownie Girl Scout Wings  
That you may fly to bigger things.

Leader presents girl with her wings and shakes her hand. Girl crosses bridge and is met by a Junior Girl Scout on the other side

Girls flying up make Girl Scout Promise to Junior Girl Scout Leader. The Leader puts Trefoil pin on girl, shakes hands, and welcomes her to her troop/group.

Repeat for each girl flying up to the Junior Girl Scout level.



## Sample Brownie Girl Scout Fly-Up Ceremony #2

### Equipment:

Brownie Wings for each Brownie, a bridge (could be craft project or an actual bridge in a park), Girl Scout membership pins, Optional – may give Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts Award (if earned), star with disk for year

### Formation:

The Brownie Girl Scout troop stands in a Brownie Ring on one end of the bridge with the Junior Girl Scout troop standing in a horseshoe on the other end.



### Ceremony:

Brownie Girl Scout Leader:

Since this is the last time that you will be together as Brownie Girl Scouts, I would like you to sing your Brownie Smile Song. [Everyone sings "Brownie Smile Song."]

The time has now come for you to take wings and fly-up to the Junior Girl Scout Troop. I have enjoyed having you in my troop for the past few years. We have had much fun together, learning new songs and games, going on hikes, trying to do good turns daily. (Leader adds appropriate activities or events.) I hope that when you think of our years together, that you will remember them with much pleasure. I would like each Fly-Up to tell what she enjoyed most about being a Brownie.

Each Brownie Girl Scout: (Tells what she enjoyed most.)

Brownie Girl Scout Leader:

Since you have been a registered Brownie Girl Scout, you are entitled to wear the Brownie Wings on the vest or sash of your Junior Girl Scout uniform. It gives me much pleasure to present them to you, and I hope you wear them proudly. [Leader presents the Wings to each Brownie. Optionally, she may present the Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts Award and any other earned recognitions.]

Brownie Girl Scout Troop: [In unison]

Now it's time to say goodbye, break the ring and out you fly.

[The ring breaks just long enough to let the Brownie Girl Scouts out. Brownies cross over the bridge or some symbol of transition. Each Brownie Girl Scout who is flying up is met by a Junior Girl Scout who conducts her to the horseshoe formation.]

Junior Girl Scout Leader: [Standing in front of the horseshoe, speaks to the Junior Girl Scout Troop.]

Will you please recite the Girl Scout Law?

[Ten girls, selected beforehand, say one part of the Law at a time. If in an appropriate location, each girl can light a candle as she says her part. If ten girls are not available, each girl can take a second or third turn.]

Junior Girl Scout Leader:

[Speaking to Fly-ups] As Junior Girl Scouts, you will live by this Law. It will serve as a daily reminder of the way you would like to act at home, at school, in your community, and everywhere you are alone. It is important that you know this Law because it is an important part of the Girl Scout Promise, which you are now going to make.

[As she calls each Fly-Up by name, the girl steps forward and makes her Promise. The Junior Girl Scout Leader pins the Girl Scout membership pin on her and welcomes her with the Girl Scout Handshake.]

Junior Girl Scout 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 you are taking a code of honor, which you will try to live by.

Junior Girl Scout Troop:

[All sing, "When E'er You Make A Promise."]

## Sample Bridging Ceremony for Junior Girl Scouts #1

### Equipment:

Bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts Award (if earned), a bridge (can be one constructed from paper, a small wooden one, or a bridge in a park)



### Formation:

Each troop forms a horseshoe facing the bridge separating them. Each Cadette Girl Scout has been assigned the name of a Junior Girl Scout(s) who is bridging.

The Cadette Girl Scout Leader and Cadette Girl Scout come to the end of the bridge.

The girl calls out the Junior Girl Scouts' name. The Junior Girl Scout leaves her troop, gives the Girl Scout sign and handshake to the Junior Girl Scout Leader. She then crosses the bridge, gives the Girl Scout sign and handshake to the Cadette Girl Scout Leader. The Cadette Girl Scout then takes the girl's hand and leads her to the Cadette Girl Scout horseshoe formation.

