

Twelve Color Candle Ceremony

Elizabeth

Someone asked about a ceremony using 10 colors. I have one for 12 candles -

Silver stands for morning, the beginning of a new day, when each day presents a new challenge.

Yellow stands for Daisy Low, the beginning of Girl Scouts.

Pink stands for the girls in Girl Scouting.

White stands for the purity in every girl Scout's heart.

Gold stands for the trefoil pin, which reminds us of our Girl Scout promise.

Purple stands for courage to stand up for what we believe.

Turquoise stands for water which sustains life and gives us pleasure.

Brown stands for the earth on which we live.

Green stands for all plant life which beautifies the earth.

Red stands for fire, which glows for warmth and friendship.

Blue stands for our sky under which we are all united by our Girl Scout ideals.

Orange stands for the sunset, which signifies the closing of another Girl Scout day.

Values of Life (Cadette/Senior Rededication)

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

The Girl Scout Trefoil could be a cutout covered with colored acetate and a light bulb could be mounted inside the box for effect.

Leader (pointing to the trefoil)

The emblem you see before you represents the Girl Scout program. The seven candles represent seven rays of sun. We will now tell you what each of the seven rays stand for.

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

1. **Wisdom** - Wisdom does not necessarily mean superior knowledge. It means putting to right use the knowledge one possesses.
2. **Courage** - Courage is not the quality that enables people to meet danger without fear, it is being able to meet danger in spite of one's fear.
3. **Charity** - Charity is not limited to donations to people less fortunate. It is acceptance of others even when you do not understand them.
4. **Justice** - Justice is the practice of dealing fairly with others without prejudice or regard to race, color, or creed.
5. **Faith** - Faith is the conviction that something unproved by physical science is true. A good example is when an eight year old said "Faith is when you turn on the light switch, you know the light will come on."
6. **Hope** - Hope means to expect with confidence. Always hope for better things to come. A person without hope is of little help to herself or her community.
7. **Love** - There are many kinds of love - love of family, love of home, love of fellow humans, love of God and love of country. All of these loves are necessary for a full life.

Values of Life Ceremony

(May be combined with a recitation of the GS Promise and Law)

Props: Large trefoil, 7 candles

Leader (pointing to the trefoil):

The emblem you see before you represents the Girl Scout program. The seven candles represent seven rays of the sun. We will now tell you what each of the seven rays stand for.

1. **WISDOM** - Wisdom does not necessarily mean superior knowledge. It means putting to the right use the knowledge one possesses.
2. **COURAGE** - Courage is not the quality that enables people to meet danger without fear, it is being able to meet danger in spite of one's fear.
3. **CHARITY** - Charity is not limited to donations to people less fortunate. It is acceptance of others even when you do not understand them.
4. **JUSTICE** - Justice is the practice of dealing fairly with others without prejudice or regard to race, color, or creed.
5. **FAITH** - Faith is the conviction that something unproved by physical evidence is true. A good example is when an 8-year-old said, "Faith is when you turn on the light switch you know the light will go on."
6. **HOPE** - Hope means to expect with confidence. Always hope for better things to come. A person without hope is of little good to herself or her community.
7. **LOVE** - there are many kinds of love - love of family, love of home, love of fellow man, love of God, and love of country. All these loves are necessary for a full life.

Mid-Continent Council's Super Ceremonies

WAGGGS Pin Ceremony

This ceremony, which we used at Thinking Day, is a nice way to explain the meaning of the WAGGGS pin.

To do this ceremony, you need a felt cutout of the WAGGGS pin, which you can make from blue and yellow felt. You'll need a large yellow circle, and then a slightly smaller blue circle (so that when you put the blue circle on top of the yellow circle, there's the yellow border outside of it). Then you need yellow felt cutouts of the trefoil and the fire symbol at the base of the trefoil, the two stars and the compass needle. When I made my cutouts, I found it easier to duplicate the traditional WAGGGS pin than the newer one that is currently available in the US.

