

# Cadette & Senior Rededication Ceremony

This ceremony is for older girls, who have been in scouting for a while and may be beginning to take their Girl Scout Promise and the Law for granted.

Girls begin this ceremony more as observers.

**Setting:** The room is dark, except for 13 lit candles.

**Leader says,** "We know our Promise and our Law. We have recited it many times over the years. We may have questioned its importance in our life or have forgotten its value."

"But what would the world be like if we each stopped serving God and our country?" (Leader blows out one candle)

"What would the world be like if we each stopped helping people in need?" (Leader blows out more one candle)

"What would the world be like if we each stopped living by the Girl Scout Law?" (Leader blows out one more candle)

"What would the world be like if we choose to be dishonest and self-serving" (Leaders blows out one more candle)

Follow this pattern through the Law, until all candles are blown out and the room is dark. Pause

"If we choose this path, our world becomes very dark." Pause

"But I, \_\_\_\_\_ make a commitment today to serve God and my country" (Re-light first candle)

"Who else wants to renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law?"

Allow the girls to re-light each candle while they say their part of the Promise and Law: "I \_\_\_\_\_ make a commitment to \_\_\_\_\_(be honest and fair etc.)"

Close with a favorite Girl Scout ceremony song:

On My Honor, Change the World, Girl Scouts Together, When'ere You Make a Promise, or Just One Girl

"May our lights shine and may we brighten our world."

Rhonda Greenlaw  
San Diego-Imperial Council, CA

# Canada Cord Flower Ceremony

Before the ceremony starts I usually give a little story about the girl and her accomplishments. This ceremony is performed with the entire District present. The girls like to have their mothers put on their cord but the decision is theirs to make.

It is a flower ceremony and each flower symbolizes a part of their Guiding life. The flowers are colour coordinated to the branch of Guiding. Since I have not had any girls yet who were sparks I have not added this branch to the ceremony yet. There are a dozen flowers and depending on the number of girls, the time of year, and our finances they can easily be very inexpensive. A bunch or two of flowers from the grocery store can often be made to work. I usually have 3 carnations sprayed, silver, gold and bronze as well as the yellow rosebud.

The ceremony goes like this.

## **Guider:**

**(name of girls) these flowers are symbols of your life in Guiding. We know that your own Guiding experiences will take you into a lifetime of good deeds and prepare you for a life of service to others, being always prepared for anything.**

These flowers remind us of the world of nature which we in Guiding love and respect, but each flower individually also reminds us of your journey in Guiding.

## **Brownie Leader (presents flower and says):**

**This yellow daffodils symbolize your days in Brownies, from your first days as a nervous Tweenie to the day you proudly flew up to Guides to meet new challenges awaiting you in Guides.**

## **Guide Leader (presents flower and says):**

**This blue carnation symbolized your days in Guides, when you meet your challenges and were always prepared.**

## **Girls Mother(s):**

**This red rose reminds you of the warmth of the hearth in your home. Your caring ways with your family and friends have been enriched through your challenges learned and home skills practiced on your family and friends.**

## **Mayor of Town:**

**This white carnation symbolizes the Community Emblem which you earned, learning about your community politically as well as how to provide service to others in your community. How to bring light into the lives of those less fortunate than yourself.**

## **Fellow Pathfinder:**

**This pink rose symbolizes the Camping Emblem. Camping has been a very important part of your Guiding years. You have met many new challenges in the out of doors through your camping experiences and many new friendships with your fellow campers.**

**Fellow Pathfinder:**

This white carnation reminds us of the World Emblem where we learned to preserve our heritage on earth for future generations. We are the ones who can bring global peace and unity in the future.

**Fellow Pathfinder:**

This pink rose symbolizes your ability to always Be Prepared for all your personal challenges in life by applying the Guide Law and always being honest and trustworthy.

**Guider:**

This red rose symbolizes the Be Prepared emblem where you learned to always Be Prepared for all your personal challenges in life.

**Guider:**

Having completed the three stages of all of these emblems, silver, bronze and gold. You have reached the end of the Pathfinder Program and so you are now ready to begin your new challenges awaiting you in Rangers as well as in life. As Roberta Bondar said "Each goal achieved in Life was like a new badge earned in Guides."

**Ranger:**

Finally this yellow rosebud symbolizes the new challenges and goals awaiting you in your life ahead. Just as this bud is beginning to open, so you have already begun to meet these new challenges.

**Guider:**

This red ribbon ties all of these flowers together just as your Canada Cord encompasses all the work you have done as a Pathfinder.

Congratulations \_\_\_\_\_ as a Canada Cord recipient it is your destiny to share the Guiding principles and be proud to be a Canadian.

Wendy Baker

Sparks Guider, Pathfinder Guider, Craft Trainer, Potential Trainer, Chair of Division Composite Camp, District Commissioner Central Area, Ganaraska Division, Sugarbush District

# Candle Ceremony

Okay - I can't stay away - I'm back. I know there was some talk about changing from the five worlds and I don't know if they have yet or not. If they have you could maybe adapt it somewhat. Here's a candle ceremony my girls loved to do. We did it a lot because they really like it and also we had a large troop, so that way everyone got turns at doing this ceremony. We used it as part of the ceremony when giving out badges too. I got this ceremony from the ceremonies book, but I shortened some things to make it easier for the girls when they were younger. We had one girl light the candle and the other say the words (that way more girls could participate actively in the ceremony)

## **Candles Needed:**

**One white taper and candle holder,**

One each short candle (I used votive) of the following colors: red, orange, yellow, blue, purple, green

We placed the candles in a glass quiche/tart dish with the ruffled sides and then I had a woodsy kind of potpourri that we put in the bottom on the dish. The candles were arranged in a circle around the white taper in the middle. This was a nice effect - made it seem a little fancier than just putting the candles on a table. The candles don't burn that long so we never had a fire hazard and it was all contained inside a glass dish in case anything were to catch we could put it out quick.

Have everyone form a horseshoe with candles in the middle on a table -

White candle is in a candle holder in the center and lit by the leader as the horseshoe forms.

Girls will use white candle to light the other candles

**#1 Leader or girl:** The daisy is a symbol of the Girl Scout Movement, which was started by our founder Juliette Gordon Low and began in our country on March 12, 1912. Juliette Low's nickname was Daisy. You are following in her footsteps as you become a unique and caring influence in today and tomorrow's world.

**#2 Red Candle:** The red candle is for the World of Well-Being. Which helps girls to understand themselves, while also being aware of what it takes to be physically fit.

**#3 Orange Candle:** The orange candle is for the World of Today and Tomorrow, which lets girls look into the how and why of things and to solve problems

**#4 Yellow Candle:** The yellow candle is for the World of Out-of-Doors. Girls can learn to appreciate nature and take actions to protect and preserve our world.

**#5 Blue Candle:** The blue candle is for the World of People. This world helps girls appreciate their heritage and the differences and common themes of all cultures.

**#6 Purple Candle:** The purple candle is from the World of the Arts. This world can help develop a personal appreciation for the many art forms and things of beauty around us.

**#7 Green Candle:** From the light of the five worlds, may your Girl Scout world ever grow.

**#8 Leader or girl:** From the Girl Scout Worlds of Interest take your light into the world and let it shine forth with love and knowledge.

Sing a song here (It's a Small World is a good one - if you need the words let me know)

Close the horseshoe into a circle and do the friendship squeeze.

Of course all the girls wanted to blow the candles out afterwards, so we took turns doing that too. We have done this ceremony since the girls were 1st grade Brownies. Of course back then we had to help them read the sayings, but it was still always a special thing.

Cheryl Thienes  
St. Croix Valley Council, MN

## Candle Ceremony with Origami Cranes

This year the girls were very much into origami. So for our rededication we made 14 pairs of origami cranes, each pair was a different color. One crane was modified by cutting a hole through the center (easier to do while still folded flat) so that the long white taper candles could slide through the crane. We then used two large egg cartons (each holding 5 candles) to hold our "law" candles. Once the candles were set in the egg cartons we took our "candle" tablecloth (you know...the one that has been dripped on sooooo many times!) and draped it around the egg cartons so they couldn't be seen. We use 3 simple brass (thrift store) candle holders for the "promise" candles which sat on top of the green tablecloth.

Each girl had a card with a part of the promise or law on it and one of the matching colored origami cranes. The MC had a crane on her card and the "mother" candle. The MC read a passage about the importance of the Promise and Law to all Scouts and then was able to call each part by color. The appropriate girl, recognizing her "color" would stand and read her part and then light the candle with the \*matching\* origami crane from the mother candle.

