

## Lighted Candles---Girl Scout Law

Stage is set with a microphone on left, the bridge in the center and a table with candles and another microphone on right. Girls enter from left, their name and troop number is announced, they cross the bridge, are welcomed by older scouts and give the scout sign and handshake, they then walk over to the table and pick up a candle. Each girl has a different thing to say.

"I will do my best to be fair. I light this candle for fairness". Girl lights the candle and walks to the back of the stage.

This proceeds through all the parts of the Girl Scout Law. At the end everyone says the Girl Scout promise. If there are more girls than Law you can double them up on the reading part.

## Lighted Candles---Girl Scout Promise

The girls come in from the left, are announced, and cross the bridge. Members of the receiving troop are on the other side and hand each girl an unlit candle. The girls are then escorted into a horseshoe around the sides and back of the stage.

After all girls had crossed the bridge candles are lit from the ends of the horseshoe and passed from girl to girl while singing "Whenever you make a Promise". Have the receiving troop teach this song to all the leaders and the girls so everyone knows the song. It can be sung in 3-part rounds while the flame was being passed.

Start the flame by lighting the end candle on each row. Girls will pass the flame from one to another.

### **Speaker:**

Each year the bridging ceremony marks a milestone in the lives of a Girl Scout. It is symbolic of the change of rank from one level to another. Parts of the ceremony center around the stories we have all learned as girl scouts.

There is a story about a little girl trying to learn how all the little jobs were finished - as if by magic. As the story goes a wise old owl told her she could find out who the brownie was by going to a magic pool and looking into the water. What does she see? She sees that she is the Brownie.

In our ceremony the Bridge represents the bridge by the edge of the magic pool. Each girl crosses over the Bridge, traveling from one stage of Girl Scouting to another. Each girl is greeted by an older sister Scout where they make the Girl Scout Sign and are made welcome.

Brownie Girl Scouts receive wings when they bridge. These wing represent the growth girls have made during the previous years spend as Brownies. Just like young birds, they receive their wings and can now fly.

Juniors are most experienced. As they bridge to Cadettes they are continuing to learn and experience life together.

[As the girls name and troop number is read the girl crosses the bridge - makes the GS sign and shakes hands with a member of the receiving troop, who walks her over to stand in line and hands her a candle.]

### **Announcer:**

All through Girl Scouts you have explored the World of the Arts, the World of People, the World of Today and Tomorrow, the World of Well-Being and the World of the Out-of-Doors. There are so many worlds to explore! There is the world of yourself partly known, but still full of mysteries and surprises. There is the world of other people, like you and unlike you, girls and boys, men and women, little children. There is the world of laughter and beauty and work and growing up to be a woman.

**This marks a milestone in your lives as Girl Scouts and is a mark of progress for both you and your leaders. We Girl Scouts in our council are moving forward as a small group just as the whole Girl Scout organization is constantly moving forward. It is a joyful journey we are following together and we find that the greatest joy of the journey is the friendship of working together, playing together and growing together. All that we share with each other, some other Girl Scout is sharing with us. As soon as we understand this joy of sisterhood we long to have others share it too.**

This Candle flame represents the sisterhood bond that we all share. From the experienced Senior Scout to the smallest Daisy, we pass the flame of sisterhood---from one to another.

You have now moved from one level of girl scouting to another. One thing remains constant ---the Girl Scout Promise. The promise is a solemn oath you make to your leaders, parents and community to support one another. This is your promise to try to live up to the teachings of your own religious faith while, at the same time, respect the beliefs of others; to be a good citizen of your community and to help other people in small, everyday ways as well as in large ones.

Let's make the girl Scout sign and renew our Girl Scout promise.

[Girls make the sign and say the promise]

# Maypole Ceremony (GS Law)

## **MATERIALS NEEDED:**

**1 pole about 1" to 1½" diameter and 5' long(broom handle does nicely)**

**10 ribbons-½" wide and 7' long, 1 each of the following 10 colors:**

purple, yellow, red, white, gold, blue, silver, orange, green, brown

**12" of string or cording**

## **DIRECTIONS:**

**Attach the ribbons to the top of the pole, using tape, nails or glue. Wrap the string or cording around the pole and glue in place. Allow to dry before using pole.**

(Optional: if you want to "dress up" the pole, drill hole into the top and screw on a trophy topper.) You will need 11 girls to perform this ceremony. One girl stands in the center and holds the pole. The other 10 girls form a circle around the pole. Each one of the ribbons stands for one part of the law. Each of the girls in turn reaches for her ribbon and recites the part of the law which that color stands for (or while someone else does the reciting) You always start with the Purple Ribbon. Have the girls count off 1 through 10. Number 1 will represent the purple ribbon 2=orange; 3=blue; 4=gold; 5=yellow; 6=white; 7=red; 8=silver; 9=brown; 10=green

Each girl will reach for her ribbon when it is her turn and recite her part(or as someone else recites)

Actual weaving is done while singing a Girl Scout Song- Girl Scouts Together is the one I would recommend as it has a nice even tempo for girls to weave by and by singing all 3 verses it is the right length to weave to the end of the ribbon, making a nice presentation. The song can either be sung by an individual or the entire group (audience). The girls weaving usually do not sing as they need to concentrate on the weaving.

## **TO WEAVE:**

**Have the girls face each other-1 & 2; 3 & 4; 5 & 6; 7 & 8; 9 & 10**

Girl will be holding the ribbon in the "inside" hand. While keeping the ribbons straight (do not let them droop) at all time and starting with the odd numbered girls, they will lift their inside hands holding the ribbon, the even numbered girls will duck under . Then the even numbered girls will raise their inside hands and the odd numbered girls will duck under. Continue this odd/even/odd/even pattern (similar to a grand right and left used in square dancing) until near the bottom of the pole or at the end of the song. Note: continually remind the girls to keep their ribbons straight, do not let them droop. You will get a much better weave and less likely to cause confusing.

# Membership Star Ceremony

Submitted by Jeannie Craddock

## **Materials needed:**

Script on 3x5 index cards to be read

Girl Scout membership star with appropriate color disc

Large star shape cutout

Form a Friendship Circle and place the star cutout in the center of the circle.

**Leader:** Read (or write your own) poem or tell a story of a star. Relate the poem or story to the growth and glow of your troop. For example:

### The Falling Star

by Sara Teasdale

I saw a star slide down the sky.  
Blinding the north as it went by.  
Too burning and too quick to hold.  
Too lovely to be bought or sold.  
Good only to make wishes on.  
And then forever to be gone.

**OR**

### Stars

by Rhoda W. Bacmeister

Bright stars, light stars, shining in the night stars.  
Little twinkly, winkly stars. Deep in the sky!  
Yellow stars, red stars. Shine when I'm in bed stars.  
Oh how many blinky stars. Far, far away!

Call each girl by name to the star in the center of the Friendship Circle, present her with her star and say:

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

## Multi-Level Arch Bridging Ceremony

(Daisies and sister Brownie troop should stand and proceed to the designated area for the Arching Ceremony.)

(The arch can be formed by: Leaders or Brownies raising arms to make arch; holding 2 branches to make arch; make a floral arch, etc.)

### **SPEAKER:**

**When I was a very young girl.**

I learned the joy of singing  
But now that I am older  
I'll take along my happy smile  
I wore Daisy Blue.  
With Daisy friends so true.  
I'll wear a hat of brown,  
To Brownies I am bound.  
Daisies cross through the Arch as leader says:  
"Through the Arch to a wonderous thing  
A Daisy joins the Brownie Ring."

(Fly-up Brownies and sister Junior troop assemble.)

### **SPEAKER:**

**When I was a young girl I wore a dress of brown**

I learned the B's of Brownies  
And friendship all around.  
Now the dress I'll wear will be of Girl Scout green,  
old friends join hands with new  
as a Junior I'll be seen.