To start: All participants stand in a horseshoe. Somewhere, have a table or felt board available for the construction of the pin as the ceremony proceeds.

[I think this is a rather abrupt start, so I added something extemporaneous at the start, about the meaning of Thinking Day and the Baden-Powells]

Leader: The horseshoe formation symbolizes the open friendship circle. In the open end of the horseshoe stand our sister Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. If they were actually here, our horseshoe would become a completed circle, having no beginning or end.

[Then come a series of questions and answers, which you can divide up in any practical way. We had the people who asked the questions come forward to place the part of the pin they asked about on the felt board while someone else read the answer.]

What is the world pin?

It is the pin of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. We are going to construct such a pin. As we do, let us consider very carefully the reason for its color and design. Then we will know how deep a feeling of international friendship it can inspire in it.

What does the gold circle around the edge stand for?

The gold band surrounding our pin symbolizes the sun that shines on children all over the world.

Why is the world pin blue?

The blue background symbolizes the sky above us, all over the world.

Why do we have a trefoil in the World pin?

The gold trefoil is the sign of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding around the world. The 3 parts of the trefoil stand for the 3 parts of the Promise.

There are 2 stars on the World pin. What does the left star stand for?

The star on the left, the same side as our heart, stands for the pledge that all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides try, on their honor, to keep: the Promise.

What does the other star stand for?

The right star, on the side of a helping hand, stands for the Girl Guide and Girl Scout code of conduct--the GG/GS Law.

What does the pointer in the middle stand for?

We place a compass needle in the center, to serve as a guide pointing towards the right way in life.

What does the base of the trefoil mean?

At the base of the trefoil we place the flame. Its burning represents love for humanity and international friendship.

[At this point we presented world pins to the girls who didn't yet have them—we had older girls present them to the younger girls, and we ended with the Promise.]

To give credit where credit is due, I got this ceremony from a Huron Valley newsletter produced by a Cadette or Senior troop led by Marjorie McRoberts (who used to be on the list, I think, and maybe still is).

Susan Marie Harrington

Co-owner, WAGGGS-L

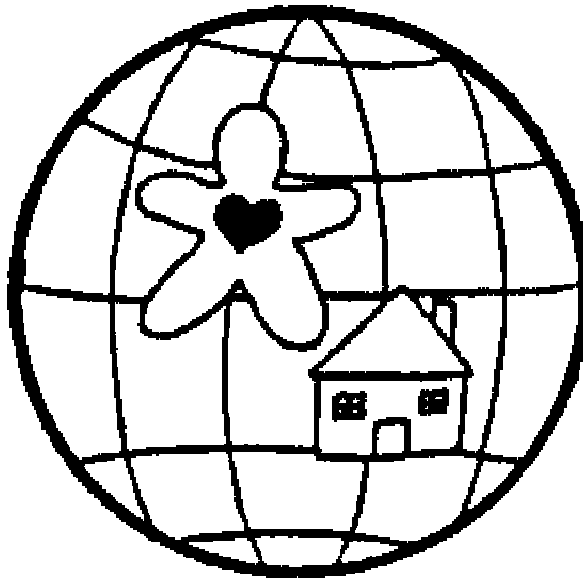
Girl Scouts of Hoosier Capitol Council Indianapolis IN, USA

WELCOME... to the Worlds of Girl Scouting

Plan an investiture to welcome new girls into the many worlds of scouting. Invite family and friends, so they can see what Scouting is all about! The Scouting handbook offers so many suggestions on discovering each "world"! Read through the pages. You may want to include more symbols in your ceremony! You might want to save the globes after you've made them. With a few changes you can perform a similar ceremony for "Thinking Day" depicting "World Friendship!"