This made the ceremony very easy for the girls to self-direct. The leaders (with the exception of the "fire tender") all got to stand in the back of the room and just watch the girls at work. Each girl had to make two cranes and eventually got to keep the one on her card as a memento from the ceremony. We adapted the "ribbon" ceremony from <http://www.cais.net/cwelch/gsrc/cerem030.htm> and just changed the "ribbons" for "cranes".

With all of the symbolism behind the candles and the cranes, this was one of our most beautiful ceremonies yet! Well...it brought tears to my eyes at least.

Hope this is useful..

Alice Few  
Brownie Troop 1865  
Totem Council 65  
Washington

# Candlelight Guide Enrollment Ceremony

## **Needed:**

**1 candle for each guide being enrolled**

1 large white candle (Promise Candle)

Candle holders

Starts after Horseshoe is formed and colours have been done ( if you are doing a formal Colour Ceremony).

## **A Guider lights the large candle and says:**

" I light this candle to remind us of our promise. When we try to keep our Guide Promise we are helping make this world a better place for ourselves and everyone else." You could have an older girl do this also.

Then one patrol is invited to bring the guides to be enrolled. The patrol leader and second both are escorts. The patrol leader introduces the girls and then the procedure in the POR is followed.

Once the girl says her promise and the pin is put on, the girl proceeds to another leader who puts on her scarf. Scarves will be on table rolled and ready to put on and tie.

Then a third leader gives the girl a candle which she lights from the large one and says one of the Guide Laws.( The laws are given out the preceding week and the girls memorize the law or use their paper). If there are more girls than laws some are repeated. After reciting the law the girl places candle in holder or she could do this first.

The enrolled guide returns to her spot in the horseshoe which has become a sitting horseshoe. I have tried having them stand throughout the enrolment and find they fidget too much. Allowing them to sit seems to be better.

The article I got this from does the lighting and reciting first and then proceeds with the enrollment ceremony.

Each year I get the second year girls to plan the enrolment as they have experienced the previous year's. Over the years modifications have been made to assist in it running more smoothly. The girls have great ideas. The idea to have scarves rolled and ready is the change this year suggested by the girls.

After the enrollment a game or singsong or some other activity is done.

This year the second year girls have a campfire planned to which they invite the guests to join on the floor. After that there are refreshments which the newly enrolled guides have provided. (We provide the drinks and girls bring a plate of goodies).

Judy Bober

53rd Calgary Guides

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

## Citywide Bridging

**Last year I organized our citywide bridging ceremony, and I will be doing it again, this time with the help of my 4th grade Junior troop.**

We are a suburban city of population 80,000, outside Boston, Mass. We have about 700 GS girls. Last year, 10 troops participated in our citywide bridging. This year there are 25 eligible troops at all levels, and we expect about 15 of them to choose to join the citywide ceremony in June. (The others will either wait till fall, or do their own smaller ceremony.) We have a city hall with nice grounds that include a large pond with 2 wide bridges, and this is where we do our ceremony. (We reserve a large room inside the city hall building in case of rain.)

**The setting:** there is a large lawn that easily seats 300 people on blankets, etc. Behind the lawn is the pond. To the left and right are 2 pedestrian bridges that cross the pond, and a walkway connects the bridges on the far side of the pond. It takes about 3-4 minutes for a girl to walk across one bridge, around the walkway, and across the other bridge back to the lawn.

We are making a few improvements this year, so I will describe what we plan to do. We will start with everyone seated on blankets on the lawn, facing the pond. A small "stage" area will be set up (just a table really) in front of the pond. A small group of girls (up to 12 of them) will do a flag ceremony--just walking the flags in and then out again. (Last year we tried posting the flags in stands, but the wind was so strong that we had to assign someone to sit by the stands and hold the flags for the whole ceremony.) This group of girls will not be bridgers. We plan to recruit them by asking for older/younger GS siblings of girls who are bridging. After a brief intro, each level will be called up to the front to perform a brief reading, poem, or song of their choice. The troops of each level will be able to choose whether they want to perform together or individually. A little extra time is allowed for Seniors bridging to Adult, and their Gold Awards are publicly mentioned if applicable. (Though we also have a separate Gold Award ceremony earlier in the spring.)

Then we will form a big parade (way to the left, on another piece of lawn), led by the flag girls. Each troop (starting with Daisy troops up through Senior), optionally led by their troop banner, will take their place. The parade will go around the bridge loop while some sort of reading or entertainment takes place. As each troop comes across the second bridge, they will come forward to the stage, and each girl will hand over a card where her name has been printed, so her name can be read to the crowd and she can be individually recognized. Her troop leader will drape her with the new sash/vest, and she can pose for a brief photo. We envision that this parade and individual movement by girls will be fairly efficient--like a graduation ceremony.

Then possibly the presentation of a few special awards (last year we presented a few religious recognitions), and a closing reading.

We plan to follow the ceremony with a family picnic, weather permitting. Desserts are supplied. Our ceremony is 5:00-6:30 on a Sunday. We hold a rehearsal for the ceremony on the (Saturday) afternoon before. All troops are notified about this at the time that they sign up to participate in the citywide ceremony.



**We charge each participating girl a \$2 fee (this mainly goes toward rental of the "just in case" room at city hall), and each troop signs up to bring something (dessert, decorations, general supplies).**

Debbie Terman  
Patriots' Trail Girl  
Scout Council (around Boston, Mass)

# Colors

Based on a Native American Legend

**Materials needed for each person involved with the ceremony:**

1 Strip of leather about 7 inches long

1 pony bead of each color: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet

**Suggested:**

Above colors streamers either attached to walls or on the floor where the colors are to stand are a nice touch.

Once upon a time the colors of the world started a quarrel, all claimed that they were the best, the most important, the most useful, the favorite.

**RED shouted out:** "I am the ruler of all of you -- I am blood -- life's blood! I am the color of danger and of bravery. I am willing to fight for a cause. I bring fire into the blood. Without me, the earth would be as empty as the moon. I am the color of passion and of love, the red rose, the poinsettia and the poppy."

**ORANGE started next to blow her trumpet:** "I am the color of health and strength. I may be scarce, but I am precious for I serve the needs of human life. I carry the most important vitamins. Think of carrots, pumpkins, oranges, mangos, and pawpaws. I don't hang around all the time, but when I fill the sky at sunrise or sunset, my beauty is so striking that no one gives another thought to any of you."

**YELLOW chuckled:** "You are all so serious. I bring laughter, gaiety, and warmth into the world. The sun is yellow, the moon is yellow, the stars are yellow. Every time you look at a sunflower, the whole world starts to smile. Without me there would be no fun."

**GREEN said:** "Clearly, I am the most important. I am the sign of life and hope. I was chosen for grass, trees, leaves - without me, all animals would die. Look over the countryside and you will see that I am in the majority."

**BLUE interrupted:** "You only think about the earth, but consider the sky and the sea. It is the water that is the basis of life and drawn up by the clouds from the deep sea. The sky gives space and peace and serenity. Without my peace, all of you would be nothing."

**INDIGO spoke, much more quietly than all the others, but with just as much determination:** "Think of me. I am the color of silence. You hardly notice me, but without me, all of you become superficial. I represent thought and reflection, twilight and deep water. You need me for balance and contrast, for prayer and inner peace."

**VIOLET rose to her full height. She was very tall and spoke with great pomp:** "I am the color of loyalty and power. Kings, chiefs, and bishops have always chosen me for I am the sign of authority and wisdom. People do not question me - they listen and obey."

**And so the colors went on boasting, each convinced of his or her own superiority. Their quarreling became louder and louder. Suddenly, there was a startling flash of bright lightning...thunder rolled and boomed. Rain started to pour down relentlessly. The colors crouched down in fear, drawing closer to one another for comfort.**

**In the midst of the clamor, rain began to speak: "You foolish colors, fighting amongst yourselves, each trying to dominate the rest. Don't you know that you were each made for a special purpose, unique and different? Join hands with one another and come to me."**

**Doing as they were told, the colors united and joined hands. The rain continued: "From now on, when it rains, each of you will stretch across the sky in a great bow of color as a reminder that you can all live in peace. The rainbow is a sign of friendship and hope for tomorrow."**

And so, whenever the rain washes the world, look up... and as the rainbow appears in the sky, let us all remember our friendships new and old... and that tomorrow is always a new day."