(Brownies now cross the Bridge to Junior troop. Bridging Juniors and Cadette sister troop assemble.)

### **SPEAKER:**

**When I was a young girl I wore a dress of green,**

I learned through helping others What happiness can mean.  
Now I'll follow in proud footsteps . Where other Scouts have been  
Exciting Cadette adventures . . . Where I'm ready to begin.

(Juniors now cross the Bridge to Cadettes. Bridging Cadettes and Senior troop assemble.)

### **SPEAKER:**

**When I was a young girl through service to others**

To Seniors I am going by learning the world around me

**SPEAKER:**

**I wore a dress of green,**  
A new world I have seen.  
I know I'll achieve my goal,  
I'll discover my own role.  
When I see young girls . . . .  
Who haven't worn our dress of green  
I think of all the wonders. . That she has never seen  
We've watched our girls grow.  
And marveled at what we've seen  
And now that we are older  
We still love our dress of green.

Contributed by:

Liz

Pennsylvania, USA

# New Law Ceremony/10 ribbon Colors

Forwarded by Lynn Whited

This ceremony is in the back of our council's winter/spring supplement for the Council Planning Booklet. I think that one of our Field Directors, Melissa Martin, put it together.

Use 3 large white candles for each part of the promise.

On my honor I will try

To serve God and my country (light the candle to the girl's left)

To help people at all times, (light the middle candle)

And to live by the Girl Scout Law. (light the candle to the girl's right)

Sing "Whene'er You Make A Promise" (Found on page 6 of the Girl Scout Pocket Handbook)

(Use 10 white candles, each tied with specified color ribbon as noted. Each girl reads her line then lights the candle)

All Girls: I will do my best to be

## **Girl #1: Honest and fair**

The purple ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of honesty and fairness. A Girl Scout works honestly and keeps her promise. She is fair in all she does and those she meets.

## **Girl #2: Friendly and helpful**

The blue ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of friendship and thoughtfulness. A Girl Scout is amiable and loyal to her friends. She helps others wherever and whenever she can.

## **Girl #3: Considerate and caring**

The orange ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of kindness and warmth. A Girl Scout works well with others and looks out for the well-being of others.

## **Girl #4: Courageous and strong**

The red ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of adventure and independence. A Girl Scout attempts new tasks and braves new endeavors. She is confident and self-assured in her actions.

## **Girl #5: Responsible for what I say and do**

The gold ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of ownership and pride in her work. She readily admits her strengths and weakness and is aware of the consequences of her actions. A Girl Scout is up front with her intentions.

All Girls: And to



**Girl #6: Respect myself and others**

The white ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of integrity. A Girl Scout directs her thoughts and deeds to encompass her own beliefs and to be sensitive to, and respectful of the beliefs of those around her.

**Girl #7: Respect authority**

The yellow ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of regard for another's position. A Girl Scout understands the importance of having a leader of a group to make final decisions. She works with that leader to make the best decisions for the good of the group.

**Girl #8: Use resources wisely**

The green ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of being careful with resources. She uses her materials, money, time, and energy wisely. A Girl Scout does not waste the Earth's resources.

**Girl #9: Make the world a better place**

The brown ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of improvement. A Girl Scout strives to be clean, conserve, and enrich the world around her. She believes it is important to leave a better place than when she found it.

**Girl #10: Be a sister to every Girl Scout**

The silver ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's loyalty to sisters all over the world. A Girl Scout is always ready to accept more friends into her ever widening circle. She treats all of her sisters with kindness, acceptance, and warmth.

Sing "Make New Friends" (Found on page 10 of the Girl Scout Pocket Handbook)

# Nickname Ceremony

Developed by The Burnes Family

Materials needed: glitter cut in large pieces (in other words, not the stuff you glue down on paper)...or any other material for "sprinkling" on their heads, the poem, a name tag with the nickname on it, and anything else you'd like to use to make this enjoyable.

With girls/adults all quietly assembled in a horseshoe, state that it is now time to begin the "Nickname" ceremony, and read the following poem:

I knew a little mystery girl,  
She was a friend of mine.  
We knew each other from grade school,  
It's been a long, long time.

She had lots of pins and badges,  
You see, she'd been everywhere;  
They were on her sash and uniform,  
But one thing wasn't there.

This thing is like a special gift  
That is given by someone special you know.  
You can't see it, touch it, taste or feel it,  
But you'll have it forever more!

I asked her if she had one.  
She replied, "Can I buy it? What is that?"  
I told her if she had one  
She'd say YES right off the bat!

So my friend doesn't have this special thing  
That you will get today.  
When she found out she couldn't buy one,  
She just hung her head and walked away.

When you receive your special gift today,  
Please hold it near and dear to your heart,  
And remember how you got it,  
No matter if we're near or far apart.

Each one was chosen carefully  
To fit you especially in and out!  
Because you are one great bunch of girls to have,  
That would make any leader shout!

**Now I have you wondering,  
Just what is she talking about?  
Well, here goes, let's give the first one,  
To a super duper Girl Scout!**

(at this time, go stand in front of the first girl who is receiving a "nickname", and hold your right or left hand over her head and slowly let the glitter fall to her shoulders/head and say the following:)

**\*\*By the power invested in me as leader of Cadette Troop \_\_\_\_\_, I hereby bestow the following name to (say girl's name). On this day, (say the date), and forever more, you will now be known as "(say the nickname)".\*\*** (now pin the name tag on the girl's shirt).

Go to the next girl/adult receiving a nickname and report this portion\*\* all over again.  
You may end the ceremony as you like. We sang "Make New Friends".

# Other Daisy Girl Scout Investiture Ideas

## Daisy Poem #1

I'm a Daisy standing tall (stand tall)

I'm a Daisy, friends to all (wave to friends)

I'm a Daisy, helping everyday (hands out, palms up)

Living my life in the Girl Scout way (give Girl Scout Sign)

## Daisy Poem

**Daisies are the happiest flowers that I've ever seen**

Dancing in the sunshine with their leaves of green

Their faces always smiling bright, cheerful all the while

Anyone who sees their dance will surely have to smile

It takes a bit of magic to see the "Daisy Dance"

As the circle in the sunlight who will gaily leap and prance

A girl is not a flower, we all know it's true

But pretty girls who dance and sing, in aprons of true blue

Will make the magic of the flowers seem real enough, no doubt

Especially when these girls exclaim "I'm A Daisy Scout"

## Daisy Circle

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

Additional Ideas for Daisy Investitures

- Play Daisy to Daisy (pg 90, The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders)
- Invite a Brownie troop to help with the ceremony
- Have a flag ceremony
- Have each girl hold a real or artificial daisy during the ceremony

## Our Council's Thinking Day Celebration

We had 24 troops attend - about 275 girls (plus adults). I think it was a big success, but then I'm biased because I was in charge of it.

I started promoting this event the end of last school year, so the troops had LOTS of time to work on it. We let them know that they should make or borrow a flag - 2 feet by 3 feet (we provided the flag poles). They were also asked to bring a stamp of some kind to stamp the passports, stamp pads were provided (we told them that they could buy stamps, or make them from sponges, potatoes, etc.) We also said that they should have something to "share" from the country they represented (a game, craft, activity, etc. - whatever THEY decided to do). Other than that they could have as little or as much as they wanted (one table would be provided per troop). We did let the troops know about how many girls would be there and told them that if they were going to have something that the girls would be taking with them to be sure to bring enough for everyone (we told them to plan on 300).