After all the girls have crossed the bridge, the whole troop recites the Girl Scout Promise and sings, "When E'er You Make Promise" or "Girl Scouts Together". Both songs may be found in the Girl Scout Pocket Songbook.

## Sample Bridging Ceremony for Junior Girl Scouts #2

### Equipment:

Large sheet of poster board; Seed, roots, stem, leaves, and daisy bud cut from colored paper and backed with tape (illustrated below.); Bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts Award (if earned).

### Formation:

Girl Scouts stand at either side of an easel on which is placed a large poster board

### Ceremony:

- Girl Scout #1: Just as a seed is the first part of a plant, so is Daisy Girl Scouts the first part of the Girl Scout program. Let this seed represent Daisy Girl Scouting, the beginning. [Affix seed at bottom of poster board.]
- Girl Scout #2: In Brownie Girl Scouts, girls continue their development as Girl Scouts. These roots remind us of that process. Just as roots come from the seed as tender shoots seeking to grasp the earth, so do Brownie Girl Scouts continue their adventure in Girl Scouting as inexperienced girls looking for others to guide them and help them grow. [Affix roots just above the seed.]
- Girl Scout #3: In Junior Girl Scouting girls grow and make themselves known in the community. This stem reminds us of that emerging process. Just as a stem pushes up from its roots, so do Junior Girl Scouts reach out further into the world. [Affix stem above the roots.]

### Junior Girl Scout Leader:

As you now get ready to bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts Award, be aware that you will be moving into new program areas to challenge you. You will be asked to take on more responsibilities and develop your leadership skills. As Cadette Girl Scouts you will have the opportunity to earn Cadette level badges, explore career options, give service, and

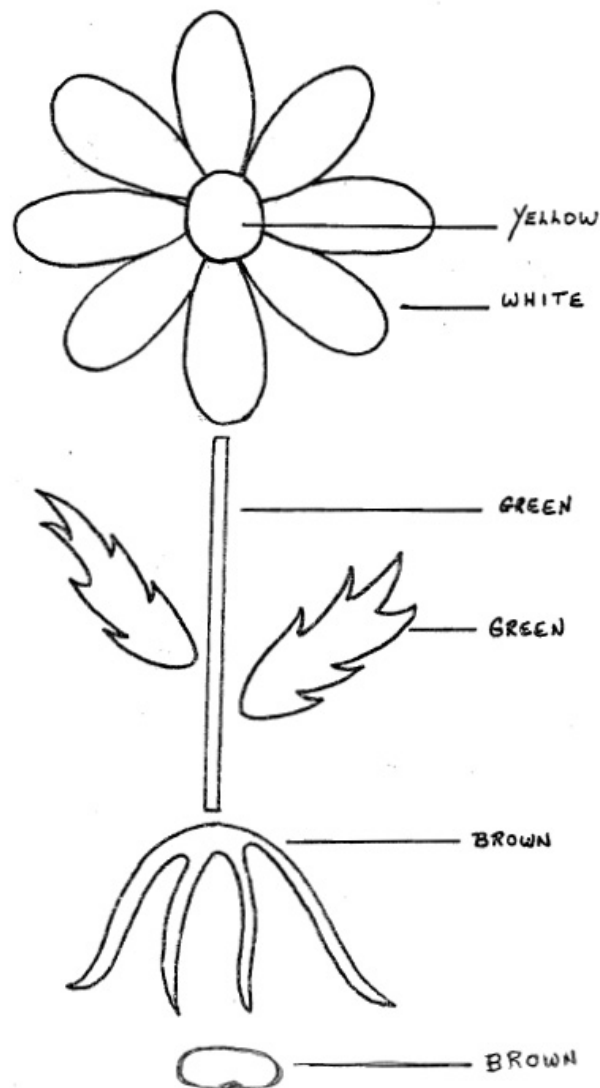
participate in Wider Opportunities. Some of you may choose to earn the Silver Award, the highest award in Cadette Girl Scouting. Let these leaves remind you of your Cadette Girl Scout years. Just as the leaves of a plant nourish it and help it grow, so does Cadette Girl Scouting encourage the growth of a girl. [Affix leaves to sides of stem.]