General directions

Make five globes from unused cardboard backing from pizza. * (Or you can use posterboard or corrugated cardboard.) Cover the cardboard with blue felt. With markers, draw the meridian and equator. Print each of the following "worlds" on paper: well-being, people, today and tomorrow, arts, out-of-doors. Paste name of world near the bottom of each globe, so the symbols can be added during the program. Cut all symbols from felt. (The felt symbols will stick to the felt globe when set in place.) As each girl recites her lines, she presses the symbols on her globe. Be sure to PRACTICE! After the ceremony, each new girl recites the Girl Scout promise and law and receives her pins. *We called our neighborhood pizza place and explained that we needed cardboard pizza pan backings for a youth project. They were happy to help!

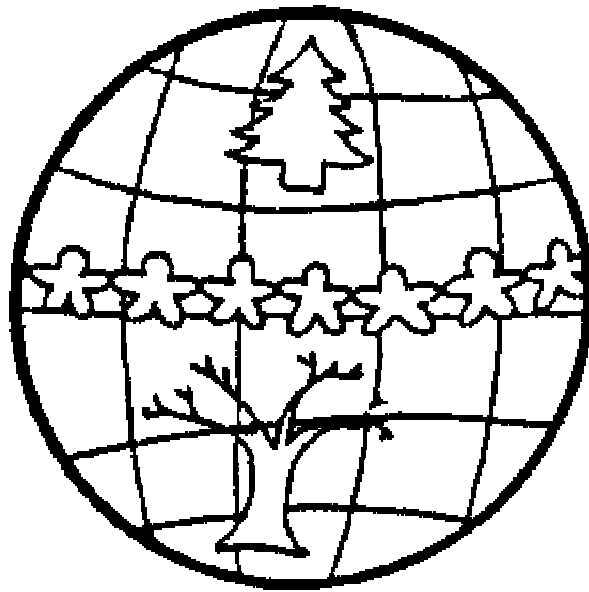


ALL: Welcome to the World of Well Being

1st Girl: Everyone is special in her own way. Find out what's special about yourself and others. Make a new friend.

2nd Girl: Do your part at home and in your community. Use your talents to grow and help others. Share good times with your family and friends.

3rd Girl: Fill your home with happiness. Make it a nice place to visit. Help prepare for and entertain guests.



ALL: Welcome to the World of People

4th Girl: The world is made up of so many different races and religions. We should respect them all.

5th Girl: Each family has a heritage, it's own special background, events, peoples, places and stories. Learn about your family tree.

6th Girl: Each year we celebrate many different holidays with our family and friends. Learn about the holidays and customs in other countries.

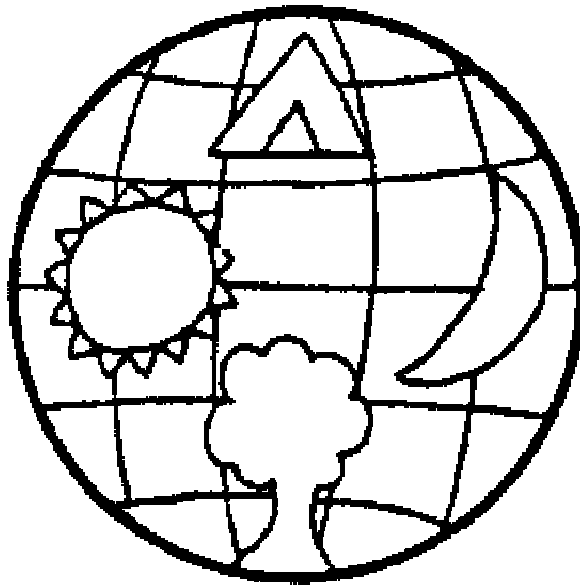


ALL: Welcome to the World of Today and Tomorrow

7th Girl: Find out about the world by experimenting with our natural elements.

8th Girl: Build a better world. Make your own design. Plan well. Someday you will be putting the pieces together for a new world.

9th Girl: In the world of tomorrow you may have a choice of living in space. Rockets have already made it possible for us to get started with space travel.