We started with a parade of flags (each troop either borrowed or made a flag from the country they were representing). Each girl was given their "passport" (the council office had printed "NorCenTex Council Thinking Day PASSPORT" at the top and I had stamped and gold embossed a US "seal" on them, so they really LOOKED like passports!!) There were enough pages inside so that each "country" had a place to put their stamp. I punched a hole in each passport and put yarn on them so that they could be worn around the neck. I gave a brief introduction of what Thinking Day was all about and the Juliette Lowe World Friendship Fund. Then 1/2 of each troop stayed with their "country" to show the other girls what they had to offer while the other 1/2 of the troop "visited" the other countries. We gave them 45 minutes to "tour" the other countries. We didn't limit the time at any one "country", but did let the girls know when 1/2 the time was over and when they had 10 minutes left. After the 45 minutes the girls switched places (so that the other 1/2 of the troop was visiting the other "countries"). These girls were also given 45 minutes and told when 1/2 the time was over and when they had 10 minutes left.

Each troop had been given long post-it notes that had been cut in 1/2 lengthwise for the girls to fill out for the Golden Link ceremony. I knew that with a group this large there would be NO WAY to let the girls add their links in a ceremony, so I asked that sometime during the event the girls write what they wanted on their link and the leaders put them into a "troop" chain before the Golden Link ceremony. During the ceremony one girl and one leader came forward with their troop chain to the others to form one big chain. As each chain was added I read a part of the ceremony and the group said the "I am a link" part. Even with the adaptation of adding a troop chain to the whole chain this took quite a bit of time and some of the girls got restless. (It didn't help that the post-it notes were a little too wide and not long enough, so they were a little hard to put together. I thought it would be a good idea because then we wouldn't have to give each troop tape for this. If I do it again I'll go with construction paper and tape!!) We then did the weave ceremony while singing "Make New Friends". This also didn't go too well. It was too complicated for younger girls and the group was too large to go around and see that everyone had their hands positioned right. We ended with a snack of cherry or apple strudel and orange drink (from McD). I had ordered 28 dozen and we had about 1/2 of them left over. I couldn't believe that many of the girls didn't want any (they looked and tasted WONDERFUL!!) I had 5 gallons of drink and we ran out of it (could have used another gallon).

**All-in-all it was a good event and I think everyone had a good time.**

There were some countries "represented" by more than 1 troop, but we had limited it to no more than 2 per country. Most of the booths had a poster of some kind showing something about the country - where it was, what life was like there, major cities, etc.

Contributed by:

Maureen Pimley

NorCenTex Girl Scout Council, Wichita Falls, Texas, USA

# Bridging Ceremony - Over the Bridge and Under the Rainbow

From: Sue Moore-Vest

Developed by Troop 366 in Frontier Girl Scout Council.

## Supplies:

pins, Bridging patches, any recognitions to give out

Rainbow flags

"bridge" of some sort

Rainbow flags: These are made from dowel rods and squares of felt representing the five Worlds of Interest: Blue, red, orange, purple, and yellow. You can also add green to represent GS as a whole if you choose. Simply glue the felt square onto one end of the dowel (since these are actually rectangles, you may want to check to make sure the girls are all doing theirs the same way).

## Awards:

Any Try-Its/Badges earned are acknowledged and presented and the membership stars are pinned on. For Brownies, you can give them their wings now.

## Crossing the Bridge:

Non-bridging girls will hold the Rainbow Flags on the far side of the bridge. (Ideally, an older girl troop would do this since the rainbow is on the other side of the bridge, but we were at camp, and no older girls were with us, so pre-selected girls moved to the other side of the log bridge and held the Rainbow Flags.) As each girl's name is called, she crosses the bridge, passes under the Rainbow flags and is presented with her Bridging Patch (if earned) and her new pin (if appropriate to the age level).

In case I didn't explain myself well on how the flags are held, here's a picture that will either help you or hopelessly confuse you (easy on the critiques, it's my first attempt at e-mail art [VBG]).

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Good luck to everyone who is working on their Bridging steps and planning their ceremonies!

# Passing the Light and the Spirit of Girl Scouting

**When Juliette Gordon Low established Girl Scouting in 1912, the tradition of candlelight ceremonies** was an important part of the various activities. Through the early years, she passed the light and spirit of Girl Scouting on to others through investitures and campfires. They, in turn, continued to pass the light and the spirit. Over the years, the light and spirit of Girl Scouting has taken many different paths. The following is a brief history of one such path.

One of the first leaders-in-training was Ethel Cooper, and she like so many others, received the light from Juliette Low. Ethel went on to establish a troop in 1917 in Plymouth, Pennsylvania. Through her years of Girl Scout involvement, she too, passed the light on to her girls with the hope that they would continue to pass the light and keep the spirit of Girl Scouting alive.

The light from Ethel's candle was later passed to Ginny Denn, and from her to Melanie Weiss. While at National Center West in Ten Sleep, Wyoming, in 1986, Melanie passed the candlelight to Paula Eppinger of New York and to Catherine Leibrand of Michigan.

In June of 1987, Paula and Catherine came together as participants in "Promenade Through Our Past", a wider opportunity in Savannah, Georgia. As part of the closing banquet, Paula and Catherine shared their spirit of Girl Scouting by passing the light to the participants, staff and friends of Girl Scouts. Among those receiving the light was Donna Rohwedder, a staff member from Illinois.

In August of 1987, Donna participated as a staff member of the wider opportunity in Iowa called "Head of the Hills". During a campfire, Donna passed the light to Lori Drake, a participant of the wider op.

In November of 1989, Lori passed on the light during closing ceremonies of an overnight campout involving Cadette and Senior Girl Scout Troop #1230 of Tierro del Oro Girl Scout Council.

While attending a service unit meeting at Beale Air Force Base, California, in October of 1990, Vickie passed the candlelight to Nancy Imus, a Tierro del Oro Council staff member, at an investiture and rededication ceremony.

On October 17, 1990, Nancy passed the light to Maggi Moromisata at a staff investiture and rededication ceremony.

On June 20, 1992, Maggi passed the light to Jane Allen at the close of training at Edith Macy Conference Center in New York. Jane passed the light to Judy Jones during a staff meeting of the Girl Scout Council of the Appalachee Bend, on August 18, 1992. Judy passed the light on to Pat Shivers.

On November 2, 1995, Pat Shivers passed the light to Donna Tuttle during an Association meeting of the Girl Scout Council of the Appalachee Bend.

On October 8, 1998, Donna Tuttle passed the light on to the members of the WAGGGS-L list.



**On February 11, 1999, Amanda Robert-Curry, member of WAGGGS-L and volunteer from Whispering Oaks Girl Scout Council passed the light on to the readers of the Scouting File Cabinet Ceremony Compilation.**

(To pass light on, insert your name here, with name of the group you are passing the light to. If you aren't in cyberspace, use a real candle!)

May we always remember the spirit in which Juliette began this organization to spread to all girls the confidence, determination, courage, and knowledge that they can do anything. May we develop that same spirit within ourselves and the girls we lead.

Let your lights shine!

## Pearls and Wishes

### **Materials:**

#### **3 candles**

"pearl" or large bead for each participant

Poem(s) about pearls, wishes, friendships, GS (or whatever the ceremony is for)

A "wishing well"

The group stands in a horse shoe with the wishing well on a table in the front with candles in a holder on each side of the well. The speaker(s) read the poem(s) and when the poem about the pearl is read, a pearl is presented to each participant. The first candle is lit and the first girl can say something that ties in with the poems and/or the reason for the ceremony. After she has spoken, she passes the candle to the next girl and steps forward, makes a wish, and places her pearl in the wishing well. After each girl has done this, the candle is taken to the well and the candles on each side are lit. The speaker talks about how the flame from the candle will carry the wishes up to the sky, and expresses a hope that they will all get their wish. Sing a solemn song to end the ceremony.