Cadette Girl Scout Leader:

Our plant is not complete. It needs the flower. Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouting is the bloom of the plant. Through continued growth and development you can become Senior and then Ambassador Girl Scouts - the blossom or pride of Girl Scouting. Let the center of this flower represent to you Cadettes that Senior Girl Scouting is still ahead of you and after that Ambassador Girl Scouts. When you become Senior Girl Scouts, the flower will bloom and as Ambassador Girl Scouts, you will add the petals. [Affix center and petals of flower to top of stem]

Girls repeat the Promise, receive a daisy and are welcomed in Cadette Girl Scouting.

Girls can also receive the Bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts Award if they have earned it.



## Sample of Bridging Ceremony for Cadette Girl Scouts Seven Virtues of Life

*This ceremony can be used as part of a traditional bridging ceremony such as the other examples in this book.*

### **Equipment:**

Seven candles in a single stand or individual holders, lighter. Depending on location, you may need to use electric candles that you can 'light' by tightening the bulbs at the appropriate time.



### **Arrangement:**

Cadette Girl Scout Leader facing girls from behind candles. Senior Girl Scout Leader to the side.

### **Ceremony:**

[Cadette Girl Scout Leader points to seven candles. They can pre-lit or lit individually following the explanation of each virtue.]

Wisdom ..... Wisdom does not necessarily mean superior knowledge. It means putting to the right use the knowledge that one possesses.

Courage ..... Courage is not the quality that enables one to meet danger without fear. It is being able to meet danger in spite of one's fear.

Self-control ... Self-control isn't limited to the control of one's temper, but control of one's self in all things; eating, playing, and even working and talking.

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

Faith ..... Faith is the conviction that something unproved by physical evidence is true.

Hope ..... Hope means to expect with confidence. Always hope for better things to come. A woman without hope is of little good to herself or her community.

Love ..... There are many kinds of love – love of family, love of home, love of fellow man, love of God, and love of country. All these loves are necessary for a full life.

If you live by the seven great virtues, you will become a happy woman, and a happy woman is a successful woman. It is now my pleasure to present you to your new Girl Scout Leader of Senior Girl Scout Troop (number).



## Sample of Bridging Ceremony for Senior Girl Scouts

### Equipment:

A key for each bridging Senior Girl Scout (could be made from cardboard or store bought). Bridge to Ambassador Girl Scouts Award for each girl that has earned it



### Formation:

Troop stands in a circle.

### Ceremony:

Girl Scout Leader: Have you come here tonight (today) with a desire to be bridged into the Sisterhood of Ambassador Girl Scouts?

Senior Girl Scouts: Yes, we have.

Girl Scout Leader: Do you understand that by becoming Ambassador Girl Scouts you are joining a sisterhood in which you will be expected to live your life according to Girl Scouting ideals and traditions and in which you will be trusted to obey the Promise and Law and carry out the motto of being prepared?

Senior Girl Scouts: We do.

Girl Scout Leader: It will be your duty as Ambassador Girl Scouts to go ahead and prepare the way for those who are following you. Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, and Senior Girl Scouts will be looking to you as leaders to set a worthy example. Are you prepared to undertake this responsibility?

Senior Girl Scouts: We are.

Girl Scout Leader: Are you ready to lead your new life of leadership to be honorable and fair in all your dealings, to recognize and give service where needed and to look wide at life and then look wider still?

Senior Girl Scouts: We are.

Girl Scout Leader: Understanding these things then, I ask you to see your responsibilities and endeavors in Girl Scouting, not from a girl's point of view, but that of young leaders. Will you do this?

Senior Girl Scouts: We will.

Girl Scout Leader: I trust you, on your honor, to do your best to keep these promises. Do your best to keep your honor bright and the spirit of Girl Scouting in your heart.

Accept these keys as symbols of your advancement into Ambassador Girl Scouts. Use them to unlock all the wider opportunities available to you as new young leaders in the Girl Scout community.

# Sample of Bridging Ceremony for Ambassador Girl Scouts

## Equipment:

Large sheet of poster board; seed, roots, stem, leaves and daisy flower cut from colored paper and backed with tape (illustrated in Sample Bridging Ceremony for Junior Girl Scouts #2); a packet of daisy seeds for each bridging Ambassador Girl Scout; Bridge to Adult Girl Scouts Pin for each girl that earned it.