I learned this ceremony at Chaparral Girl Scout Council leader training. We stood in a circle and were handed the thin strips of leather. As different people read the different colors, we were given the same color pony bead and put it on our leather strip in order. When the last person was reading from "And so the colors went on boasting..." we took our finished strip and tied it around the wrist of the person to our right. The beads were put on in the same order as the colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. It was a very touching ceremony and I remember it to this day and keep my bracelet in my purse.

Theresa Rose  
Rio Grande Girl Scout Council

## Countries of the World Thinking Day Ceremony

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

### **Materials needed:**

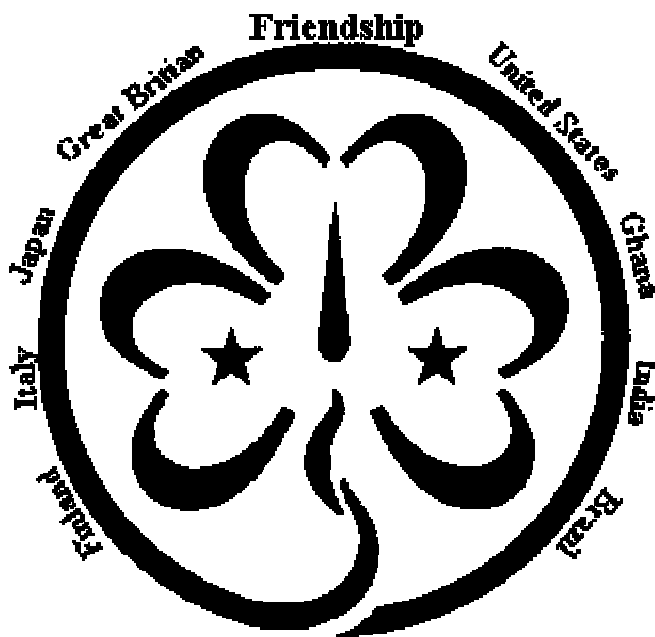
**Eight small candles with holders**

One large candle with drip catcher

LARGE cardboard cutout of the World Association trefoil in appropriate colors

To begin the ceremony, the cutout of the WAGGGS Pin is placed in the center of the floor. The troop members file in quietly and with dignity. If there are guests, the girls form a semi-circle around the trefoil facing the audience. Otherwise, they form a large circle around the trefoil.

The girl at the top of the trefoil represents the Spirit of Friendship. She carries a the 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.



### **Spirit of Friendship: (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.

**Troop (all together):**

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

**Friendship:**

Let us utter in many languages the pledge of friendship and of sisterhood.

**Finland:** (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 light us, like our sun. Friendship and peace are the aims of Girl Guides in our land. Our hope is that soon in all the world there shall be no more night.

**Brazil:** (Same action, except that candle is placed at right base of trefoil):

Brazil's my country. 'Neath the Southern Cross the mountains plunge into a palm fringed sea. This wonderland, our home, teaches us Guides reverence for all creation, love our friends.

**Italy:** (Stepping forward)

From Guides of Italy, I bring you greetings! While war still raged, we organized our troops

**India:** (stepping forward)

And from the Asian continent I come, bearing good wishes from our Indian Guides

**Friendship:** Italy, India, light your flames, and ring our trefoil round with stars of trust. (Italy and India light their candles from Friendship's and return, one to each side of the trefoil, places candles on opposite points and stands beside them.)

**Ghana:** (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.

**Japan:** (Similar action to Ghana's)

Happy are we, in far Japan, because we are your sisters, too, and share the Law and Promise, and the fun of being Girl Guides. I light this candle for my friends at home.

**Friendship:**

I call now on the country where your dream of fellowship became born the dreamer of the dream, who made it come to life throughout the world; the birthplace of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell

**Great Britain:** (Similar action)

Greetings from Great Britain's Guides who reach across the sea to grasp your hands

**Friendship:**

**Lastly on the United States I call. One nation formed from many, where men live at peace together, and where friendship walks at will.**

**United States: (Similar action)**

Over three million strong, we *Girl Scouts of the United States* seek understanding and true fellowship among ourselves at home. With our friends around, *Girl Scouts and Girl Guides*, we shall keep faith

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

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## Court of Awards with GS Law Cupcake Ceremony

I am sending this to the list as well as to Becky because I thought it might be of general interest. I got a lot of it from some GS book. "Ceremonies in GS" maybe? We used this for our Recognition/Court of Awards in January.

We had three tall green candles and 10 short green candles. (For candleholders, we used cupcakes, but that's another story!) (Luckily enough, our troop has 11 members and one couldn't come. Otherwise some rearranging would be needed.)

**Leader:** "The three tall tapers symbolize the threefold purpose of Girl Scouting as expressed in our Promise. The first part concerns service to God and our country" (lights first taper).

**Assistant:** "The second part refers to helping people at all times" (lights second candle).

**L:** "The third part is our promise to live by the Girl Scout Law" (lights third candle).

**A:** "Each of the shorter candles represents one part of the Girl Scout Law."

**L:** "I will do my best"

(Girl 1 walks to the table, takes a short candle, lights it from a taper, and puts it in a holder)

**Girl 1:** "To be honest and fair"

(each girl lights a candle and says a line)

**Leader:** "Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts, once said as she awarded badges to a group of Girl Scouts: 'Every badge you earn is tied up to your motto "Be Prepared." Badges are not awards for something you have done once or for an examination you have passed. They are not medals to wear on your uniform just to show what a smart girl you are. A badge is a symbol that you have done the thing it stands for often enough, thoroughly enough, and well enough to be prepared to give service in it. You wear the badge to let people know that you have earned it, can show someone else how to do it, and are proud of your accomplishment.'

**A:** "Today the girls will receive recognitions they've earned (since September, this year, or whatever time frame) and each girl will tell something she did to earn one Try-it." (The girls take turns stepping forward, briefly describing an activity & showing sample if applicable. L&A hold props & prompt as necessary. After each one speaks, L or A pins badge strip on her)(we pinned the badges to a strip of green ribbon)

**A:** "As you can see, our girls extended their knowledge in different directions. As a result, we hope they will be more helpful to their family, troop, and community."

**L: "Remember that with each new badge, a Girl Scout takes on a new responsibility. A little more is expected at home, at troop meetings, and in your community. Strive always to be worthy of the symbols you wear, and wear them with pride. Best wishes to each of you!"**

Promise, Song, etc.

This could be shortened or altered to meet your needs. It worked well for us.

YIGGGS,  
Theano Petersen  
Totem Council



# Daisy Bridging Ceremony

(to Brownie Girl Scouts)

## **Who:**

Daisy Girl Scouts, their leaders, parents, and perhaps a Brownie Girl Scout "sister" troop with which you have done some bridging activities.

## **What:**

Ceremony to make the transition from Daisy level of Girl Scouts to Brownie level of Girl Scouts.

## **Where:**

At your meeting place, at school, at a church, at a community room.

## **When:**

After you have completed most of your year as a Daisy Girl Scout and after you have talked to a Brownie Girl Scout troop about Brownie Girl Scouts.

## **Why:**

Bridging is an important milestone in moving to the next level of Girl Scouts to receive "Ending Certificates", to receive a Brownie Girl Scout membership pin, to receive a Membership Star and blue disc (which signifies the girl has been a member of Girl Scouts for one year), and to receive the "Bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts Patch" which the girls have earned as a Daisy Scout

## **How:**

This ceremony should include the girls, leaders, parents, and perhaps the Brownie troop you have done bridging activities with. Be sure to include all the details about date, time, place, wear uniform, refreshments served, etc.

