

# PLANNING A CEREMONY

## 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?

<b>Daisy</b>	<b>Brownie</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Cadette</b>	<b>Senior</b>
Choose a favorite song to sing	Choose songs and poems related to the theme	Decide on a theme	Decide theme	Plan and put on an area ceremony
Decide who they want to invite	Decide who they want to invite and make invitations	Decide when they want the ceremony	Find songs and readings	Select site and make arrangements
	Set up before ceremony	Find songs and poems	Work with Junior sister troop to plan bridging	Contact participants
	Serve refreshments	Make and serve refreshments	Make own props	Choose what to put in ceremony
	Help clean up	Clean Up		Conduct ceremony

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

# Ceremony Planner

**Purpose:**

**Theme:**

**When:**

**Where:**

**Guests:**

	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Props</b>	<b>Who's Responsible</b>
<b>Before Ceremony:</b>			
<b>Opening:</b>			
<b>Main:</b>			
<b>Closing:</b>			

**Evaluate:**

## **FLAG CEREMONIES**

### **Display, Customs and Care of the American Flag**

The U.S. Flag always occupies a position of honor

1. Carried in a procession, the U.S. Flag:
  - is to the marching right of other flags or is in front of other flags.
2. When displayed, the U.S. Flag:
  - should be to the flag's own right (the audience's left).
  - When grouped with other flags, (i.e., State, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Girl Scouts of the USA, Council, etc.), should be at the center, in front of, or higher than the other flags.
  - when with another flag on crossed staffs, should be on the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.
  - when with the flags of two or more nations, should be flown from separate staffs of the same height. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.
3. The U.S. Flag flies (is being held or on the flagpole) longer than other flags.
  - Indoors, it is posted last, presented first.
  - Outdoors, it is raised first, lowered last.

The spoken or sung portion of the ceremony takes place while the flag is flying.

1. Indoors, after the flag has been "posted" in the stand.
2. Outdoors, while the flag is flying from the pole
3. If the Pledge of Allegiance is to be said, it should be done before other pledges and/or promises (i.e., the Girl Scout Promise)

The National Flag should be raised and lowered by hand.

1. Do not raise the Flag while it is furled (folded)
2. Unfurl, then hoist quickly and smoothly to the top of the pole
3. Lower it slowly, and with dignity

Flying the Flag at half mast

1. Raise the Flag quickly to the top of the pole, then lower it slowly to the half mast position.
2. When retrieving the flag, before lowering the flag, raise it quickly to the top of the pole and then proceed to lower slowly with dignity.

Saluting (placing hand over the heart) the Flag

1. The moment the Flag passes in front of you
2. From the moment the first grommet is attached on the flagpole, until the Flag has reached the top.

3. From the moment the Flag starts to be lowered from the flagpole, until both grommets are in the hands of the Flag Bearer.
4. The Color Guard may salute only after immediately raising/posting or retrieving the Flag.

The Flag should only be displayed from sunrise to sunset, unless it is illuminated.

Only an All Weather Flag should be flown when it is raining.

REMINDERS:

1. The Flag should never be displayed with the Union (blue field) down, except as a signal of dire distress.
2. Do not use the Flag as a portion of a costume, clothing, handkerchief, or other decorative item.
3. Take every precaution to prevent the Flag from becoming soiled. It should not be allowed to touch the ground, nor to brush against objects.
4. A flag that has become soiled may be washed according to the care instructions for that particular type of material.
5. A flag that has become tattered or worn should be destroyed by a dignified method, preferably by burning.

A complete Flag Code, Public Law 829-77th Congress, is available from the United States Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. Important excerpts from the code are available in a booklet available from your local American Legion.