## Formation:

Troop stands in horseshoe around an easel and facing the audience.

## Ceremony:

Ambassador Girl Scout 1:

Just as the seed is the first part of the plant so is Daisy Girl Scouts the first part of the Girl Scout program. Let this seed represent Daisy Girl Scouting, the beginning. [Affix seed near bottom of poster board.]

Ambassador Girl Scout 2:

In Brownie Girl Scouting, girls continue their development as Girl Scouts. Let these roots remind you of that early growth. Just as roots emerge from the seed as tender shoots seeking to grasp the earth, so do Brownie Girl Scouts begin their adventure in Girl Scouting as inexperienced girls relying upon others to guide them in their growth. Give the roots proper nurturing and they grow to become a strong foundation for the plant. Give a Brownie Girl Scout good leadership and she will develop her own inner strengths. [Affix roots above seed.]

Ambassador Girl Scout 3:

In Junior Girl Scouting, girls begin to spring forth and make themselves known. Let this stem remind you of that emerging process. For just as a stem pushes up from the roots, so do Junior Girl Scouts reach out further into their world. [Affix stem above the roots.]

Ambassador Girl Scout 4:

Cadette Girl Scouting allows girls to move into new areas of the program and challenge themselves. Let these leaves remind you of Cadette Girl Scouting. Just as the leaves of a plant nourish it and help it grow, so does Cadette Girl Scouting nurture a girl and encourage her growth. [Affix leaves to sides of stem.]

Ambassador Girl Scout 5:

Senior Girl Scouting takes strength from the stem and develops a flower bud, full of the promise of all their experiences to date. Not yet in full bloom, Senior Girl Scouts gather strength in anticipation of the last growth as Girl Scouts. [Affix center of flower above stem, leaving room for petals.]

Ambassador Girl Scout 6:

This plant started from a seed, developed anchoring roots, pushed a stem from ground, nurtured itself from the leaves, and produced a bud. The long-awaited event is the bloom. Ambassador Girl Scouting is the flower of the plant. Just as the petals unfold themselves for all the world to notice, so do Ambassador Girl Scouts step forward as leaders and explorers along the paths of life's experiences. [Add petals to flower. A possible option is to have each girl's name on a petal.]

Girl Scout Leader:

Even though the flower eventually fades, it leaves behind a precious commodity. The seeds that develop from the bloom ensure the continuance of the species. They may be spread over the land to generate new growths of life. Take, then, these daisy seeds as a symbol of your love for Girl Scouting. Use that love to foster interest in Girl Scouting in others and to ensure the development of the program. As a new adult in Girl Scouting, you hold the seeds of future growth in your hands. Continue along life's path and use your experiences to support others in the Girl Scouting program. [Present each bridging Senior Girl Scout a packet of daisy seeds and her Bridge to Adult Girl Scouts Pin, if earned]

# OTHER CEREMONIES

## Scouts' Own

A Scouts' Own is a special program in Girl Scouting designed to provide an opportunity for girls or adults to express their serious thoughts and deeper feelings. It is an opportunity to reaffirm their ideals, and a way to express these ideals to others. It is not a religious service, but an inspirational one.

The program is one planned by the girls with the help of their adult Leader and not the other way around. [Adults can also hold a Scouts' Own at all adult functions.] Its value as a means to spiritual growth lies in their expression of their own convictions, aspirations and ideals. They may express these in several ways, "I'm grateful that \_\_\_\_\_", "I'm glad that \_\_\_\_\_", "I'm proud that \_\_\_\_\_". There is no audience in the formal sense of the word, but rather one group joining in spirit and action to create the program.

The first thing to do is to explain to girls just what a Scouts' Own is. Then, a theme must be decided upon. Decide ways to carry out the theme: story, poems, talk, slides, songs, play, pictures, speaking chorus. A short period of silence, where each person can listen to the sounds around them, can be very effective. Some small part should be available for everyone. The program should not be rehearsed, just planned and prepared. Original works of the girls themselves should be used whenever possible.