## **OPENING**

Form a circle and call each girl's name

Explain why you are having this ceremony

## **CELEBRATION**

- Flag ceremony OR Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- Say the Girl Scout Promise together
- Leader could read the Girl Scout Law
- Have each girl tell what was her favorite part of Daisy Girl Scouts and what she looks forward to as a Brownie Girl Scout
- Have each girl walk across the bridge
- Give each girl an Ending Certificate, a Membership Star and blue disc, and a Brownie Girl Scout pin (you may want to wait until the beginning of next year to give the girl her Brownie Pin)
- Greet each girl with a Girl Scout handshake
- Sing the "Brownie Smile Song"

## **CLOSING**

**Form a circle Sing "Make New Friends"**

Make new friends, but keep the old  
One is silver, and the other's gold  
A circle is round, it has no end  
That's how long I want to be your friend

Sing "Taps"

Do a friendship squeeze around the circle  
Dismiss

## **REFRESHMENTS**

**Are optional but add a nice touch**

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## Daisy Girl Scout Investiture

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

- **Call girls to the front, seat them in a half circle, facing you; you face the audience, read or tell the story of Juliette Low. (Daisy Story of Juliette Low Book)**
- **Have girls stand and face the audience. As a group, girls make the Girl Scout sign and recite the Promise. Briefly explain the meaning of the handsign to the audience. (pg 41, the Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders)**
- **Pin each girl with her Daisy Girl Scout Pin, give them the give Girl Scout Handshake, and welcome them into Girl Scouting. (pg 41, The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders)**
- **Make a Friendship Circle, sing "Make New Friends".**
- **Give each girl her Beginning Year Certificate.**
- **Invite parents and girls to share refreshments.**

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## Dime Ceremony

**We have something we want to give each of you girls tonight - A bright, shiny new dime! Now, a dime doesn't do much by itself. You have to put it with something in order for it to be useful. Put 25 cents with it and you have enough for an emergency phone call. Put 40 cents with it and you might have enough to buy a candy bar or a pack of gum. You can save more dimes, put it all in the bank and let it make more money in interest. You could take this dime home, throw it in a dresser drawer and not use it at all. You could even lose it before you get home! Now, I want you to tell me, how many pennies does it take to equal this one dime? Right, it takes 10 pennies - 10 very equal and important parts. Well when you take the 10 parts of the Girl Scout Law and add it all together, it equals Girl Scouting!**

I will do my best to be  
honest and fair  
friendly and helpful  
considerate and caring  
courageous and strong, and  
responsible for what I say and do,  
and to  
respect myself and others  
respect authority  
use resources wisely  
make the world a better place, and  
be a sister to every Girl Scout

because.. . . .

**WE ARE GIRL SCOUTS!!!**

Contributed by Debbie DeWitt

## Division Bridging

### **MATERIALS:**

4 balloons of each color (yellow, orange, red, purple, blue, green)

"Rainbow" support (two 2" dowels with a heavy wire about 48" long attached to one end of each dowel.) \*Attach balloons to wire in order listed above to make a rainbow.

Bridge

Chairs, table, podium, etc.

Flags (as many as you can!) Include American, GS, WAGGGS, State, Daisy, Brownie, etc.

### **BODY:**

(All girls assemble on second floor, near entrance to auditorium.)

**Speaker #2:** Will you all please rise, to honor the bridging Girl Scouts, and the flag of our country.

(Audience stands)

**Caller:** Color Guard, advance.

(Procession) Cadette or Senior Scouts lead the troops in through the doors at the back of the auditorium and down through the audience to the orchestra area. Flag bearers go up stairs to stage. Those with "country" flags return to orchestra area and join rainbow. All stand at attention after arriving at their positions.

Order-American Flag, World Association Flag, Daisy Flag, Brownie Flag, Junior Flag. Then, Cadettes, Daisy Troops, Brownies, Juniors. Color Guard takes position on stage. Scouts form rainbow on floor.

**Caller:** Color Guard, honor the flag of our country. (American flag bearer raises the flag.)

**Caller:** Girl Scouts, honor the flag of your country. (all place hand on heart)

**Caller:** Please join us in making the Pledge of Allegiance. (all say pledge)

**Caller:** Please join us in singing America the Beautiful. (all sing)

**Caller:** Girl Scouts, recite the Girl Scout Promise. (scouts say promise)

**Caller:** Girl Scouts, please join together in singing When E'er You Make a Promise. (all sing)

**Caller:** Color Guard, post the colors. (those with remaining flags put flags in holders at the back of the stage.)

**Caller:** Color Guard, dismissed. (they split in the middle, then join the rainbow.)

**Caller:** Please be seated. (Audience & Scouts sit. Scouts sit in front rows in reserved seats.)

**Speaker #1:** Welcome to the \_\_\_\_\_ Service Unit's \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Bridging Ceremony. I am \_\_\_\_\_, Service Unit Manager for \_\_\_\_\_. I'd also like to introduce you to our other speakers today. This is \_\_\_\_\_ . . . We are please to have so many active girls in scouting, and we are proud, as you should be, of their many accomplishments. From Daisy Scouts, who discover their place in the world, to Brownies, who lend a helping hand, and Juniors, who learn to interact in the ever-changing world, Girl Scouting plays an important part in their lives.

**Speaker #3:** As leaders, our mission is to inspire girls to become resourceful, responsible citizens who value themselves and others. Our program goals are to help girls: develop full individual potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill and respect; develop values to guide their actions and to provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to the improvement of society through the use of their abilities and leadership skills, working in cooperation with others.

(At this time, Cadettes place bridge downstage center, and retrieve balloons.)

**Speaker #4:** The five worlds of interest, and the world of Girl Scouting itself, are represented by the rainbow balloons held by our sister scouts. They are as follows: red, for the world of well-being; orange, for the world of today and tomorrow; purple, for the world of the arts; yellow, for the world of the out of doors; blue, for the world of people; and green for the world of Girl Scouting.

**Speaker #5:** Daisy Girl Scouts make new friends, explore their creativity, and have fun learning about Girl Scouting. Will the Daisy candidates for bridging please stand and come to the stage. (Daisy scouts & their leaders come up on stage.)

I would like to introduce to you Daisy Troop # \_\_\_\_\_ and their leader \_\_\_\_\_.

**Daisy Leader:** Thank you. Today we have # \_\_\_\_\_ Daisy Girl Scouts bridging to Brownies. This year we have . . . (please fill in projects, service projects, events, etc. that you have done.)

**Speaker #1:** Daisy Girl Scouts, are you ready to go under the rainbow and over the bridge to Brownie Scouts?

**Daisy Scouts:** (all answer) We are.

**Speaker #1:** As your name is called, please cross over the bridge and under the rainbow to greet your sister Brownie Scouts.

(Speaker calls names. As girls cross over, they are greeted by Brownie scout, then go to their leader to receive girl scout handshake and recognitions, if applicable. Then they cross behind the bridge to form a rainbow. When all have crossed over: )

**Speaker #1:** Let's give them a round of applause. (then Leader takes them back to seats.)

Repeat for second Daisy troop, if present.

**Speaker #2:** Brownie Girl Scouts begin to try out new skills, interests, and hobbies. They learn the benefits of lending a helping hand, and begin to discover the role they can play in society. Will the Brownie candidates for bridging please stand and come to the stage. (Brownie scouts and their leaders come to the stage.)

**Speaker #3:** I would like to introduce \_\_\_\_\_, leader of Brownie Troop # \_\_\_\_\_.

**Brownie Leader:** Today we have #\_\_\_\_ Brownie Girl Scouts bridging to Juniors. Some of the highlights of this year include . . .

**Speaker #3:** Brownie Girl Scouts, are you ready to cross under the rainbow and over the bridge to Junior Scouts?

**Brownies:** (together) We are.

**Speaker #3:** As your name is called, please cross under the rainbow and over the bridge to greet your sister Junior Scout.

(as each name is called, scout crosses over the bridge, shakes hands with the Junior scout, then greets leader with girl scout handshake and receives recognitions, if applicable. Then each girl proceeds behind the bridge to form a rainbow with her troop. When all have crossed: )

**Speaker #3:** Let's give them a round of applause.

(Repeat until all Brownie Troops are bridged.)

**Speaker #4:** Junior Scouts have learned much about themselves, and the world around them. They have learned how to be leaders, and how to take responsibility for themselves. They respect themselves, their world, and others, and are a shining example to all they meet. Will the Junior candidates for bridging please stand and come to the stage?

(Junior scouts and their leaders come up to the stage.)

**Speaker #4:** I would like to introduce \_\_\_\_\_, leader of Troop # \_\_\_\_\_.

**Junior Leader:** Today we have \_\_\_\_\_ Junior Girl Scouts bridging to Cadettes. During this year we have . . .

**Speaker #5:** Junior Girl Scouts, are you ready to cross under the rainbow and over the bridge to Cadette Girl Scouting?

**Juniors: We are.**

**Speaker #5: As your name is called, please cross under the rainbow and over the bridge to greet your sister Cadette Scout.**

(Speaker calls name, scout crosses over, greets Cadette, then greets Leader with GS Handshake, and receives recognitions, if applicable. Girls cross behind bridge to form rainbow until all are bridged.)

**Speaker #5: Let's give them a round of applause.**

(Leader guides troop back to seats after applause.)

(Repeat with each Junior troop.)