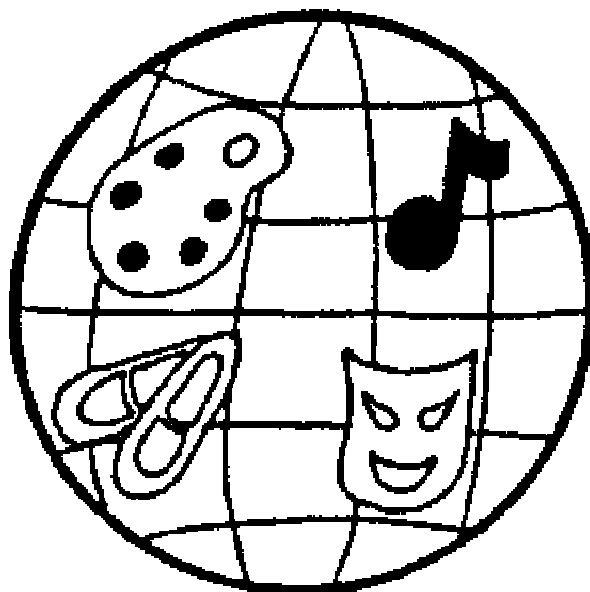
ALL: Welcome to the World of Out-of-Doors

10th Girl: Watch a sunrise! It's the beginning of a new day.

11th Girl: Count the stars at night. Find the Big Dipper!

12th Girl: Go camping! Cook outdoors! Sing songs around the campfire!

13th Girl: Find a shady spot and listen to the sound of nature! As a Girl Scout, see your world in a new way everyday!



ALL: Welcome to the World of Arts

14th Girl: Dip your brush into a pallet. Paint a scene from memory, or sketch the view from your kitchen window.

15th Girl: Music is an art we hear. Music is patterns of sound arranged in patterns of time or rhythm.

16th Girl: In almost every country, there are traditional dances called folk dances. Learn a folk dance and teach it to your friends.

17th Girl: Drama can be a short skit, a puppet show or a play. Do it just for fun, as a way to raise money, or as a service to your community.

ALL: (Girls hold up each world):

Welcome to our world
To enjoy and explore
As you recite the promise
To be a Scout forevermore!

What Is A Scout's Own?

What is a Scout's Own?

A Scout's Own is a special type of ceremony that expresses the spirit of Girl Scouting. It is called a Scout's Own because girls and their leader plan it themselves. It's an opportunity for girls to express their thoughts and feelings. Planned and carried out by the girls with the help of their leaders, the Scout's Own is a ceremony, but it is not a "performance". If parents and public are part of the group, the program goes on just the same. The "audience" is expected to participate. It is NOT a religious ceremony and does not take the place of going to church, synagogue or temple. It may be held on any day of the week, in troop meetings or at camp.

Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, describes the Scouts Own as "A voluntary uplifting of their hearts . . . in thanksgiving for the joys of life, and a desire to seek inspiration and strength for greater love and service for others."

A Scout's Own can be held at any time, indoors or outdoors. You may use it to open or close a meeting or special occasion. Girls usually like to pick a special spot to hold a Scout's Own - one that they really like or that is especially scenic. It is a Girl Scout custom to walk quietly to the place where the ceremony is held and leave quietly after it is over. A good way to do this is to designate a "silent arch" that girls enter and become quiet as they approach the ceremony. This might be a tree branch, special rock, doorway, path, etc. As girls leave, they remain quiet until they pass back through the arch.

What's in a Scout's Own?

A Scout's Own is usually planned around a theme. The theme can be anything the girls want, but usually it is about important or inspirational ideas, such as the meaning of the Promise, friendship, the beauty of nature. Your troop might have a Scout's Own on a national holiday or one of Girl Scouting's special days. A smaller group usually plans a Scout's Own with the help of it's leader. If you have a large troop, a patrol or small group of girls can be responsible for planning a Scout's Own.