Anonymous

# What is a Girl Scout Ceremony?

Girl Scouting is filled with special memories and special times. Ceremonies will heighten the significance of special times, allowing girls to share these moments with others in a memorable way. Ceremonies are an integral part of Girl Scouting. They help to reinforce values, pass on traditions, recognize accomplishments, strengthen friendships, and give life to the beliefs set down in the Promise and Law. Whatever the purpose or origin, ceremonies provide opportunities for girls to share their feelings and reflect on what they have accomplished individually or together. Like much of Girl Scouting, there are few hard and fast rules for planning and carrying out ceremonies; what really counts is that the occasion has special meaning for the participants.

## Types of Girl Scout Ceremonies

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

Investiture - to welcome new members into Girl Scouting

Rededication - members renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law

Court of Awards - Girls receive recognition for special accomplishments

Bridging - Girls celebrate passage from one level of scouting to the next

Patrol Leader Installation - signifies acceptance of responsibility to the patrol and the troop

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

Flag Ceremony - to honor the Flag of our Country

Opening/Closing - the beginning or end of a meeting

Scouts Own - a quiet ceremony with a theme expressing feelings or ideas

Campfires - for fun, friendship, or to celebrate a happy experience

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

Juliette Low's Birthday - October 31

Thinking Day - February 22nd

Girl Scout Birthday - March 12th

Girl Scout Week - the week including March 12th

Leader Appreciation Day - April 22

Girls may also want to celebrate other religious, cultural or national holidays. The possibilities are endless.

## Planning Ceremonies

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

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

Here are some questions to ask the girls and also some ways girls at each age level can be involved in ceremony planning:

1. What is the purpose? (recognition? celebration?)
2. What type of ceremony? (Investiture? Scouts Own?)
3. Where will the ceremony take place?
4. What date will it be on?
5. How long will it last?
6. Who will attend?
7. Do we want to make or buy invitations?
8. Will we have refreshments? (what will we have?)
9. What will be the theme?
10. What will we do for an opening?
11. How will we express the theme? (songs? skits? presentations?)
12. What will the sequence of the ceremony be?
13. Who will do each part?
14. Do we memorize or use 'cue cards'?
15. What equipment, props, etc. do we need?
16. Who will bring the equipment, etc.?
17. How will we set up the room/area?
18. What will we do for the closing?
19. Who will clean up?
20. Have we forgotten anything?

Here are some ways girls at each level can be involved in ceremony planning

Daisy	Brownie	Junior	Cadette	Senior
<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose a favorite song to sing</li> <li>• Decide who to invite</li> </ul>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose a favorite song to sing</li> <li>• Decide who to invite</li> <li>• Make invitations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decide on a Theme</li> <li>• Decide on songs, poems, and readings to use</li> <li>• Decide who to invite</li> <li>• Make invitations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decide on a Theme</li> <li>• Decide on songs, poems, and readings to use</li> <li>• Decide who to invite</li> <li>• Make invitations</li> <li>• Work with a Sister Troop on plans</li> </ul>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and put on an area ceremony</li> <li>• Decide on a Theme</li> <li>• Decide on songs, poems, and readings to use</li> <li>• Decide who to invite</li> <li>• Make invitations</li> <li>• Work with a Sister Troop on plans</li> <li>• Select site and make arrangements</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Set-Up</b> Girls this age can do simple things to help set up</p>	<p><b>Set-Up</b> Girls this age can take on more of the responsibility of set up</p>	<p><b>Set-Up</b> By the time girls are this age level they should be pretty proficient in setting up with moderate supervision</p>	<p><b>Set-Up</b> When girls reach this level, they should be able to completely plan the set up layout and perform the set up with minimal supervision.</p>

	<b>Refreshments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Serve</b> refreshments</li> </ul>	<u>Refreshments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Help make</b> refreshments</li> <li>• <b>Serve</b> refreshments</li> </ul>	<b>Refreshments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Help make</b> refreshments with moderate supervision</li> <li>• <b>Serve</b> refreshments</li> </ul>	<b>Refreshments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Completely</b> make refreshments</li> <li>• <b>Serve</b> refreshments</li> <li>• <b>Make table</b> decorations, place cards, etc.</li> </ul>
	<b>Clean-Up</b> Help clean up	<b>Clean-Up</b> Clean up	<b>Clean-Up</b> Clean up	<b>Clean-Up</b> Clean up
			<b>Conduct Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Help</b> conduct ceremony</li> </ul>	<b>Conduct Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Completely</b> conduct ceremony</li> </ul>

Please remember, these are only guidelines, you know the maturity level of your girls better than anyone!

# Salmon Ceremony

The Indians had a way of ensuring that the salmon would return year after year. There is a very special bond between mankind and the salmon world, involving many ritual obligations and taboos. The rivers must be kept clean and so must the girls purify themselves before beginning the Salmon Ceremony.

Since the salmon was one of the main sources of food for the West Coast Indian peoples, it was treated with deep respect and the Salmon Ceremony was an important celebration during the spring of every year.

The baby salmon are born in the rivers and streams of British Columbia, and shortly after birth, they swim many, many miles until they reach the Pacific Ocean where they spend their whole life.

(Chief speaks to enrollees)

"You have joined the \_\_\_\_\_ Guide Co./Pathfinder Unit and by learning and understanding the promise and law and participating in the program, you are now ready to become members of the Sisterhood of Guiding." (symbolizing the new born salmon and travelling to Pacific Ocean)

The grown salmon always come back to the exact place where they were born - swimming up rivers and streams, overcoming many obstacles such as waterfalls - but instinct drives them on to continue to their place of birth.

(Chief speaks to enrollees)

"We hope that you will continue to grow and learn new skills throughout your guiding years and perhaps one day as an adult you will become a Guider and show other what you have learned."

"We will now begin the ceremony."

We will now start by the ritual cleansing of body and soul. (Purify with burning sweetgrass)

Everyone goes down to the river, for the salmon are about to come.

\*Create a river using long twisted strips of crepe paper and lay fish throughout the stream, making sure all the heads are facing up stream.

\*Fish are cut out of colored construction paper with paper clips on the nose

\*Everyone (except enrollees) is given fishing poles - dowels or sticks with a magnet attached to a string

\*Each enrollee is represented with her name on a paper fish. Distribute these fish in the stream, name-side down

\*Enrollees stand at the end, also facing up stream

**The girls begin fishing for salmon. Everyone tries to catch one fish.**

There are special fish representing each girl to be enrolled. Once these fish are caught, the fish is handed to the girls to be enrolled. Continue until all fish are caught and everyone has one.

The special salmon are caught and ceremonially carried to the village. All villagers assemble for this important occasion, led by Chief and Shaman, in full regalia. All gather around the fire. (Light candle in circle of cedar boughs)

\*Each enrollee is ceremonially carried to the fire on a stretcher covered with cedar boughs

Guider will begin to enroll the girls, individually, asking if they know and understand the law and to repeat the promise. Guider will present enrollment pins and other gifts.

A prayer is led by the Shaman: "Welcome to the \_\_\_\_\_ Guide Co/Pathfinder Unit. We hope that you will continue to live your promise and law daily. Welcome to the world-wide Sisterhood of Guiding."

In the Indian people's ceremony, the salmon is carried to the open fire on cedar boughs and cooked until done. All the villagers are given a small piece, but the head, bones and tail are left carefully in one piece. (Everyone is given a piece of smoked fish <or fish crackers!>)

Whilst singing and dancing, the whole village, led by the Shaman carrying the skeleton, all go back to the stream where the salmon was caught. While intoning a prayer, he throws the backbone back into the water and they all give thanks for the return of the salmon and that there will be enough to eat for the months ahead and even after drying or smoking it, far away into the long winter months. (Everyone moves back to the stream singing "As One" and dancing)

Ceremony ends - girls are congratulated and welcomed into the unit.