(During the next speech, Cadettes remove bridge to offstage and place balloons in specified place.)

**\*\*NOTE:** Our division only had bridging for Daisy/Brownie/Juniors. The Cadettes and Seniors had their own event.

**Speaker #2: What an impressive group of girls and leaders! Let's give them all another round of applause.** Before we conclude our ceremony, we'd like to share with you some Girl Scout moments. Renee Z\_\_\_\_, with the help of these troop leaders, has put together a slide presentation of our girls, as they worked and played throughout the year.

(Slide presentation) **\*\*Note:** A leader in our division had access to having slides made from photographs at no charge. Each troop gave her 5-6 pictures of their girls doing GS activities. It made a wonderful presentation with background music (GS National song? What was that title?) If you can do this type of presentation, it really is quite powerful and emotional.

**Speaker #1: As each girl begins the next level of scouting, may she find the support she needs in her leaders, her peers, her family and friends.** May we, who love her, guide and support her as she does her best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, responsible for what she says and does, and to respect herself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every other Girl Scout.

**Speaker #2: Girl Scouts, let us reunite as friends, new and old by making the Girl Scout Friendship Circle and singing, Make New Friends.**

(all sing)

**Speaker #4: Thank you all for coming today. Your support for your daughters is inspirational.** As we retire the flag, please stand, and salute your flag, and remain standing until it has passed.

**Caller: Color Guard, at ready. (Color Guard approaches stairs.)**



**Caller:** Color Guard, advance. (CG goes up to stage and faces flags.)

**Caller:** Color Guard, salute your flag. (CG puts hand on hearts.)

**Caller:** Color Guard, retire the colors. (CG pick up flags, and turns. They walk downstage, then stop. They break at center, and then follow path up to back of auditorium.)

**Caller:** Girl Scouts, dismissed.

(End of ceremony. Those on stage split and exit. Troops may adjourn to the refreshment area.)

## NOTES TO LEADERS

### **Some things to know before you arrive:**

Be ready to tell about your troop's activities this year. Limit yourself to 3-4 sentences. If you only have one or two girls bridging, feel free to make your comments specific about those girls.

Meet 30-45 minutes early so girls can be given directions.

You will be asked to write down all of your bridging girls' names, whether they are present or not.

If you have something specific to share with the group, i.e. Song, presentation, demonstration, etc., please let a committee member know so that we can allow you the time. (If you don't have anything, don't worry, it's not required.)

When the caller asks us to "salute the flag" it means to place your hand over your heart.

When you are invited to sing "Make New Friends" at the end of the ceremony, please help us out by moving the girls to a place around the room. Some girls may have to be at the back of the audience, rather than the back of the auditorium to make us "fit."

There will be seats reserved for the bridging girls and leaders in the first few rows. After the flag ceremony, you will be asked to sit. When your level is called up, bring your bridging girls up to the stage using the right stairs. After all have bridged, the audience will applaud for your troop, then you may lead them back to their seats.

If you have recognitions for your girls, please have them ready to be passed out as each girl bridges. You might want to tell what they have earned in your introduction. To save time, please package multiple awards in individual packages, and if you have pins to award, place them on necklaces to save time. Flowers for each individual girl are nice, too.

## End of Year Ceremony (US Girl Scout)

Hi all. I found a copy of a ceremony on the MacScouter page that didn't suit my needs, so I changed it a bit. Well it turns out that I changed the whole thing so much that it's a whole new ceremony. We'll be using it for our end of the year ceremony when the girls are given their membership stars. Thought I'd share it since I was quite proud of myself!!

**G** is for the color **Green** that Juniors wear with pride

**I** is for the great **Ideas** that grow from deep inside

**R** is for **Respect** we have for all of **God's** creations

**L** is for our **Loyalty** and **Love** for our nation

**S** is for the **Sisterhood** that reaches 'round the world

**C** is for the **Changes** that bring us to women from girls

**O** is for the **Oath** we made that Scouts call **Promise** and **Law**

**U** means that it's **Us** who will give service for a cause

**T** is for the **Teamwork** that makes **15** act as one

**I** is for **Integrity** and pride in what we've done

**N** is for the **Number** of our troop - **9-0-2**

**G** is for the **Girl Scout** way we do the things we do

Together this is Girl Scouting  
It was a great year to remember  
And to recall with fond remembrance  
What we've done since last September.

We wear our pins and badges  
To represent the work we've done  
We wear our vests and sashes  
To show that we are one

Although it seems we've just begun  
Fall will soon be here  
And so we'll add another star  
And start another year.

If anybody wants to adopt this, you'll have to rewrite the part that contains our troop number. Unless, of course, your troop ends with a "2" also!

Paula Barnett  
Junior Troop Leader  
Ocoee, Florida

# Evening Of Celebration

I decided that I would send you my whole script for our Evening of Celebration because then you could have the whole thing to use as a reference. I can't claim the whole thing as mine because I borrowed parts of it from other ceremonies to come up with something special for the girls. I wanted something special for the new girls because the ceremonies in the Ceremony book aren't very exciting and there wasn't even anything to mark the 5th year in scouts. I also pulled some of the information from Patchwork of Ceremonies.

Without further hesitation:

An Evening of Celebration with Junior Troop # \_\_\_\_\_

Good Evening and welcome to Junior Troop # \_\_\_\_\_'s Evening of Celebration.

We will open this special evening with (name of patrol) leading us in a Flag Ceremony. Insert your favorite type of Flag Ceremony here)

In almost all countries and cultures there are ceremonies to mark important events in life - days of celebration, sad days, joyous days, days on which a special commitment is made, days that mark achievement. Girl Scouts, too, have ceremonies to mark important events and significant days. Tonight we are here to affirm and reaffirm our belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, honor those girls entering their 5th year in Girl Scouts and to install our patrol leaders and to present Troop #( ) to the community.

Juliette Gordon Low started the Girl Scout Movement in our country on March 12, 1912 over 85 years ago. The girls here this evening are following in her footsteps as they become a unique and caring influence in today and tomorrow's world.

Tying together all the parts of the Promise and serving as its foundation is the fact that we pledge on our honor to try. We try to live by this Promise. We try not to recite it as if it were a group of meaningless words. Tonight let us in complete sincerity dedicate our lives to the principles of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Can I please have all the returning Scouts come and join us on the stage at this time. (The girls will form a horseshoe with the "oldest" scouts on one end winding down to the "youngest" scouts on the other) This circle represents the circle of friendship that we have in scouts. As you can see, we have left our circle open. We have left it open because there is always room for one more Girl Scout.

(Investiture)

This evening we would like invite (insert girls' names) to come on stage and become a part of this circle. (New girls will stand in the center of the horseshoe with the leaders standing behind them)

"Will each of you now make the Girl Scout sign and together we will make the Girl Scout Promise."

Troop recites the Promise.

**Leader pins the Girl Scout pin on the left side of the uniform or vest. " \_\_\_\_\_, I welcome you to Troop \_\_\_\_\_. May you wear this pin proudly and always over your heart."**

After they receive their pin, they will then join the horseshoe.

(Rededication)

Our circle symbolizes the unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Girl Scouts is like a golden chain, each girl like a link.

Leaders now hand each girl a piece of gold ribbon, you can decide on how long to make it. (I would recommend at least 8 inches.) Leaders stand at each end of the horseshoe.

The leader nearest the older scouts will start. "I am a link in the golden chain of Girl Scouting. I must work to keep MY link shining and bright." The leader ties her ribbon in a complete circle.

The next Scout repeats the verse and ties her link through the previous link. Upon completion of the links, the leader at the end says. Here is the golden chain of Troop \_\_\_\_\_, may it always be shiny and bright. (At this time we presented each of the girls with their membership stars so that it was a special evening for the whole troop)

Sing : "May The Circle Be Unbroken" or "Make New Friends"

(Fifth Year Ceremony)

Can I please have (insert names of fifth year scouts here) step forward? This evening marks a milestone in the lives of these fine young ladies. This marks their fifth year in Girl Scouts.

(Insert "Nobody Told Me" reading, Adapt as necessary)

## **Nobody Told Me**

**Reader 1: Nobody told me I would really feel part of something so big, so wonderful, that when we said the Promise together tonight that I would mean every word. Will I ever know all the words? You'll learn them, I was told.**

**Reader 2: Nobody told me that while I worried and fretted about "doing the right thing at the right time", I would now be looked upon as "knowing all the answers" by the younger scouts. What if they won't listen to me? They'll learn from you, I was told.**

**Reader 3: Nobody told me I would really have to cook on a campout. "I don't know how to scramble eggs or put up a tent." You'll learn, I was told. Nobody told me that I would really want to go camping again. You'll learn, I was told.**

**Reader 4:** Nobody ever told me that I would become queasy or that my voice would crack when I led the Flag Ceremony. "But, I've never done a flag ceremony, I said. What if I forget the words? You'll learn, I was told.