These are some ways to express your theme:

Songs for everyone to sing

Shadow play scene

Music played by one or two girls

Poems or Quotations

Words a troop member writes for the Scout's Own

Choral reading

Stories and legends

Girl Scout Promise

Pledge of Allegiance

Thoughts about what the theme means to her (spoken by each Girl Scout)

What Makes A Good Scouts Own?

First, it should have a central idea to give it unity. Sometimes Girl Scouts choose some aspect of the Promise or one or all of the Laws as a theme. A special occasion, such as the Fourth of July, Thinking Day, or Mother's Day may provide the basic idea. In camp, the sun, the moon, or the countless aspects of nature lie around in dazzling profusion, waiting to be "starred" in their own Scout's Own. In the city, too, the wonders of nature are there to be observed, to be searched out and recognized by those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. A well-loved poem or legend may motivate the entire Scouts Own.

Good leadership can do much in guiding the girls toward suitable material. Giving several suggestions from which a choice can be made, helping to compare different selections for programs, and helping to distinguish between what is of value and what is unworthy of inclusion in this type of program are examples of how leaders can be involved in helping the girls plan a Scouts Own. At any event, there is always lively discussion as stories, legends, lives of the famous in history, and fable are included or rejected according to the requirements of the theme, the length of the program and the time available for preparation.

Next the theme must take form. This does not imply elaborate preparation. It simply means careful planning by the girls themselves, with the aid of their leaders. They may decide to use one way, or a variety of ways to present the theme; dramatization, solo or choral singing, solo or choral reading, musical interludes, and background music. Participation by all is desirable, but not mandatory, although the major responsibility may be taken by a nucleus of girls, with everyone joining in the singing or responsive readings. Girls can be encouraged to share their personal thoughts by passing around a special item that each person holds while she speaks; a decorated stick, a special stone.

An attitude of quietness will make it a more meaningful experience for all involved. But, it is the spirit of an "uplifting of hearts" that really makes this ceremony a Scouts Own. And when, the program over, Girl Scouts quietly disperse, it would be with a feeling of inspiration, of having glimpsed "the vision splendid" the poet Wadsworth knew the young could see.

How to Plan:

1. Choose a theme, such as one of the Laws, the Promise, our country, people, citizenship, nature (forests, rivers, mountains), special occasions (Thanksgiving, First Day of Spring), local history
2. Make a list of the different ways you can tell or show the theme
3. Choose one idea to open the Scout's Own
4. Organize order of program
5. Decide who is to lead parts
6. Decide who is to lead the girls to and from the Scout's Own
7. Decide how to end the Scout's Own

Where to have it:

1. At a meeting (opening, closing, spontaneously when all girls reflect on a shared experience)
2. At Camp (sunrise, campfire, sunset)
3. Quiet place on a trail
4. Anytime or anyplace, inside or outside, where Girl Scouts are gathered is the right place

Suggested time that a Scout's Own should last:

Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts 10 minutes

Junior Girl Scouts 10-15 minutes

Cadette Girl Scouts 15-20 minutes

Senior Girl Scouts 20-30 minutes

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Wishboats Ceremony

1998

Have the girls make a wishboat of their choice by using natural materials from the out-of-doors. This could be as simple as a piece of bark. Please do not remove any living thing to construct this. Put a birthday candle on the "boat" and float it. The next morning, please remember to retrieve the "boats" so as not to litter.

Setting: It is dark, except for 11 lit candles and the wish boats.

(Child 1): 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.

(Child 2): But what would the world be like if we stopped serving God and our country? (Blow out one more candle.)

(Child 3): What would the world be like if we each stopped helping people in need? (Blow out one more candle.)

(Child 4): What would the world be like if we each stopped living by the Girl Scout Law? (Blow out one more candle.)

(Child 5): What would the world be like if we chose to be dishonest and self-serving? (Blow out one more candle.)