**The Proper Method of Folding the Flag**

Place Flag folding graphic here

## **The Color Guard of Honor**

The purpose of the Color Guard of Honor is to protect the flag. Because this requires full attention, the members do not participate in any part of the flag ceremony (singing, speaking, etc.), but stand silently “At Attention”

The Color Guard may consist of any number. Ideally there should be at least two Color Guards for each flag. The minimum is one Color (Flag) Bearer and one Color Guard

Color (or Flag) Bearer - One per flag, if more than one flag is present. Hold staff (pole) at 30° angle in front of body, or hold folded flag (with point away from body) in front of body at waist level. May wear red sash over right shoulder, tied in a square knot on left side of waist. Is responsible for putting flag in, or taking flag from, stand, or raising/lowering flag from flagpole

Color Guards - Stand on each side of the Color Bearer. Watch to see that the flag does not touch the ground. May wear red sash around waist tied in a square knot on left side. One or more members may assist flag bearer in posting/retrieving the flag from the stand/pole.

Caller - Only member of Color Guard to speak. Gives directions to audience and commands to Color Guard. May wear red sash, same as Color Guard.

Line Leaders - Usually part of an outdoor Color Guard. Lead the audience into/out of the desired formation (usually a horseshoe in Girl Scouts).

## **Basic Flag Ceremony Commands**

### **Opening Flag Ceremony (Outdoors: Colors)**

**“Would you all please stand for the presentation of the flag”** - If you have an “audience”, such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.

**“Girl Scouts (or Horseshoe) Attention”** - This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.

**“Color Guard Attention”** - If the Color Guard has been standing “At Ease”, it comes to “Attention”. It is also a signal to be ready to start.

**“Color Guard Advance”** (indoors) - The Color Guard carries the flag(s) toward the front of the room and stands in front of the flag stands. (outdoors) The Color Guard carries the flag to the flagpole

**“Color Guard, Post the Colors”** - (indoors) The Color Guard places the flags in the stands, the American Flag last. (outdoors) The Flag Bearer attaches the flag to the rope and quickly hoists the flag, the American flag is raised first.

**“Color Guard, Honor your Colors”** - The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to “Attention”

The Pledge of Allegiance, songs, poems, Girl Scout Promise, are done now. **“Would you all please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance”**

**“Color Guard Dismissed”** - The Color Guard walks to the back of the room, or away from the flag pole.

### Closing Flag Ceremony (Outdoors: Retreat)

**“Would you all please stand for the retrieval of the flag”** - If you have an “audience”, such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.

**“Girl Scouts (or Horseshoe) Attention”** - This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.

**“Color Guard Attention”** - If the Color Guard has been standing “At Ease”, it comes to “Attention”. It is also a signal to be ready to start.

**“Color Guard Approach”** (indoors) - The Color Guard walks toward the front of the room and stands in front of the flag stands. (outdoors) The Color Guard walks to the flagpole

Singing Taps, poems, other songs, are done now, if desired. **“Would you all please join me in the singing of Taps”**

**“Color Guard, Honor your Colors”** - The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to “Attention”

**“Color Guard, Retrieve the Colors”** - (indoors) The Color Guard removes the flags from the stands, the American Flag first. (outdoors) The Flag Bearer lowers the flag slowly and with dignity. The Color Bearers fold the flag(s).

**“Color Guard Dismissed”** - The Color Guard carries the flag to the back of the room, or carries the folded flag to an appropriate place.

REMINDER: Other than saluting the flag immediately after posting , or before retrieving, **the Color Guard remains at attention. They do not take place in any singing or speaking.**

In a troop setting, you may just wish to say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise while the flags remain in the stands. This is perfectly acceptable.

### Flashlight Flag Ceremony

Equipment/People Needed    Narrator (one, or more if your troop is large)  
Four Flashlight Bearers (candles may be substituted)  
Flag Bearer and Color Guard(s)

Color Guard advances with Flag and posts Colors. Lights are turned out so that the room is in total darkness. Flashlight bearers turn on flashlights (or light candles) and direct light toward flag.

NARRATOR: What you see here tonight represents the past, present, and future. The stripes of Old Glory stand for the original thirteen colonies. The stars represent the present 50 states. The light and warmth of the four lights you see shining remind us of the four great freedoms - Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Assembly, Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion. Eliminate any one of these freedoms and our world would become darker and colder.

Narrator calls out the four freedoms slowly. As each is called a flashlight is turned off until the room is again in total darkness.