**Reader 5:** Nobody told me that the Laws were made to help us become better people. How will I learn to get along with so many girls, we're all so different. You'll learn, I was told.

**Leader:** Nobody told me that getting to know these girls would be so much fun. Nobody told me, I learned.

**In Unison:** We are Junior Girl Scouts. Five words, but, behind them, hundreds of feelings and thoughts. We are Girl Scouts because we love the out-of-doors, singing, reading, learning how to make things, and because we enjoy sharing with our friends in Girl Scouting. Nobody told us that we would make so many friends! Nobody told us. We learned.

**The leader then says...**

**I've worked with these scouts**

And helped them to grow

I'm sharing them now

But want you to know...

These girls are precious

as precious can be

Love them...take care of them

And you will see

A bright new memory with every day...

They grow in such a special way.

Five years ago...A Daisy

A Brownie...mid-way

Now...A 5th year Scout

Comes home with you tonight.

As dear as can be, though rightfully yours...

Part belongs to Me!!!

Leader pins 5th year pin onto each girl. (Have the girls give you their Scout pin ahead of time so you can already have the chain attached, I also recommend that these girls if they don't already have one get an insignia tab for their pin. It makes things a whole lot easier!) Congratulations \_\_\_\_\_ on reaching your 5th year in Girl Scouts. I'm proud of you.

(Patrol Leader Installation)

This evening we will install our patrol leaders.

**The assistant patrol leaders will present ( Patrol leaders' names) for installation. Each assistant patrol leader walks with her patrol leader to the open end of the horseshoe.**

A patrol leader wears a cord on her left shoulder as a sign of her office. The cord has two gold circles that represent the two circles of people the patrol leader serves: her own patrol, and the troop as a whole. Patrol Leaders, will you please repeat after me... "I promise to do my best to live up the troop trust." Girls, do you as members of (patrol names) promise to do our best to be loyal and helpful to your patrol leaders?" Please answer in unison, "We do promise." The assistant patrol leaders will now present the cords.

Repeat after me: "As a patrol leader I will try to lead the patrol to the best of my ability, to keep order in my group at all times, to speak for my patrol and not just for myself, and to do my best to live up to the patrol's trust."

Members of the patrols repeat after me: "As a member of Troop # \_\_\_\_ I will do my best to be loyal and helpful to my patrol leader."

Assistant patrol leaders pin cords on their patrol leaders and give the Girl Scout handshake. They return to the horseshoe.

We will now form our Friendship Circle and sing the song \_\_\_\_\_.

Repeat the Laws together.

Parents and guests, I now present Troop # \_\_\_\_\_ for the year \_\_\_\_\_.

Will you please join us for... thank you for coming.

By Andrea Gibbs  
Consultant/Leader-Cypress, California

# Flame Ceremony

## **Materials:**

**Six assorted shaped, colored candles, the more mismatched the better.**

One tall, multicolored (if possible) candle in the center

A green taper candle for every participant.

## **GS in charge lights the tall candle in the middle:**

"Stars that shine together form a galaxy. Flowers that grow together create a garden. Buildings that stand together begin a city. People who work together make a difference. This is what valuing differences is all about."

**1st Scout (lights the first small candle):** "I light this candle in friendship for all of the people who are older or younger, taller or smaller, richer or poorer than I."

**2nd Scout (lights the second small candle):** "I light this candle in friendship for all people who worship differently than I."

**3rd Scout (lights the third small candle):** "I light this candle in friendship for all people of a different nationality or ethnicity than I."

**4th Scout (lights the fourth small candle):** "I light this candle in friendship for all people who are of a different color than I."

**5th Scout (lights the fifth small candle):** "I light this candle in friendship for all people who come from other countries than I."

**6th Scout (lights the sixth small candle):** "I light this candle in friendship for all people who don't run, walk, see, hear, or learn the same as I."

**Girl Scout in charge lights her green taper from the tall middle candle and says:** "I light this candle for me, for I am unique and special."

She then walks to the beginning of the horseshoe and the first girl lights her candle from the GS in charge and recites the line. The second girl lights her candle and recites, and so forth around the horseshoe.

**GS in charge:** "Watch the flames closely please. Notice the light from each candle is the same as the others even though the outside of each is different. So, too, are all of us in the world. We wear different clothes, speak different languages, follow different religions or beliefs, like different foods, sing different songs. And yet, we all belong to the same human race. Inside we are all the same. We all wish to be recognized, we all wish to be called by name, we all wish to be loved, we all wish for friends, we all wish for peace. In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to world friendship. (Pause for reflection)"

**In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to peacemaking. (Pause for reflection)**

In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to accept the challenge to look wider still." (Pause for reflection)

End with friendship circle after blowing out individual candles.

"Look wide! And when you think you are looking wide, look wider still." -Lord Baden-Powell

Enjoy!

Jackie Homant



# Flowers

**"Welcome to our Investiture and Rededication ceremony. Today we are here to show our belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law and to recognize the achievements of our girls.**

"This candle that I light shall shine forth as a symbol that a Girl Scout is true to God and her Country.

"The second candle shall shine forth as a symbol that a Girl Scout's greatest desire is to serve.

"The third candle shall shine forth as a symbol that a Girl Scout will try her best to live up to the Girl Scout Law.

Flowers have always played an important part in human life. From the earliest times they have been given as signs of love and respect and have been used in ceremonies of all types. The flowers in this ceremony represent the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law. Girls, please join me in reciting the Girl Scout Promise.

**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

**friendly and helpful,**

The zinnia represents thoughtfulness about friends, while Baby's Breath represents generosity.

**considerate and caring,**

Together, a red and a white Rose stand for a warm and caring heart.

**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.

**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.

**and to respect myself and others,**

The white Rose and white zinnia show that we hold ourselves worthy and good. Winter Greens symbolize the harmony we try to keep between ourselves and others.

**respect authority,**

The daffodil represents careful thought, attention, and concern. With the daffodil, we are saying that we hold others in high regard.

**use resources wisely,**

The foxglove shows thriftiness.

**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.

**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.

Alternative flowers and their meanings:

honest and fair,

- **this part of the law is represented by the white chrysanthemum, showing truth, and honor, and the ivy which represents a faithfulness to duties and keeping promises, and being reasonable in dealing with others. The color green is for new growth and being open to new ideas.**

friendly and helpful,

- **the daisy shows warmth and concern for friends.**
- **the Indian paintbrush shows cheerfulness even in difficulty. considerate and caring,**
- **the carnation shows caring for others.**
- **the baby's breath shows generosity and thoughtfulness toward others. courageous and strong, and\***
- **the climbing wild rose stands for perseverance and exploring possibilities. Where it is firmly established it continues to grow and adapt even to extreme conditions. Its thorns protect it fiercely while its blossoms show that strength can also be beautiful. responsible for what I say and do,**
- **Our words and actions can be like the lily of the valley with each flower representing all the things we say and do. Each word and action says something of our character, and paints a picture of who we are. We must take care with all our words and deeds so that we can be the beautiful people that we wish to be. and to respect myself and others,**
- **the churchbell symbolizes moderation and represents thoughtfulness and kindness toward each other and ourselves. respect authority,**
- **the forget-me-not shows careful thinking, attention, and faith in common values. Use resources wisely,**
- **the foxglove shows thriftiness. make the world a better place, and\***
- **the sunflower shows a love of nature. It also can represent our place in the world. It's habit of turning toward the sun reminds us to "look on the bright side" and realize that our own attitudes go a long way toward making the world a better place for ourselves and the people near us. With a sunny disposition, we will find ways to make the world a better place almost without effort, because it will be a joy. be a sister to every Girl Scout**
- **the rose shows love for our sisters in Scouting and Guiding. Roses come in all colors and varieties of fragrances, and though they are all different, they are all beautiful, just like our sisters in Scouting and Guiding.**

The sachet represents our rededication to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Its sweet fragrance will remind us of our commitment to the principals of Girl Scouts.