(Child 6): What would the world be like if we were unfriendly and unhelpful? (Blow out one more candle.)

(Child 7): What would the world be like if we chose to be inconsiderate and uncaring? (Blow out one more candle.)

(Child 8): What would the world be like if we were fearful and weak? (Blow out one more candle.)

(Child 9): What would the world be like if we not responsible for what we said or did? (Blow out one more candle.)

(Child 10): What would the world be like if we didn't respect myself, others, or authority? (Blow out one more candle.)

(Child 11): What would the world be like if we didn't use our resources wisely? (Blow out one more candle.)

(Child 12): What would the world be like if I we didn't make the world a better place? (Blow out one more candle.)

If we choose this path, our world becomes very dark. (PAUSE)

(Child 2): But I, (Child 2), make a commitment today to serve God and my country. (Re-light candle.)

(Child 3): But I, (Child 3), make a commitment today to help people at all times, (Re-light candle.)

(Child 4): But I, (Child 4), make a commitment today to live by the Girl Scout Law. (Re-light candle.)

(Child 5): But I, (Child 5), make a commitment today to be honest and fair. (Re-light candle.)

(Child 6): But I, (Child 6), make a commitment today to friendly and helpful. (Re-light candle.)

(Child 7): But I, (Child 7), make a commitment today to be considerate and caring. (Re-light candle.)

(Child 8): But I, (Child 8);, make a commitment today to be courageous and strong. (Re-light candle.)

(Child 9): But I, (Child 9), make a commitment today to be responsible for what I say and do. (Re-light candle.)

(Child 10): But I, (Child 10), make a commitment today to respect myself, others, and authority. (Re-light candle.)

(Child 11): But I, (Child 11), make a commitment today to use my resources wisely. (Re-light candle.)

(Child 12): But I, (Child 12), make a commitment today to make the world a better place. (Re-light candle.)

All: Sing When'er You Make a Promise

All: Set wish boats afloat.

Wishing Pot Ceremony

I am getting requests to explain a wishing pot ceremony, so I thought maybe I should just post it to the list.

A wishing pot ceremony is an indoor version of wishes thrown into a campfire. We use our troop's Dutch oven for the wishing pot, but any container that is fireproof and plenty big enough to hold all the wishes would be okay. Do be careful to set it on a heat-proof surface. :)

Everyone is given a small piece of paper and a pencil, and asked to write down her wish. This can be a wish for someone who is leaving, a wish for her own future, a wish for the troop. Wishes are private. No one knows the wish except the person who writes it. When a girl is through writing, she folds her paper to seal in the wish.

The wishes are collected and placed in the pot, or each girl comes to the pot and throws in her wish. After the wishes are collected, everyone is told that she must concentrate on her wish, in absolute silence, from the time the fire is lit until it goes out. Then the fire is lit. (It is effective, but not necessary, to turn out the lights at this point.)

After the fire goes out, the leader can say something appropriate such as "Believing in our wishes makes them come true" or "A wish is a prayer. The smoke carries our prayers to God." Then everyone gathers round the pot for a final circle and friendship squeeze.

This was a very special send-off for our troop member who is moving. Almost everyone cried. We have also done this very effectively in the past at a slumber party in January to begin the new year. It could probably be done equally well in the fall when school starts again, or in the spring when girls who won't be meeting over the summer will be separating for three months.

Variations are to throw wishes into a campfire (when leader secretly adds a handful of coffee creamer to make a "poof" or sugar to create colored flames) or to make wish boats (candle on a small piece of wood) to float out to sea or across a lake. With the wish boats, girls watch them silently until the last flame goes out. Wish boats, which were a tradition at one summer camp where I worked as a counselor in the 1960's, are now discouraged because of environmental concerns.