1. Freedom of the Press
2. Freedom of Assembly
3. Freedom of Speech
4. Freedom of Religion

NARRATOR: In this world of potential cold and darkness, of rule by a few, stands the United States of America. Here the Four Freedoms do exist and are an example of warmth and light for all. Will you please join us in the salute to our flag? (Turn flashlights back on and direct light toward flag)

All join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Explanation of the Pledge Ceremony

We often recite the Pledge of Allegiance without really listening to or understanding the meaning of the words we are saying. You can have each girl recite a portion, then the explanation. You can also have the girls put the meaning into their own words.

I - Me, an individual, a committee of one

Pledge - Dedicate all of my worldly possessions to give without self pity

Allegiance - My love and devotion

To the Flag - Our standard - Old Glory - a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts "Freedom is everybody's job!"

Of the United - United - that means we have all come together

States Of America - States - individual communities that have united into fifty great states - fifty individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united in a common purpose - love for country.

And to the Republic - Republic, a state in which power is given to representatives chosen by the people to govern; and the government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For Which it Stands - This is what our Flag stands for - Our United States

One Nation Under God - meaning so blessed by God

Indivisible - Incapable of being divided

With Liberty - Which is freedom - the right to live one's own life without threats or fear of retaliation.

And Justice - The principle or qualities of dealing fairly with others.

For All - For all - which means, boys and girls, ladies and gentlemen, it's as much your country as it is mine.

- adapted from a recording by Red Skelton

### Flag Burning Ceremony

When the U.S. Flag becomes tattered or worn, it should be disposed of by burning

Here are the basics for a Flag burning ceremony. Appropriate songs and/or readings may be added.

1. Lower the flag from the pole (or remove it from the staff) and carry it to the fire site.



2. Place the stars (as the audience sees them) in the upper left hand corner. This is an appropriate reading to start the ceremony:  
    “Remember as you look at the Flag, it is the symbol of our nation, it is red because of human sacrifice; blue because of the true blue loyalty of its defenders; and white symbolizes liberty - our land of the free. The stars are symbols of the united efforts and hope in the hearts of the many people striving to keep America great.”
3. Cut the field of blue from the stripes - have someone hold onto this piece.
4. Next, cut each stripe from the “whole” and lay each piece, one at a time, across the flames. These are some ideas for appropriate readings for each stripe:

- First Stripe	“The thirteen stripes stand for the thirteen original colonies which are: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.”
- Second Stripe	“The white stands for purity”
- Third Stripe	“The red stands for courage”
- Fourth Stripe	“Give me liberty or give me death”
-Fifth Stripe	“One if by land, two if by sea”
-Sixth Stripe	“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution on the United States of America.”
-Seventh Stripe	“We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal. They are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”
-Eighth Stripe	“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”
-Ninth Stripe	“Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or press.”
-Tenth Stripe	“Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”
-Eleventh Stripe	“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”
-Twelfth Stripe	“Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”
-Thirteenth Stripe	“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

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

Please remember, this is a very solemn ceremony and should be done with the utmost respect and reverence for the flag to be retired.

It might also be noted that you need to explain this ceremony **thoroughly** to the girls so that they don't go home and tell their parents that they “burned a flag at Girl Scouts”.

Another Flag burning ceremony is in the “*Ceremonies in Girl Scouting*” book, ref pg 18.

## INVESTITURE AND REDEDICATION

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

Here are a few reminders and ideas:

1. Investiture takes place the **first time** a girl or adult joins Girl Scouting. The person being invested: 1) Says the Girl Scout Promise; 2) receives the appropriate Girl Scout pin; and 3) is welcomed into Girl Scouting.
  - Saying the Girl Scout Promise can be done individually or as a group, depending on the age of the person(s) being invested. Investiture should be a special time, not a scary one.
  - At this time, Daisies may also receive their beginning certificate.
  - The girl should understand (as much as possible for her age level) that when she is invested, she is agreeing to subscribe to the values and principals of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
2. Rededication takes place each year a girl or adult rejoins Girl Scouting (it does not matter if they are consecutive years or if there has been a break in the years). As part of the ceremony, those rededicating themselves say the Girl Scout Promise
  - If you have girls/adults rededicating and investing at the same ceremony, do the rededicating first - then those girls and adults can assist with investiture.
3. Be sure that everyone receives and wears only the appropriate Girl Scout Pin:

Daisy GS Pin Graphic

Daisy Girl Scout Pin

- worn only by Daisy Girl Scouts  
(age 5/6 or Kindergarten)

Brownie GS Pin Graphic

Brownie Girl Scout Pin

- worn only by Brownie Girl Scouts  
(1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade)

Traditional and  
Contemporary GS Pin  
Graphic

Girl Scout Pin

- traditional (eagle)  
- contemporary (three faces)

- worn by Junior, Cadette, Senior  
and Adult Girl Scouts

## Ceremonies for All Age Levels

### 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.

### Traditional Candlelight Investiture/Rededication Ceremony

Before and/or after the investiture/rededication portion of the ceremony a troop may choose to have a flag ceremony, sing a song, etc. However, the investiture/rededication should be the main part of the ceremony.

Props: 14 candles (3 for Promise, 10 for Law, and 1 to light all other candles from)

The troop stands in horseshoe formation around a table with ceremonial candles. Open end of the horseshoe should be towards the audience.

The leader, or one of the girls, begins the ceremony by explaining the meaning of “investiture” and/or rededication and the symbolism of the three candles for the Promise and the ten candles for the Law.

The participating girls and/or adults begin to light the candles. This will be shown in this book by the ✨.

- one candle is lit for each part of the Girl Scout Promise and the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law.
- the number of participants will determine how many candles each girl lights
- if you need more “parts”, consider having one girl speak and one girl light the candle

Part 1 - The Girl Scout Promise: On my honor, I will try ✨ (this is the candle used to light all others)

Part 2 - To serve God and my country ✨

Part 3 - To help people at all times ✨

Part 4 - And to live by the Girl Scout Law. ✨

Part 5 - The Girl Scout Law: I will do my best to (no candle lit)

Part 6 - be honest and fair ✨

Part 7 - be friendly and helpful ✨

Part 8 - be considerate and caring ✨

Part 9 - be courageous and strong, and ✨

Part 10 - be responsible for what I say and do. And to ✨

Part 11 - respect myself and others ✨

Part 12 - respect authority ✨

Part 13 - use resources wisely ✨

Part 14 - make the world a better place ✨

Part 15 - be a sister to every Girl Scout ✨

Leader: “At this time the girls of Troop # \_\_\_\_\_ will rededicate themselves to the service of Girl Scouting”

- All returning members are called forward. They repeat the Girl Scout Promise and are welcomed back to the troop by an adult member with the Girl Scout handshake. They then return to the horseshoe.

Leader: "Now our new members will be invested into Girl Scouting"

- Leader, or one of the rededicated girls, calls each new girl and adult forward
  - Each new member then repeats the Girl Scout Promise, individually, or as a group
  - The new members are welcomed into Girl Scouting
    - they receive the appropriate Girl Scout pin
    - give the Girl Scout handshake
    - return to the horseshoe formation

There are many variations of this Candlelight Ceremony. If your girls are too young to light candles, or if candles are not allowed where you meet, small flashlights can be substituted. The following are examples of different Girl Scout Promise and Law interpretations that can be substituted in the ceremony or can be adapted to fit your girl's ideas and your troops needs.

### Girl Scout Promise Interpretation

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

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

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

### Girl Scout Law Interpretation Poems

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

10. A Girl Scout tries her best to be a sister to every Girl Scout ✨  
(When hearts seek hearts and hand seek hands, oceans are bridged and love links lands.)

### Girl Scout Promise and Law Interpretation

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

#### **The Promise:**

On my honor, I will try It is a big promise to live up to, and the first words mean “I will do my very best”.

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

To help people at all times I will be ready and willing to help people anytime that I am needed.