### **Other flowers and their possible meanings...**

Amaryllis-pride

Anemone-forsaken

Apple blossom-temptation

Aster-love

Bachelor's button-celibacy

Begonia-warning

Bluebell-loyalty

Camellia -loveliness

Carnation- red- aching heart; white-innocence; yellow-disdain; striped-refusal

Chrysanthemum red-love; white-truth; yellow-slighted love.

Clematis-intellect

Columbine-folly

Cornflower-delicacy

Crocus-good cheer

Cyclamen-departure

Daffodil-chivalry

Daisy-innocence

Dandelion-faithful

Forget me not-true love

Forsythia-anticipation

Foxglove-insincerity

Gardenia-secret love

Gentian-injustice

Geranium Dark-melancholy; Pink- preference; Red- comforting

Gladiolus-recovery

Gloxinia-sudden love

Hibiscus- grace

Holly-protection

Hollyhock-ambition

Honeysuckle-sweetness

Hyacinth-sorrow

Hydrangea-my thanks

Iris-messenger

Ivy-fidelity

Jasmine Yellow-elegance; White-amiable Lavender-distrust

Lilac Purple-love begins; white-innocence

Lily-purity

Lily of the valley -return of happiness

Lotus-admiration

Magnolia-dignity

Marigold-grief

Mistletoe-kiss me

Narcissus-egotism

Nasturtium-patriotism

Orange blossom-innocence

Orchid-beautiful lady

Palm-triumph

**Pansy-remembrance**

Peony-bashfulness

Petunia-anger

Phlox-agreement

Pine-hope

Pineapple-welcome

Poppy Scarlet-extravagance; White-sleep

Primrose-youth Rose Red-love; White-innocence; Yellow-infidelity;

Musk-capricious; Single-simplicity

Snapdragon-indifference

Snowdrop-renewal

Sunflower-haughtiness

Sweet William-forever a gentleman

Tulip Red-declaration of love; Variegated- beautiful eyes; Yellow- hopeless love

Violet-modesty

Wallflower-faithful

Water lily-pure heart

Weeping willow- deep mourning

Wisteria -friendship

Zinnia-thinking of you

# Flowers and Candles Dedication Ceremony

A beautiful dedication ceremony uses differently colored flowers and candles. All girls form a horseshoe. Each new member is presented with a candle with a daisy attached.

**LEADER:** The daisy is a symbol of your dedication to the Girl Scout movement, which was started by our founder, Juliette Gordon Low (substitute your founder) and began in our country on March 12, 1912 (date started). Juliette Low's nickname was Daisy. You are following in her footsteps as you become a unique and caring influence in today and tomorrow's world.

Have on a table one candle for each World of Interest color---red, orange, yellow, blue, and purple--also a white candle that is used to light other candles. (For Brownie Girl Scouts, adult members should light the candles). Members light the one white candle on the table and use it to light the others. As each colored candle is lighted, the following is recited:

**GS #1: (While lighting the red candle) The red is for the World of Well Being which helps young women understand themselves, their values, needs, emotions, and strengths, while also being aware of what it takes to be physically fit.**

**GS #2: (lighting the orange candle) The orange is for the World of Today and Tomorrow, which lets a young woman look into the how and why of things, solve problems, and recognize the ways in which her present interest can build toward future ones.**

**GS #3: (lighting yellow candle) The yellow is for the World of the Out-of-Doors. Explorations in this world can help a young woman to appreciate her natural environment and to take actions to protect and preserve her world.**

**GS #4: (lighting the blue candle) The blue is for the World of People. This world can help a young woman to build pride in her heritage, while appreciating the uniqueness of each culture and the common themes of all cultures.**

**GS #5: (lighting the purple candle) The purple is for the World of the Arts. This world can help develop a personal appreciation for the many art forms and things of beauty in the world around us.**

[After all of the candles are lighted: light the green candle saying:]

**ALL: (lighting the green candle) From the light of the five worlds may your Girl Scout world ever grow.**

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

[All the girls return to the horseshoe formation. Sing a song of your choice.]

(excerpted from: Ceremonies in Girl Scouting---GSUSA publication)

## Flowers of Friendship Investiture/Rededication

The original ceremony appears in "Ceremonies in Girl Scouting", however, this is updated to reflect the recent changes in the Girl Scout Law

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

### **Introduction:**

Welcome to our investiture/rededication ceremony. In almost all countries and cultures there are ceremonies to mark important events in life - days of celebration, sad days, joyous days, days on which a special commitment is made, days that mark an achievement. Girl Scouts, too, have ceremonies to mark important events and significant days. Tonight we are here to confirm or 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.

### **Main Part of Ceremony:**

Please join me in repeating the Girl Scout Promise (All girls recite). 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)

**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.

**I will do my best to be friendly and helpful,**

The zinnia represents thoughtfulness about friends, while Baby's Breath represents generosity.

**I will do my best to be considerate and caring,**

Together, a red and a white Rose stand for a warm and caring heart.

**I will do my best to be 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.

**I will do my best to be responsible for what I say and do,**

The gladiolus symbolizes strength of character, maturity, and responsibility. Binding it with straw, we show that we honor our word and keep our agreements.

**I will do my best to respect myself and others,**

The white Rose and white zinnia show that we hold ourselves worthy and good. Winter Greens symbolize the harmony we try to keep between ourselves and others.

**I will do my best to respect authority,**

The daffodil represents careful thought, attention, and concern. With the daffodil, we are saying that we hold others in high regard.

**I will do my best to use resources wisely,**

The foxglove shows thriftiness. When we use our resources wisely, we are being thrifty.

**I will do my best to 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.

**I will do my best to be a sister to every Girl Scout.**

With the striped carnation, we are saying that we think about those Girl Scouts and Guides who are not here with us. It helps indicate our love for our fellow Scouts and Guides.

**Closing: The sachet (or potpourri) symbolizes our dedication to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.**

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

## Four Spirits Campfire Opening

Four speakers as North, South, East and West

Signal all around fire for silence.

Each speaker enters from the appropriate compass point.

**North:** I am the spirit of the North where the great game of Guiding began.

**South:** I am the spirit of the South and I spread the love of Scouting & Guiding to the world.

**East:** I am the spirit of the East and I spread the friendship of Scouting & Guiding to the world.

**West:** I am the spirit of the West and I spread the worth of Guiding & Scouting to the world.

**All:** Together we join in the fire of friendship.

Follow with Ashes Ceremony, if desired, and then singing, ending with Taps.



# Four-Winds Court of Awards Ceremony

## **North Wind:**

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

## **South Wind:**

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

## **East Wind:**

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

## **West Wind:**

**I am the West Wind. I would like everyone present to know that [girls name] did not walk the trail to the [award] alone. She had the wonderful help and guidance of her parents, [mother's name & father's name]. Parents, continue to help your girls achieve and grow into young womanhood!**

## **From the "Land of the Brown" to the "Land of the Blue" Brownie Advancement Ceremony**

An exciting Enrolment ceremony with a theme that continues on through Advancement the following Spring. Take time to make the props and rehearse.

Written By Janet Gauley, 1st Corbyville Brownies.  
Published in Da Hon Neh Link April 1996

### **FROM THE "LAND OF BROWN" TO THE "LAND OF BLUE"**

**We continue our story about the Land of Brown and all who lived there - Queen Brown Owl, all the happy people or "Brownies" as they prefer to be called, and the Grand Wizard, the wonderful, silly wizard who regretfully turned the Queen's beloved little new girls into frogs.**

As we continue our story I believe it was several months after the frogs were magically transformed back into girls. You do remember that day, don't you - the glorious ceremony with Queen Brown Owl and all of the kingdom gathered at the glade and all of her little new girls became Brownies?

Well, one day while all the kingdom was cleaning the castle from dungeon to tower, a messenger came galloping up to the castle door.

**Messenger: "Queen Brown Owl, Queen Brown Owl, come quickly!"**

All the ladies in waiting gather around the messenger.

**Kingdom: "What is it - what is wrong?"**

**Queen Brown Owl arrives at the castle door and asks the messenger: "What is it - what is wrong?"**

The messenger quickly gathered her wits about her and told the Queen that while touring the countryside she happened to hear pitiful crying and whimpering noises coming from the cave at the glade. When she went to see who or what was making noises, several tiny blue creatures, what, she did not know, scurried into the cave. All she could see were their spiky blue tails. What could they be?

Queen Brown Owl gathered everyone around her and they traveled to the cave at the glade to see for themselves. As they got close to the glade they could hear whimpering and crying and they all wondered what it could be (blue dragon Guides in the cave make noises).