Submitted by:

Cap Sante Guide Co, Cap Sante Pathfinder Unit



# Scout's Own

Theme: "Founder's Day"

**All:** Juliette Low once said:

**1st Solo:** Did you ever think how wonderful it is that with every new spring, sap rises in trees? No one knows whence it comes, but it flows from root to branch and makes a dead, bare tree blossom with green leaves.....

And so it is with Girl Scouting: it rises within you and inspires you to put forth your best. In every path of life, you have a chance to show what a Girl Scout can do.

**All:** Juliette Gordon Low knew that time flies swiftly. Today is soon tomorrow, and all of our tomorrows lie in the hands of youth. Her gift to youth was Girl Scouting, and her dream, a tree of fellowship grown from a tiny seed.

**Light Voices:** She knew the seed would ripen

**Dark Voices:** The tree grew...

**2nd Solo:** Nourished by faith...

**3rd Solo:** Watered by service...

**4th Solo:** Tended by love.

**5th Solo:** "I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and for all America, and all the world."

**Light Voices:** She said, in the phone call that made history.

**All:** Yes, we started it that night. She brought the seed from England, and we helped her plant that seed in the rich soil of Georgia, we twelve.

**6th Solo:** On my honor, I will try,

**2 Voices:** Each said

**4 Voices:** Soon, there were scores of us

**6 Voices:** Hundreds

**8 Voices:** Then thousands

**All:** Now, we are three million strong, each living the Promise.

**7th Solo:** Let us all repeat it together

**All:** 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

**Light Voices:** Duty, Service, Loyalty ... there were ten challenges

**Dark Voices:** These the roots our founder planted many years ago

**8th Solo:** The tree grew strong and flourished

**Dark Voices:** It's branches - delight in the out-of-doors, joy in the arts

**Light Voices:** It's leaves - fun, friendship, new things to do

**All:** Juliette Low knew what girls wanted. She said:

**9th Solo:** "If it isn't right, the girls won't take it, and it won't last."

**All:** Three million voices answer: "It is right. It will last. Thanks to your inspiration, Juliette Gordon Low."

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# Scout's Own

Theme: Friendship

1. Song: "Hello"

Pocket Songbook, pg. 10 Hello,  
Hello, Hello, Hello  
We are glad to meet you  
We are glad to greet you  
Hello, Hello, Hello, Hello

2. Poem: New Friends and Old Friends  
by Joseph Parry

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

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

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

Cherish friendships in your breast  
New is good, but old is best  
Make new friends, but keep the old  
Those are silver, these are gold

3. Song "Make New Friends"

Pocket Songbook, pg. 10  
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

4. Poem : Ecclesiasticus 6:14

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter  
He that has found one  
Has found a treasure

### 5. Song "Friendship"

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

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

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

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

### 6. Poem: Albert Camus

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

### 7. Taking Hold of Hands (a story)

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

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

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

## 8. The Legend of the Sticks

(Need to have prepared beforehand a bunch of sticks (may be spray-painted silver or gold, enough for one for each girl, plus enough sayings about friendship for one for each girl)

Once, a group of friends were having an argument. They made so much commotion that Sally, the older sister of one of the girls, came over to see what was the matter. She listened quietly as each one accused the other. "She's not being fair", said one. "It's my turn", said another. "No, it's my turn", said another.

As Sally listened, she began to stoop down and pick up some sticks that were lying on the ground. Finally, the friends grew quiet and were watching her. Sally then gathered all the sticks together in a bundle and tied them together with a string. She handed the bundle to each girl. "Can you break this bundle of sticks?", she asked. Each girl, in turn, tried to break the bundle, but not one of them could.

Then Sally untied the bundle and separated the sticks. To each friend, she gave one stick. "Now", she said, "see if you can each break a single stick." Of course, the single sticks snapped in two with only the slightest effort.

"All of us are like these sticks", Sally said. "Each one of us, standing alone, is weak. Each one of us can be broken as easily as a single stick. Yet, all of us, working together, can be as strong as this whole bunch of sticks - so strong that nothing can break us."

(Each girl then comes forward and picks up one stick. After doing so, she reads a little saying about friendship and friends - some examples follow)

Let us keep the memories and friendship of today until we come together on another day  
More precious than silver and gold are friends - both new and old  
Friendship is one mind in two bodies  
A friend is someone you can trust  
The only way to have a friend is to be one

(Girls then return to their places with their sticks. The leader then goes around and picks up each girl's stick placing them into a bundle and tying them securely. "Now we are again one strong troop working together")

# Scout's Own

Theme: "Girl Scouts"

All: Sing "Girl Scouts Together" (Sing Together, page 34)

## **Girl 1:**

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

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

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

L is for Living - the Girl Scout way

## **Girl 2:**

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

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

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

U is for Unity - together, one for all

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

**All: I am a Girl Scout**

**Girl 3: I have a Promise. It has three parts. Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world are sisters and friends in this Promise.**

**All: Repeat the Girl Scout Promise**

**Girl 4: I have a Law. This is the code by which I try to live. This law should be used daily in every Girl Scout's life -- in all she does in work and play.**

**All: Repeat the Girl Scout Law**

Sing "Whene'er You Make A Promise" (Sing Together, pg. 25)

**All: "I am a Girl Scout"**

**Girl 5: I have a motto - "Be Prepared". This means that I can be depended upon , whenever I am needed. This is my duty -- to be ready when called upon.**

**All: I am a Girl Scout**

**Girl 6: I have a slogan "Do a good turn daily". I will try to help other people.**

**All: I am a Girl Scout**

**Girl 7: I have a sign. This I give whenever I repeat my Promise. It is important to stand erect to show my pride in belonging. This reminds me to think straight and to realize my duty as a citizen. I give the Girl Scout sign to other Girl Scouts and Girl Guides because it is the sign of friendship. The three fingers stand for the three parts of the Promise.**

**All: I am a Girl Scout**

**Girl 8: I have a uniform and am proud to wear it. It must be neat at all times. When in uniform, I try harder than usual to obey the Girl Scout Law.**

**All: Sing "On My Honor"**

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# Scout's Own

Theme: "Promise and Law"

Entire group recites the promise

Each girl tells what the Promise means to her

Divide girls into pairs or equal groups, one for each part of the Law. Each group tells what their phrase of the Law means to them.

Song: "Girl Scouts Together"

Short story or poem

Song: "Whene'er You Make A Promise"

Choral Reading:

(Have cards with letters on front and "reading" on back for girls to hold)

What the Promise and Law mean to a Girl Scout:

**P** stands for Partnership with God and our fellow man

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

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

**M** is for Moments that we'll treasure always

**I** stands for Individuality, the mark of a strong person

**S** symbolizes Service, the keynote of Girl Scouting

**E** might be Experiences, little things and big ones, too. Maybe that (fill in here with two special troop experiences that happened during the year).

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

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

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

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

Song: "Green Trees" and "Taps"



# Senior to Adult Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony

Contributed by Jari Dikes of Arizona Cactus-Pine Council

**Leader:** In the Girl Scout Program we have goals for the ways in which we hope each girl will grow through her Girl Scout experience. We hope that she will:

**4 girls each say one:**

1. Have a deepening awareness of herself as a unique person.
2. Learn to get along with others with increasing skill, maturity, and satisfaction.
3. Develop values that give meaning and direction to her life.
4. Contribute to the betterment of her community through the use of her own talents and in cooperation with others.

**Poem for 1--3 girls:**

**We are the present... and the future too.**

We turned our eyes to you to point the way.  
We learned to walk, ourselves, against the day  
When you no longer lead us by the hand.

You taught us the meaning we need  
For, soon, there will be those  
Whom we must lead  
In ways which you have shown.  
And, having taught us,  
Show us that you are not afraid for us to walk alone.