And to live by the Girl Scout Law I will try everyday to make the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law a part of my life

#### **The Law:**

I will do my best to be honest and fair This means that people can trust us and that we treat others as we would like to be treated

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

To be considerate and caring We are thoughtful of the rights and feelings of others, and we care about them

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

To be responsible for what I say and do We cannot blame others for our own thoughts, words or actions

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

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

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

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

To be a sister to every Girl Scout Girl Scouts have friends all over the world and we share the same principals in our Promise and Law

#### **You may also wish to add these parts:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### A Symbolic Investiture/Rededication

(this ceremony can also be adapted for use on Thinking Day)

All: Girl Scout Promise

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

(Light one small candle to light the rest of the candles with)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Leader pins each girl and gives the Girl Scout handshake)

All candles are extinguished EXCEPT the Juliette Low candle. This candle is put out after the final song.

All: Sing "Girl Scouts Together" (or other appropriate song)  
Sing "Green Trees and Taps"



# WELCOME.... to the World of Girl Scouting

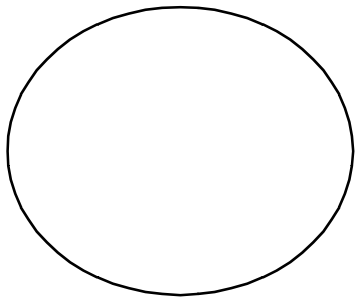
Plan an investiture to welcome new girls into the many worlds of scouting. Invite family and friends, so they can see what Scouting is all about! The Scouting handbook offers so many suggestions on discovering each "world"! Read through

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!

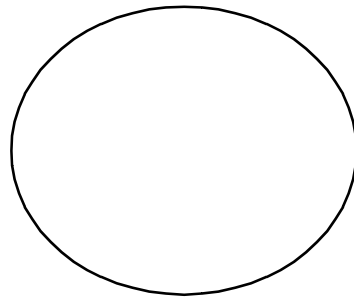


Symbols: shape of person, red heart, house

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.

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.

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

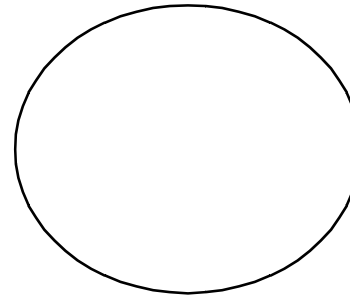


Symbols: paper dolls, family tree, Christmas tree

ALL: Welcome to the World of People  
2nd Girl: The world is made up of so many different races and religions. We should respect them all.

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

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



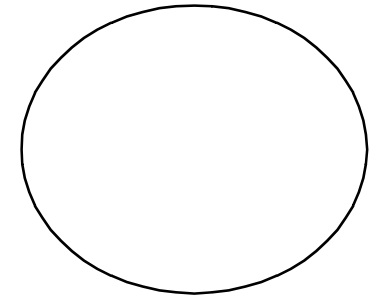
Symbols: test tube, hammer, space ship

ALL: Welcome to the World of Today and Tomorrow

3rd Girl: Find out about the world by experimenting with our natural elements.

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

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.



Symbols: paint pallet, musical note, ballet slipper, mask

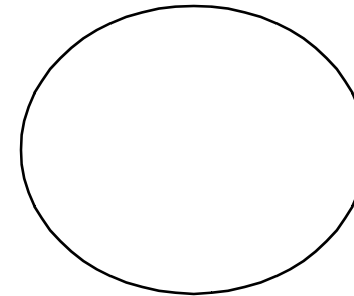
ALL: Welcome to the World of Arts.

4th Girl: Dip your brush into a pallet. Paint a scene from memory, or sketch the view from your kitchen window.

Music is an art we hear. Music is patterns of sound arranged in patterns of time or rhythm.

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

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.



Symbols: sun, moon, tent, tree

ALL: Welcome to the World of Out-of-Doors  
5th Girl: Watch a sunrise! It's the beginning of a new day.

Count the stars at night. Find the Big Dipper!

Go camping! Cook outdoors! Sing songs around the campfire!

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

ALL(Girls hold up each world):

Welcome to our world  
To enjoy and explore

As you recite the promise  
To be a Scout forevermore!