A Scouts' Own should not be too long, but long enough to get the idea across to those experiencing the Scouts Own.

Some suggested themes: Promise and Law, Citizenship, International Friendship, Our World, water, trees, the seasons, sky, stars, rain, Native American Lore, experiences in Girl Scouts.

The location can be anywhere but it is useful to move into an area away from the normal work area to emphasize the break from the normal conversation and activities.

Enter and leave in silence to encourage and maintain an atmosphere of serenity.

A suggested pattern (but remember there is no set pattern, creativity is best!)

1. Introduction to the theme
2. A song or two that sets the tone
3. Development of the theme
  - Skits, poetry reading, choral reading
  - Different girls speaking
  - Listening to music
  - Short film or video
4. Song
5. Reciting a poem or having a dialogue with everyone participating
6. Closing – song, poem, etc.

# Sample Thinking Day Ceremony

The following ceremony could be part of a larger event honoring Thinking Day. Thinking Day is February 22 and is the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. Lord Baden-Powell founded Boy Scouts in Great Britain. Lady Baden-Powell promoted Girl Guides and Girl Scouts throughout the world and is known as the Chief Guide.

## Equipment:

Large replica of the World Association Trefoil (see Appendix 1), easel, pointer

## Formation:

The troop stands in a semicircle on either side of an easel holding a poster board with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Trefoil on it.



## Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: The World Trefoil Pin is a badge of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. On Thinking Day all Girl Scouts plan to think of one another, throughout the world. You wear this pin and so do Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from other countries. This pin has special meaning.

Girl Scout #2: The Blue stands for the sky and the Gold for the sun.

Girl Scout #3: The Trefoil in the middle stands for the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

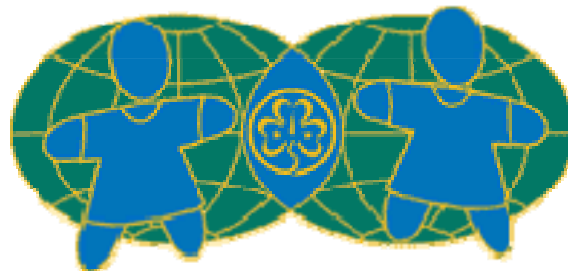
Girl Scout #4: The Base of the trefoil is shaped like a flame and stands for the love of mankind and the flame that burns in the hearts of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts everywhere.

Girl Scout #5: The line in the middle of the trefoil stands for the compass needle that guides us.

Girl Scout #6: The two stars stand for the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law.

[After all the speakers are finished, you may want to pin the members of the troop who haven't received their pins.]

Girl Scout Leader: We hope that this pin is never put on simply from force of habit or for convenience; let it be a perpetual reminder to us, who we are and what we are striving to be. We pledge that the Law which we have promised to obey may never become mere empty words, let it be the guiding principle of our lives.



## Sample Thinking Day Ceremony #2

### The Candles of Friendship

#### Equipment:

Thirteen candles, logs or wood candleholders, matches, candlesnuffer, cover for table.

#### Formation:

The troop forms a horseshoe around a table.

#### Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: We light the candles of Friendship.

Girl Scout #2: These are the symbols of our pledge as Girl Scouts.

Girl Scout #3: Our flames are small and are steady and bright.

Girl Scout #4: We light them with thoughts of friendship glowing and steadily burning in our hearts.

Girl Scout #5: We watch the glowing flames with hopeful hearts, for children here and abroad, that they may enjoy all the rights of the child.

Girl Scout #6: For the Founder of all Guiding and Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell.

Girl Scout #7: For the Founder of all Girl Scouting in these United States, Juliette Gordon Low.

Girl Scout #1: This candle is for the hope of peace in every land.