You taught us to reach for the stars.  
To gather to ourselves the dreams  
That beckoned once to you.  
You taught us those things that we must know  
To make your dream, our dream come true!

**Leader:**

**You've been Senior Girl Scouts and how you've matured.**

You've learned, grown, and shared  
And shown how much you truly care.  
We will miss you, our sister Girl Scouts,  
And hope you continue as Adult Girl Scouts.

# Senior to Adult Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony

Contributed by Jari Dikes from Arizona Cactus-Pine Council

**All:** As members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, united by the belief in God and acceptance of the Girl Scout Promise and Law we have dedicated ourselves to the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service.

1. Thank you for providing us the imagination to see the world.
2. Thank you for giving us vision of what we may become.
3. Thank you for instilling us with patience, wisdom, and goodness.
4. Thank you for touching our lives with color and beauty, with creativity, friendship and the love of people.
5. Thank you for helping us to be generous and kind.
6. Thank you for giving us faith and hope for the future.
7. Thank you for showing us the deep joy which comes from unselfish service to those who are less fortunate so that the world is better for our having lived upon it.
8. Thank you for nurturing us as children and challenging us as young adults.

**Leader:** As we return to our homes, grant us the wisdom and strength to take up our part in Girl Scouting and the life of our communities with sincere love and commitment.

# Service Unit or Multi-Troop Fly-Up And Bridging Ceremony

Perform opening flag ceremony and sing "America, the Beautiful"

## Welcome to Brownie Girl Scouts (for Daisies bridging to Brownies)

**Brownie Leader says to Daisy Girl Scouts:** "Come on girls and join our ring; here we plan most everything."

First and second grade Brownies go get Daisies and take them into circle. Daisies can be presented with their Bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts Patch, their Ending Certificate, and their membership pin, if desired.

## Third grade Brownies Fly-up

**Brownie Leader says to third graders:**

**"Now it's time to say good-bye; break the ring and out you fly."**

Ring breaks to let girls and Leader out. She takes them to the bridge, repeats the following poem and gives them their Brownie Wings:

Brownies you are just about  
To become a Junior Scout  
In the troop you soon will find  
Junior scouts are true and kind  
So now I give you Brownie Wings  
That you may fly to bigger things

Brownies cross the bridge, fourth and fifth grade Juniors meet them at the other end and each one takes a Brownie to the Junior horseshoe. When all are in place, they repeat the Girl Scout Promise together and the Brownies are presented with the Girl Scout pin.

## Sixth grade Juniors cross bridge to Cadette Scouts

**Junior leader says:**

**"As we say 'Welcome to you'; we have to say a good-bye too**

**The time has come for some to cross; the Cadette's gain is our loss"**

Junior leader stands at end of the bridge and says a good-bye to sixth grade Juniors as they start across the bridge. Seventh and eighth grade Cadettes meet them at the other end of bridge and take them to their horseshoe.

## **Ninth grade Cadettes cross bridge to Senior Scouts**

**Cadette leader says:**

**"Welcome to Cadette Scouting. As you join us to help make a well rounded troop ready to meet the challenges of Cadette Scouting, we too must say good-bye to some of our members as they progress on to Senior Scouting."**

Cadette leader stands at end of bridge and gives the ninth grade Cadettes the Girl Scout handshake as they start across the bridge. The Senior Scouts will meet them at the other end.

Close ceremony by singing "Girl Scouts Together"

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# Seven Daisies In A Week

(A fun skit for Girl Scout Week - Not just for Daisy Girl Scouts)

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

## **Props:**

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

<p><u>Sun-Daisy</u> <b>My name is Sun-Daisy</b> And we're here to speak About Juliette Low And Girl Scout Week</p> <p>Just before the Civil War Juliette was born In Savannah, Georgia One October morn</p>	<p><u>Thurs-Daisy</u> <b>Sports were important</b> To keep the girls fit Basketball was the first game To become a big hit</p> <p>Daisy told the girls of camp Under stars shining bright Destination - Camp Lowlands The first Girl Scout campsite</p>
<p><u>Mon-Daisy</u> <b>Daisy was her nickname</b> Throughout her living days She loved games and writing And performing in plays When Daisy grew up She began the Girl Guides Her first troop was in Scotland With seven girls by her side</p>	<p><u>Fri-Daisy</u> <b>For the rest of her life</b> Daisy spread the word 'round To millions of girls In town after town Shortly after her death A World Friendship Fund began To honor this grand lady And her work through the land</p>
<p><u>Tues-Daisy</u> <b>Daisy sailed to America</b> March 12 was the day She started a troop Called Girl Scouts U.S.A. Eighteen girls met with Daisy Very eager to start To make uniforms and badges Each doing her part</p>	<p><u>Satur-Daisy</u> <b>Each year we partake</b> In a friendship celebration With Scouts 'round the world And with great dedication We'll remember Juliette Low Of whom we will speak And we're proud to be Girl Scouts Each day of the week</p>

**Wednes-Daisy**

**Daisy spoke of the Law**

For all Girl Scouts to learn

And told of requirements

For badges to earn

The troop went on hikes

Along nature trails

Watching birds of all kinds

And recording details

## Silver Award

The *GS Silver Award* is the highest award that can be earned by a *Cadette Girl Scout*. To be eligible for this award you must complete certain requirements: You must complete at least three interest projects, or patches.

You must learn about career opportunities

You must develop and demonstrate your leadership skills, both inside and outside of *Girl Scouting*.

You must complete the *Cadette Girl Scout Challenge*.

And, after you have done all this, you must plan and execute a *Silver Award* project of your own choosing.

The *GS Silver Award* is a visible sign of [..]'s commitment to and successful completion of her *Cadette Girl Scouting* experience. [..] now joins the ranks of tens of thousands of women and girls who have shown similar dedication to purpose.

[..]'s *GS Silver Award* is symbolic of HER interests and efforts in *Girl Scouting*.

By earning this award, [..] demonstrates that she is a person of character, capable of devoting herself to a worthy task. And she receives this award as much because of who she is and how she thinks, as because of what she knows.

By receiving this award, [..] becomes the latest to show that good intentions count for little until the application of ability and determination produce results.

And, who knows what influence this achievement of hers may have on future endeavors? Perhaps reflecting back on this experience will serve as inspiration for overcoming obstacles further along.

So, [..], may you ever be able to look back at your achievements as a *Cadette Girl Scout*, and find encouragement and hope at those times when you might otherwise falter or fail. Wear your *GS* uniform and the *Silver Award* on it today with pride and yet also with humility, thinking all those *GS* who have gone before you, and believing in the future you have yet to meet.

*GS*, *GScouters*, friends and relatives: I present to you [..], our council's latest recipient of the *GS Silver Award*!

## Simple Investiture Ceremony

Ask the girl a simple question: "Why do you want to be a Girl Scout?" or "What does it mean to make a promise?" The girl answers in her own words.

Ask the girl to make her promise. This can be done singly or the whole troop at once. Help her if she is shy. Ask: "Do you promise to serve God and your country...?" This will help her recall the words. As she makes the Promise, she uses the Girl Scout sign and the troop stands quietly.

Pin the appropriate pin over the girl's heart, telling her she is now a Girl Scout. Give the Girl Scout handshake and welcome her to Girl Scouting.

The girl turns to face the troop and they welcome her with the Girl Scout sign or a song.



# Sparks Belonging Ceremony

Wendy Baker

Campbellford, Ontario, Canada

Here is the ceremony we used last year.

I made a book with shiny wrapping paper and two pieces of cardboard and paper punch and wool to hold it together. I called it my Belonging Book. We had a tree and sprayed it gold and had the girls draw pictures of themselves and we put them on the tree with pipecleaner.