## **Flowers of Friendship Investiture/Rededication**

The original ceremony appears in "*Ceremonies in Girl Scouting*", however, this is updated to reflect the recent changes in the Girl Scout Law  
Items needed: Ten groups of flowers, a container to set flowers in, sachets or potpourri for each girl.

### Introduction:

Welcome to our investiture/rededication ceremony. In almost all countries and cultures there are ceremonies to mark important events in life - days of celebration, sad days, joyous days, days on which a special commitment is made, days that mark an achievement. Girl Scouts, too, have ceremonies to mark important events and significant days. Tonight we are here to confirm or reaffirm our belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law. The Girl Scout Promise and Law are the foundation of all Girl Scouting. The Promise is like a basket that holds flowers. Flowers have always played an important role in human life. From the very earliest times, they have been given as tokens of love and respect and have served in ceremonies and rituals of all types. The flowers we mention in this ceremony symbolize the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law.

### Main Part of Ceremony:

Please join me in repeating the Girl Scout Promise (All girls recite). And now we will dedicate ourselves to living the Girl Scout Law (as each part of the Law is read, the corresponding flower is placed in the basket)

I will do my best to be:

honest and fair,

This part of the law is represented by the white chrysanthemum. It shows truth, honor, trustworthiness, equality and fairness.

friendly and helpful,

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

considerate and caring,

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

courageous and strong,

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

and responsible for what I say and do,

The gladiola symbolizes strength of character, maturity, and responsibility.

Binding it with straw, we show that we honor our word and keep our agreements.

and to respect myself and others,

The white Rose and white zinnia show that we hold ourselves worthy and good.

Winter Greens symbolize the harmony we try to keep between ourselves and others.

respect authority,

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

use resources wisely,

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

make the world a better place,

The cattail represents the peace we are trying to bring to the world when we help others. The Caladium shows the great joy and delight we take in the world around us.

and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

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

### Closing:

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

### **Daisy Girl Scout Investiture**

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

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

Some other ideas you might like to incorporate into your ceremony:

### **Daisy Poem**

I'm a Daisy standing tall

I'm a Daisy, friends to all

I'm a Daisy, helping everyday

Living my life in the Girl Scout way

(Motions)

(stand tall)

(wave to friends)

(hands out, palms up)

(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

### **Brownie Investiture (Light Humor)**

Three Brownies:      1. Carries a big sign saying "I am an Owl"  
                                  2. Carries a big sign saying "I am a Tree"  
                                  3. Carries a smaller sign saying "So Am I"

Leader enters with three or four Brownies and all repeat the Promise

They will form a horseshoe on stage so that at the conclusion of the Law all can repeat the Promise and sing a short song.

NARRATOR: In Girl Scouting we have one Law with ten parts.

I will do my best

(1) To be honest and fair

Three girls enter with each holding a glass and one holding a bottle of opened pop. She pours a little into each glass making sure they are equal and says "Now let's be as fair as we can about this"

I will do my best

(2) To be friendly and helpful

A Brownie enters with a lop-sided cake and proudly announces that she helped her mother make this lovely cake. Mother enters with flour all over her and her hair a mess and a general disheveled appearance

I will do my best

(3) To be considerate and caring

Two girls appear in archway and take turns saying "You go first - No you go first" Repeat about four times then both crowd through archway together

I will do my best

(4) To be courageous and strong

Two girls enter, one wielding a whip and a chair, like she is taming a lion, the other lifting a "heavy" object over her head

I will do my best

(5) To be responsible for what I say and do

One or two girls enter carrying stuffed "pets", pretending that they are real. They are feeding, watering, brushing and walking them. They also talk to them lovingly.

I will do my best

(6) To respect myself and others

Three girls enter, each holding a small hand mirror. Looking into the mirror, they say to themselves "I respect you, I respect you, I respect you". They then turn to each other and repeat the same thing.