**The Wizard asked the Queen: "May I take the lead, your Majesty? That way I will be close enough to cast a disappearing spell should there be a monster or such in the cave."**

**Queen Brown Owl, fearing that it might be her or her entourage who disappeared said: "Oh no, remember what happened last time. I'll take my chances."**

Upon their arrival, all grew quiet and still and the glade was peaceful once again. Well except for those little blue tails sticking out of the cave. The jesters grabbed those tails and pulled and pulled and pulled.

**The little voice squeaked out loud: "Ow! Ow! Ow!"**

The tails disappeared and little heads poked out of the cave instead.

**The Queen quickly introduced herself. Royalty is polite you know. "I am Queen Brown Owl."**

**Guides:**

**"We are dragons from the sky so blue  
We got lost, lost from the group.  
How, oh how will we ever get back.  
If we sing a song, a song from Blue,  
They'll come back to get us too."**

**Queen Brown Owl: "Well - sing your song."**

**Guides: "We need to sing strong and very loud - we think we need help from this very large crowd."**

**Queen Brown Owl: "OK everyone, let's help them out and sing along."**

All sing to the tune of "Singing in the Rain":

"We're dragons and we're blue and this is what we do  
We fly around all day, we don't get in the way,  
We fly from here to there, so high up in the air,  
We're dragons - from the sky so blue".

With a whirl of wings, a blue dragon arrives at the glade. She embraces her baby dragons and turns to Queen Brown Owl.

**Guide Leader: "Thank you, Queen Brown Owl, for saving these children of Blue. How can I ever repay you. Our company is becoming exceedingly small and we would be honoured to take some of your Brownies to teach them the ways of 'Guides'."**

**Queen Brown Owl asks for volunteers: "Who would like to go up to the Land of Blue and learn the way of Guides?"**

All the girls raise their hands. Queen Brown Owl chooses 2nd year girls and calls them by name.....

**Turning to the 1st year girls she says:** "Although you have worked very hard and have completed a lot of your Brownie work, I cannot let you go to the Land of Blue yet. I need you to stay awhile longer and help me with the younger Brownies next year".

"But we shall declare a special ceremony for our Brownies who are leaving us. Grand Wizard, transport the Special Commissioner to the glade at once!"

**Grand Wizard:**

"Abracadabra, pain in my sides,

We need the Special Commissioner to turn Brownies into Guides.

Appear at the glade, appear here at once,

There is much to do and I don't want to be a dunce!"

Special Commissioner arrives and with the Queen she fastens on the Fun and Adventure pins and hands the girls their certificates. She congratulates them for their hard work and dedication to Brownies. They go over to the Guide Leader.

As the girls don their pins and fly off to the Land of Blue, everyone from the Land of Brown looks on in awe with hopes of going there next year.

**Note:** Don't be put off the apparent amount of words to learn. All except the actual Brownie enrolment and the Guide songs can be part of the narration or read. Nobody in the audience really minds if leaders have these pages in their hands to remind them of the actions and words.

submitted by:

Marilyn Robinson

1st Petawawa Brownies

Da Hon Neh Area, Petawawa District, Opeongo Division Ontario

written by: Janet Gauley, 1st Corbyville Brownies.

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# General Information for Investiture and Rededication Ceremonies

Investiture and rededication ceremonies can be done in various ways, and the two can be easily combined for established troops wishing to welcome new members.

Here are a few reminders and ideas:

1. Investiture takes place the first time a girl or adult joins Girl Scouting.

The person being invested:

- 1) Says the Girl Scout Promise
- 2) Receives the appropriate Girl Scout pin; and
- 3) Is welcomed into Girl Scouting.

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

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

The girl should understand (as much as possible for her age level) that when she is invested, she is agreeing to subscribe to the values and principals of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

2. Rededication takes place each year a girl or adult rejoins Girl Scouting (it does not matter if they are consecutive years or if there has been a break in the years). As part of the ceremony, those rededicating themselves say the Girl Scout Promise.

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

3. Be sure that everyone receives and wears only the appropriate Girl Scout Pin:

## **Daisy Girl Scout Pin**

worn only by Daisy Girl Scouts

(age 5/6 or Kindergarten)

## **Brownie Girl Scout Pin**

worn only by Brownie Girl Scouts

(1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade)

## **Girl Scout Pin**

- traditional (eagle)

- contemporary (three faces)

worn by Junior, Cadette,

Senior and Adult Girl Scouts

# General Information on Court of Awards

## **What is a Court of Awards?**

**At a Court of Awards, Girl Scouts receive recognition for their accomplishments in the form of patches, badges, pins and certificates.** Court of Awards ceremonies are held several times during the year and even more frequently for very young girls. A Court of Awards may be used as a closing ceremony for a project the whole troop has worked on, with each girl receiving the patch or badge that symbolizes her effort. Or, recognitions individual girls have earned over a period of time may be distributed at the Court of Awards.

## **What's in a Court of Awards?**

**Presentation of awards is the main activity of a Court of Awards ceremony.** There are many creative ways to present girls with recognitions. Demonstrations or displays of what was done to earn the awards can add interest to the ceremony. Girls may wish to include a candlelighting in the ceremony. Many of the Promise and Law candlelightings used for investitures are also appropriate for Court of Awards ceremonies. A Court of Awards can be a formal kind of ceremony with invited guests; parents, troop support committee, program consultants and sponsors. Or, it can be a simple ceremony with the troop leader presenting the girls with recognitions at the end of a regular troop meeting. Whatever form the Court of Awards takes, it should be an opportunity for girls to feel proud of their accomplishments.

## **Things to Think About**

**Prepare recognition items ahead of time; packaging each girl's awards together.**

Emphasize the effort each girl made to earn whatever awards she is receiving, rather than the number earned.

Hold award ceremonies frequently, especially for younger girls. Brownies and young Juniors Girl Scouts should receive recognitions as soon as they have earned them to help them understand that the award is a symbol of their work. These can be very simple ceremonies with just the troop present.

Recognize each girl individually by name. If possible, comment on what was done to earn the recognition. To save time, pin the awards to ribbons and then pin ribbons on the girls.

# Gift Ceremony

Now we have one more thing to give you - a tiny little box.

The wrapping may be a bit wrinkled and the ribbon may not be quite perfect - but its what's INSIDE that counts!

Just like the dime, you have to put something with it to make it really worthwhile.

Now, you won't be receiving all of your gift at one time. We hope to give it to you over a period of many years, in small doses and as painlessly as possible!

We want to give you Girl Scouting!!!

With this gift we also give you our hopes that you will learn from it, grow with it, work with it, use it everyday, enjoy all of it and keep it with you for the rest of your life!

Now, New Girl Scouts and Old Girl Scouts alike, let us all join together in the Girl Scout Promise.

On my honor, I will try  
To serve God and my country,  
To help people at all times,  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

As we're sure you have already noticed the little gift that we just gave to you was wrapped in Gold paper and tied with Silver ribbons - This is to remind you of all of the Wonderful, Wonderful Friends you are going to make this year. As the Song goes, Make New Friends but keep the old.. ... One is Silver and the other is Gold!

And now as we share our first ever All-Stott Friendship Circle, we will pass the squeeze around the circle, and as we do, we will all think about all of our special Girl Scout Sisters right here at Stott and around the world and all of the fun and excitement that awaits us this year!

Contributed by Debbie DeWitt

## Girl Scout Law Interpretation Poems

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



## Girl Scout Promise Interpretation

**1st Part** ----- This candle that I light shall shine as a symbol *Girl Scouts* are true to *God* and their *Country*.

**2nd Part** ---- *May the light of this candle shine as a symbol that a Girl Scout's greatest desire is to be of service.*

**3rd Part** ---- *May the light of this candle shine as a symbol that a Girl Scouts are true to their ideals as interpreted by the Girl Scout Law.*

# Girl Scout Promise and Law Interpretation

(Each girl can light a candle as she says one part)

## **The Promise:**

**On my honor, I will try**

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

To serve *God* and my country

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

To help people at all times

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

And to live by the *Girl Scout Law*

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

## **The Law:**

**I will do my best to be honest and fair**

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

To be friendly and helpful

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

To be considerate and caring

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

To be courageous and strong

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

To be responsible for what I say and do

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

To respect myself and others

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

To respect authority

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

To use resources wisely

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

To make the world a better place

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

### **To be a sister to every Girl Scout**

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

You may also wish to add these parts:

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

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

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

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

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

### **Ending**

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