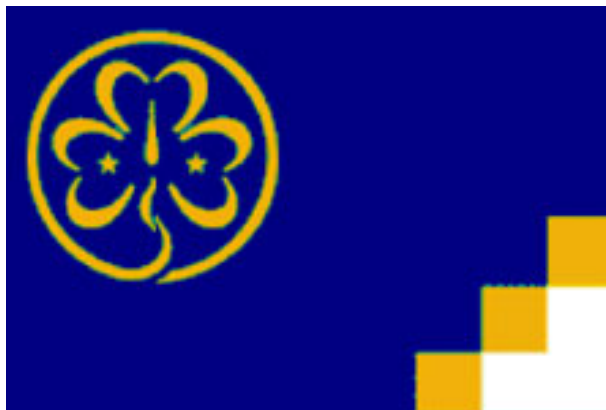
Girl Scout #2: This one is for service to our country.

Girl Scout #3: For all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides wherever they may be tonight.

Girl Scout #4: This one says, "Good luck to all who are away."

Girl Scout #5: For the Girl Scout Law and for the Promise we make as Girl Scouts together.

Girl Scout #6: Let us now renew our Girl Scout Promise. (Participants recite the Promise.)



## Sample Countries of the World Thinking Day Ceremony

The countries in this ceremony were chosen for contrast of cultures and location, but any other countries in the World Association could be substituted.

### Equipment:

Seven small candles with holders, one large candle with drip catcher, large cardboard cutout of the World Trefoil in appropriate colors, see Appendix 1.

### Formation:

The speakers form a horseshoe around a large World Trefoil symbol, which is placed on the floor. Girl Scout #1 standing at the top of the trefoil represents the Spirit of Friendship. She carries a large candle with the drip catcher. It should be lit before the ceremony begins. Eight other girls representing Finland, Brazil, Italy, India, Ghana, Japan, Great Britain, and America, carry small, unlighted candles. These eight girls should be evenly distributed around the trefoil.

### Ceremony:

- Girl Scout #1: [taking several steps 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.
- Girl Scout #2: A Girl Scout will do her best to be a sister to every Girl Scout.
- Girl Scout #1: Let us call from many lands the pledge of friendship and sisterhood. From Finland...
- Girl Scout #3: [Speaker steps 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 lights 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.
- Girl Scout #1: From Brazil...
- Girl Scout #4: [Speaker repeats same actions as Finland, except that candle is placed at right base of trefoil.] Brazil is 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, and love for our friends.
- Girl Scout #1: From Ghana....
- Girl Scout #5: [Goes to Friendship, lights candle, returns to trefoil, puts down candle and stands beside it.] From yet another continent am I, 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.
- Girl Scout #1: From Japan....
- Girl Scout #6: [Same action as Ghana.] Happy are we, in far Japan, because we are your sisters, too. We share the Law and Promise, and the fun of being Girl Guides. I light this candle for my friends at home.
- Girl Scout #1: 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

- Girl Scout #7: [Same action as Ghana.] Greetings from Great Britain's Guides who reach across the sea to grasp your hands.
- Girl Scout #1: Lastly, on the United States I call. One nation formed from many, where men and women live at peace together, and where friendship walks at will.
- Girl Scout #8: [Same action as Ghana.] Many millions strong, we Girl Scouts of the United States seek understanding and true fellowship among ourselves at home. With our friends around the world, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides, we shall keep faith to build a better world for all.

Entire troop now sings, "Make New Friends" as the countries pick up their candles and return to their places in the semicircle. The Spirit of Friendship also returns to her original position. The troop leaves as it came, in silence.

# ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

## Appendix 1 – WAGGGS Logo

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts logo can be used as part of a ceremony at any time during the year but is particularly appropriate around Thinking Day. See the index for a listing of ceremonies in this book. This page can be used as a pattern for a recreation of the logo in felt or colored paper.





## Appendix 2 – Worksheet for Ceremonies

Name of Ceremony \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose or Theme \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Ceremony \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Ceremony \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Who will attend? \_\_\_\_\_

How will the ceremony begin?

What songs, poems, quotations will be included?

What activities will be included in the main part of the ceremony?

Will people speak?

Will recognitions or other awards be given?

How will the ceremony end? Who will do each part?

Who will record the ceremony for your troop's archives or records?

What decorations or props are needed?

Who will bring the items?

What refreshments will be served?

Who will bring them?

What will refreshments cost?

Who will pay for them?

When will a rehearsal be scheduled for the ceremony?

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