## **SPARKS BELONGING CEREMONY:**

### **1. Opening**

### **2. Song**

3. Have each group leader give out the pictures

4. Leaders tell who they are and put their picture on the tree.

5. Leaders then come and stand beside Wendy

6. Wendy will read the names from her Belonging Book

7. Gives take turns putting their picture on the belonging tree.

8. Come to Wendy and say their promise, other Guiders to assist with pins

9. After they all are enrolled or receive their first year pin, they we will join hands around the circle with tree in middle and sing:

Here we go round the Belonging Tree, the Belonging Tree  
Here we go round the Belonging Tree, the Belonging Tree  
We're all Sparks now.

10. Game - lead by Erica

11. Song - Tree in the hole lead by Sapphire

12. Refreshments

Vivian - Cake

Wendy - Tea, coffee and drinking boxes

13. Songs if necessary - Princess Pat, Lion Hunt

14. Closing song.

## "The Book of Trees" Scout's Own

### **Reader:**

Those of us who are here tonight are fortunate enough to have come in contact with the organization which believes in making a "friend in need, a friend indeed." Let us all imagine that we are in a great forest. The clearing through which all Girl Scouts must enter is our ethical code. All who enter must make the Girl Scout Promise. But once inside, we find many paths - all leading to a way of life on which we can build a wholesome future. In Girl Scouting, we are able to help all our girls take this trail.

### **Girl 1:**

**Reading from the Book of Trees:**

### **Girl 2:**

**I am the Oak Tree - As sturdy and long-lived as I, so is a Girl Scout's honor.**

### **Girl 3:**

**I am the Holly Tree - Constantly green and holding tight to my leaves as a Girl Scout is ever loyal.**

### **Girl 4:**

**I am a Birch Tree - With my bark and my wood, I am useful and help others as every Girl Scout does.**

### **Girl 5:**

**I am a Linden Tree - My heart shaped leaves are like the hearts of Girl Scouts who are friends to all and sisters to each other.**

### **Girl 6:**

**I am the Aspen Tree - My leaves softly whisper "Courtesy is Thoughtfulness" as every Girl Scout knows.**

### **Girl 7:**

**I am the Elm Tree - Sheltering the little folk of the woods in my gracious branches and roots, I am a friend to all animals, just as every Girl Scout.**

### **Girl 8:**

**I am the Poplar Tree - Tall and straight as a soldier who obeys orders, so does every Girl Scout.**

### **Girl 9:**

**I am the Maple Tree - Brightening the spring, my leaves gay in the fall, I am as cheerful as a Girl Scout.**

### **Girl 10:**

**I am a Hickory Tree - Tough of wood, I keep my nuts stored in strong, tight cases, just as a Girl Scout is thrifty.**

**Girl 11:**

**I am the Dogwood Tree - In the spring, I stand clean and beautiful in the face, as does a Girl Scout, clean in thought, word and deed, so stands in beauty.**

**All:**

**(The Conservation Pledge) I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country - it's soil and minerals, it's forests, waters and wildlife.**

**All:**

**Sing "This Land is Your Land"**

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# The Campfire Ash Ceremony (Ashes of Friendship)

## **THE HISTORY:**

The taking of ashes from one campfire to another is a ceremony done by Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts all around the world. The main purpose of these ashes is to bring to all Scouts and Guides the international aspect of the world of scouting. Ashes taken from a campfire are sprinkled into the flames of the next campfire. The next morning when the ashes are cold, they are stirred and each Scout/ Guide present at the ceremony takes some to mix with the next campfire. Each Scout/Guide keeps a list of all of the campfires that they have sprinkled their ashes in. If more than one

Scout/Guide brings ashes to the campfire, the lists are combined and the dates and places of all campfires are recorded and passed on. As Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts travel, the ashes circle the globe. It is a tradition that only those actually present at the campfire can receive ashes from the ceremony to carry on to another campfire.

## **THE CEREMONY:**

**We carry our friendships with us in these ashes from other campfires with comrades in other lands.** May the joining of the past fires with the leaping flames of this campfire, symbolize once more the unbroken chain that binds scouts and guides of all nations together.

With greetings from our brothers and sisters around the world, I will add these ashes and the fellowship therein, to our campfire. Will anyone with campfire ashes please come forward and join me.

(Wait for others)

The ashes I spread into this campfire carry memories of past campfires dating back to \_\_\_\_\_

I will now charge these ashes to the campfire.

So that you may pass these ashes on and share them with others at your next campfire, you will be given a history of where these ashes have been. (Recite history of ashes added to fire)

Kathy Stephan  
Program/Resource Consultant  
Life Member/NWGGSC

# The Green Angel Epic

Contributed by Elizabeth Kilcullen

REFRAIN: Oh you'll never get away, you'll never get away, you'll never get away, you'll never get away

PARENT: My daughter's just turned seven, She'd like to join your ranks.

TRAINER: Oh, good! We need new leaders.

PARENT: I have no time, but thanks.

TRAINER: I'm sure you'll like it fine.

PARENT: I said I have no time.

TRAINER: The training starts on Monday, Sign on the dotted line.

PARENT: My daughter's just turned nine, She'd like to fly up now.

TRAINER: The Leader's Guide will tell you, The where, the when, the how.

PARENT: I'm really rather beat, I'd like to take a rest.

TRAINER: You don't know what you're saying, The next three years are best.

PARENT: My daughter thinks it's time, Some camping she should do.

TRAINER: Well G.S. camp is just the place, We'll go along with you.

PARENT: I cannot sleep on cots, It hurts my back and head.

TRAINER: You really needn't worry, You'll never get to bed!

PARENT: My daughter tells me now, That day camp is the thing.

TRAINER: We need a dance director, and someone who can sing.

PARENT: I cannot dance a step, I cannot sing a song.

TRAINER: Well ten days in our day camp, We'll prove to you you're wrong.

PARENT: My daughter is now 12, I've really had it now I've hiked and camped and cooked outdoors,  
You name it--I know how.

TRAINER: But can you really say, You haven't had some fun? Do come and learn about Cadettes,  
Your work has just begun.

PARENT: My daughter is fifteen now, As leader, I am through.

TRAINER: You can't stop now when, Seniors need advisors just like you.

PARENT: I have another girl, Now she is seven, too.

TRAINER: Well aren't you glad you're so well trained. You know just what to do.

PARENT: Oh, yes, indeed I know, I'm quitting Scouts today.

TRAINER: But surely you have learned by now, you never get away.

TRAINER: And then the sad occasion comes. (S)he ends her(his) worldly care. "Welcome," says St. Peter, "Your troop is over there."

# The Spelling of Girl Scouting

These can be put on pieces of posterboard or just read (or memorized) as the girls choose.

- G is for the Gracious way we all proclaim our birth  
I points up the Ideas shared and those we'd like unearthed  
R is for Respect we have for every race and creed  
L is for our Loyalty to promises we heed  
S is for Sincerity of deed and word and mind  
C is for the Countless ways in which these are combined  
O is Obligation that we owe to fellow man  
U means that it's You who must be first to lend a hand  
T is for the Teamwork which has evidenced our growth  
I is for Integrity which backs the Girl Scout oath  
N is for the Noble way we remember days of old  
G is for the Grateful thanks for efforts toward our goal

Each of these is Girl Scouting  
What work! What fun! What pride!  
To recall with admiration  
And seek with greater stride

Receiving all these badges  
For all that we have done  
Shows the pride we carry  
What pride! What work! What fun!

# Trainer's Ceremony

Wendy Baker

Give out candles to as few or as many people. You can use Birthday candles or even those birthday sparklers:

Give out cards and have the people light their candle and say what is on the card:-

**Your part:** We are here tonight to honour.....who have completed all the requirements to officially become trainers. Before we do that I thought it would be appropriate to have us read the following called "What Guiding has taught me" which was written by a Pathfinder as her letter for application for an international trip. As we are here tonight to honour our Trainers, it seems appropriate to hear how training affects the youth who we are here to train.