For Thinking Day two years ago, we did a different version. Instead of using a pot, we gave everyone a votive candle in a baby food jar. (At the Dollar Tree store here, we can buy a box of ten "tea light" candles for a dollar.) We then sat on the floor in a circle, turned out all the lights, and passed a lighter from person to person. Each person said, "My wish for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere is . . ." and lit her candle. When all the candles were burning, we asked the girls to concentrate on their wishes in silence for a few minutes and then blow out the candles. After blowing out the candles, we stood up and did our final circle and friendship squeeze.

Hope this helps.

Jane Schuler
Cadette Troop 5
Knoxville, TN

World Association Trefoil Pin Ceremony

Contributed by Brownie Troop 652

You will need

World Trefoil pin for each girl; flannel board with detachable parts of the pin.

Procedure

Each girl is given a World Trefoil pin to hold in her left hand. Girls form a horseshoe with each girl having a partner. Parts of the pin are placed near the flannelboard. Two girls are involved in each section of the ceremony; one to read and one place a part of the pin on the flannelboard.

Sing: "Make New Friends" or another appropriate song.

Leader reads:

We are one with the Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in other parts of the world, and we wear a special pin as a symbol of our friendship and unity. The World Trefoil pin is always worn above each nation's Promise pin - to signify that the World Association is larger than individual members.

First girl reads:

The gold stands for the SUN which shines over us all.

Her partner places the yellow background on the flannelboard.

Second girl reads:

The blue symbolizes the SKY above us all throughout the world.

Her partner places the blue flannel on the yellow.

Third girl reads:

The gold trefoil is the symbol of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in all countries of the world. The three leaves stand for the THREE PARTS of the PROMISE.

Her partner places the three leaves on the board.

Fourth girl reads:

The star on the right stands for the GIRL SCOUT LAW.

Her partner places the right star on the board.

Fifth girl reads:

The star on the left stands for the PROMISE which all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides try to keep.

Her partner places the left star on the board.

Sixth girl reads:

The vane in the center is a COMPASS NEEDLE that guides us all.

Her partner places the vane in the appropriate place.

Seventh girl reads:

At the base of the trefoil is a **FLAME** of international friendship which burns in all our hearts.
Her partner places the flame on the board.

Leader reads:

Will partners now pin the World Trefoil pin on each other and then give the Girl Scout handshake.

Sing: "The World Song" or *Girl Scouts Together.*"

World Trefoil Pin Ceremony

Props Needed: A large felt board with a blue background. Cutouts of the World Trefoil Pin, made from felt, separated into the different sections that the girls will place upon the board as they recite their part.

First Girl: These leaves represent the four corners of the earth. It is the emblem of friendship among people. Upon this background we will place the trefoil known to all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides throughout the world. I place mine with the hope that we may soon again clasp friendly hands around the world. (Place leaf)

Second Girl: I place my leaf for all those that comes from the high mountain regions. May the world again know what it means to be safe. (Place leaf)

Third Girl: This leaf I place for those who come from farms, plantations, and ranches, it is with the hope that hunger shall be driven from places far and near that I place this leaf. (Place leaf)

Fourth Girl: This stem represents the arts and sciences, through them all women are sisters. May they become friends through understanding. (Place stem)

Fifth Girl: The stars in the two leaves of the trefoil stand for the promise and laws, They are the leading stars which we shall always keep before us. (Place stars)

Sixth Girl: The vein or line the compass needle which will always give us the right course or way in scouting. (Place compass needle)

Seventh Girl: This flame like base, the flame of the love of mankind, symbolizes the highest thought in international friendship. It completes the whole. I put it here with the hope that there will one day be life abundant for all ages and races and creeds. May this flame encircle the world with good will and always burn brightly and intensely in the heart of all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. (Place outside circle with flame)

Eighth Girl: The golden trefoil represents the sun shining in a blue sky which is over all the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of the world. And now let us all repeat our Girl Scout Promise, which is universal.

Group repeats the Girl Scout Promise.

Pins are given to girls by the leader and are pinned on each other by her "buddy" or the girl next to her. They give the Girl Scout handshake.