**Person 1:** Guiding has taught me to be a friend.

**Person 2:** Guiding has taught me to laugh, to sing and to wear a smile upon my face.

**Person 3:** Guiding has taught me to enjoy the out of doors, to camp and hike and look at the stars.

**Person 4:** Guiding has taught me so many things about myself.

**Person 5:** Guiding has taught me to use my imagination to come up with new ideas and enthusiasm for new adventures.

**Person 6:** Guiding has taught me determination to do something good and worthwhile with every new challenge I am given.

**Person 7:** Guiding has taught me to be a giver and not a taker.

**Person 8:** Guiding has taught me to know when to lead and when to follow.

**Person 9:** Guiding has taught me about the Guides all over the wide world, of other countries and lifestyles all of whom live by the same promise and law.

**Person 10:** I'm a better person for all the things that Guiding has taught me.

# Tree of Knowledge

Prepare in advance a tree trunk with five branches. This can be a real tree, or a tree drawn on posterboard and hung on the wall. You will also need construction paper leaves with activities girls have done to earn awards written on them.

Perform flag ceremony and opening remarks or song.

This is the Tree of Knowledge. The tree trunk represents the World of Girl Scouting. Each branch represents one of the Five Worlds of Scouting. The leaves represent the knowledge and skills we acquire as we branch out and explore each of the five worlds.

At this time, girls can come forward and place on the tree leaves representing different activities they did to earn awards. Then each girl can receive her awards. These might be presented on real or construction paper branches.

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## Troop Crest Ceremony

**We gather today as Girl Scouts, sisters to all Girl Scouts around the world. Our Troop is only one of many around the world, but we share the same goals, as stated in the Girl Scout Promise.**

(Recite the Girl Scout Promise here)

Like many troops before us, we are unique as each of our girls are individuals. Each girl is important to the Troop and is a vital part of our Troop spirit. This spirit is what ties us together - to each other and to Girl Scouts around the world. We share the same values, as spoken in the Girl Scout Law.

(Recite the Girl Scout Law here)

We, Troop #\_\_\_\_\_, have chosen the \_\_\_\_\_(insert Troop Crest selected).

We have chosen this because: (insert your own wording focused around the meaning of that particular crest and the "spirit" of your girls/troop.)

My own wording is here: We, Troop #711, have chosen the Wild Rose. We have chosen this because our scouts have a "wild" or curious nature to explore all possibilities as they learn about the world. They have a perseverance to obtain their goals. As they learn from their mistakes and try again, they are learning adaptability in the face of adversity. They are developing their own inner strength - their own inner beauty as an individual.

I now will present each girl with a troop crest to be proudly worn on her uniform. This will remind her of our Troop spirit.

Brenda "mamoose" Holser :-)  
Troop #711, Grand Blanc, MI

## Troop Crest Ceremony

In the early days of Girl Scouting, troop crests were used to identify a troop. The rapid growth of the movement soon made numbering necessary, but crests were kept as a symbol of a troop's goal or main interest.

Troop 338 did not have a crest, so we started by looking carefully about the crest we should choose. We looked at the meaning behind each symbol used, and we encouraged the girls to select one that would have a special meaning to them, one they can pass along to new members each year.

The troop crest symbol can be used on a troop flag or to mark troop equipment. Every member from here on out should know what our crest is and what it means. A new crest will not be chosen ever again for Troop 338 - our crest will now be used for the life of a troop. When new girls enter our troop, they will take on the crest of our troop. So, as you can see, tonight is very special, as we all take on our new troop crest.

We gather today as Girl Scouts, sisters to all Girl Scouts around the world. Our Troop is only one of many around the world, but we share the same goals, as stated in the Girl Scout Promise.

Like many troops before us, we are unique as each of our girls are individuals. Each girl is important to the Troop and is a vital part of our Troop spirit. This spirit is what ties us together - to each other and to Girl Scouts around the world. We share the same values, as spoken in the Girl Scout Law.

We, Troop # 338, have chosen the Falling Star as our Troop Crest.

The Falling Star symbolizes good luck and making wishes come true. There were so many crests and symbols to choose from...some represented nature, others friendship and loyalty. The troop chose the Falling Star for several reasons. First, the beauty of the stars, especially that special falling star that you can see on a clear night, when we're all out camping, learning more about the out-of-doors. Good luck and making wishes come true is also important to our girls. The Junior Girl Scout years mark a time of wishing for the future...for seeing what can be achieved. As to "good luck", the National Executive Director of Girl Scouting, retired Admiral Marty Evans recently said, "It seems the harder I worked, the luckier I got along the way". Hard work almost always pays off...but a little good luck is nice, too. Finally, the part of "making wishes come true" - the adults in this troop are committed to making sure any wish that this troop makes will come true.

I now will present each girl with a troop crest to be proudly worn on her uniform. I hope it will remind each scout of our Troop spirit.

Barb Hunter  
Jr Ldr, SUM, Trainer, etc.  
GSC of the Nation's Capital

# Troop Officer Installation

The sample scripts here are written for patrol leader installation, but could be adapted for other forms of troop government; i.e. president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, or steering committee.

## Script #1

**Leader:** Today we will install our newly elected patrol leaders. The assistant patrol leaders \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will present \_\_\_\_\_ for installation.

Each assistant patrol leader walks with her patrol leader to face the table. Leader gives each patrol leader a lighted candle.

**Patrol Leaders (in unison):** I light this candle in rededication with my patrol and my troop to our Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Each patrol leader lights a center candle.

**Patrol Leaders:** I light this candle as a symbol of my promise to do my best to serve my patrol well.

Each patrol leader lights a candle on the left.

**Patrol Leaders:** I light this candle as a symbol of my promise to do my best to serve my troop well.

Each patrol leader lights a candle on the right.

**Leader:** A patrol leader wears a cord on her left shoulder as a sign of her office. The cord has two gold circles, which represent two circles of people the patrol leader serves: her own patrol, and the whole troop. Your patrol leaders, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, have promised to do their best to live up to your trust. Do you, as members of Patrol \_\_\_\_\_ and Patrol \_\_\_\_\_, promise to do your best to be loyal and helpful to your patrol leaders?

**Troop:** We promise.

**Leader:** The assistant patrol leaders will now present the cords.

(Assistant patrol leaders pin cords on their patrol leaders, and return to their places.)

Sing "Whene'er We Make a Promise"

**Leader:** Patrols dismissed to start the meeting.

Mid-Continent Council's Super Ceremonies

## TROOP OFFICER INSTALLATION (Script #2)

Troop assembles in a horseshoe formation.

**Leader:** Please present all Patrol Leaders to be installed.

When all in place:

**Presenters:** May I present \_\_\_\_\_, the newly elected patrol leader of \_\_\_\_\_ Patrol. (steps back one step)

**Leader:** Are you ready to take the Patrol Leader's oath?

**Patrol Leaders:** We are.

**Leader: 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;

Speak for my patrol in the Court of Honor and not just for myself;

To do my best to live up to the patrol's trust.

**Leader: Members of patrols repeat after me:**

As a member of Troop #\_\_\_\_, I will do my best to be loyal and helpful to my patrol leader.

**As Presenters pin on cords, leader says:** The cord of the patrol leader has two golden circles. The smaller circle represents the patrol you lead and serve. The larger circle in the cord is a symbol of the entire troop you serve in the Court of Honor.

Leader gives GS handshake to each patrol leader.

Presenters and patrol leaders return to horseshoe, form a friendship circle, and sing Taps.

Mid-Continent Council's Super Ceremonies