I will do my best

(7) To respect authority

Three girls and an older scout. The girls form a straight line. The older girl gives orders such as "About face" "Left face" "Right face". Each girl turns in opposite direction for general confusion

I will do my best

(8) To use resources wisely

A Scout dressed VERY outlandishly such as purple socks, green skirt, red sweater, blue blouse, etc., with everything fitting very poorly. She says: My mother sent me shopping, now wasn't that very nice

I got all these lovely bargains at half their normal price  
I will do my best  
(9) To make the world a better place  
Some girls enter with pet rocks and potted plants. One shows others  
the new house she just made for her pet rock. Others talk to their plants, etc.  
I will do my best  
(10) To be a sister to every girl scout  
Two girls enter wearing outfits with the sleeves and skirts sewn together  
They then say (in unison)  
Some people say sisters argue  
I'm sure this you've heard  
But the thing that describes us best  
You'll find, inseperable's the word

Everyone repeats the Girl Scout Promise and sings "Girl Scouts Together"

### **Brownie Pond Investiture**

Props Needed: Brownie Girl Scout "Pond" (can be constructed from a piece of cardboard covered with foil and border with greenery, or use a mirror and border with greenery, or use a real one!)  
Also need Brownie Pins for each new member. They can be placed on the floor by the pond.

Lay pond on the floor in the middle of the ceremony area. If desired, new members can be sent outside with the assistant leader. If new girls stay in the room, they should be on one side of the pond and the other girls should be on the other. All stand or sit around the "pond" and then the leader says the magic words:

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

If the new Brownies have been sent outside, the girls knock on the door

The leader with the troop asks: "Who comes to the Brownie woods?"

Brownies-to-be: "We do"

Leader: "What do you want?"

Brownies-to-be: "We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts"

The leader may ask why, and the girls may give their own reasons (help them prepare them before the ceremony if you plan on asking). Then they enter and gather around the pond.

At this point you may have a simple dramatization of the Brownie Story by the older Brownies or the leader may tell or read the story to the girls.

Leader: Who comes first (or next) to the Magic Pond

Co-Leader: (Reads girls names, one by one, alphabetically)

Leader: Turns girls, one by one, while saying:

"Twist me and turn me and show me the elf  
I looked in the water and saw \_\_\_\_\_"

Girl: Myself!

Leader pins on Brownie Pin, gives the girl the Girl Scout handshake and welcomes her to Girl Scouting.

After each girl receives her pin, the Leader says:

Uncross your little fingers, down from off your toes  
Then the magic goes away, everybody knows

Older Brownies can help clean up the “magic” while the leader sings this song:

Weave the magic in and out, in and out, in and out  
Weave the magic in and out, for we are Brownies  
We have tidied everything, everything, everything  
We have tidied everything, for we are Brownies

### **Brownie’s Gold Walk**

Room setting: Room should resemble woods with a “golden” trail marking the way to the Brownie Woods. In the woods is a wise old owl (paper) in a tree. The trail may be made of construction paper, cardboard, or crepe paper. Be creative.

Girls to be invested proceed down “path” accompanied by other members of the troop, girls from sister troop, or the leader may lead the girls. At each obstacle, girls tell about Brownie Scouting, earning their way to the Brownie Woods. The leader or girls may help with the answer.

Girl Scout Member or Leader:

Come along and take my hand  
We’ll follow the path to Brownie Land  
To find the woods, we’ll walk the golden mile  
But first, sing a song about a Brownie smile  
(Girls sing “The Brownie Smile Song”)

Obstacle may be a chair to climb over, etc.

Girl Scout member or leader:

Becoming a Brownie is a special thing  
We do our business in a Brownie \_\_\_\_\_  
(New girls answer “Ring”)

Obstacle should resemble a door (strips hung from the ceiling will work)

Girl Scout member or leader:

This is the door to the Brownie woods  
Knock, then answer the way you should.  
(new girls “knock” on the door)

Leader: “Who comes to the Brownie woods?”

Brownies-to-be: “We do”

Leader: “What do you want?”

Brownies-to-be: “We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts”

Leader: Then enter the magic woods

New scouts enter the woods. Leader takes each girl to the pond, one by one. All Brownies in the woods repeat as she is twisted:

“Twist me and turn me and show me the elf  
I looked in the water and saw \_\_\_\_\_”

Girl: Myself!

Leader: Now is the time your Promise to make  
But first give me the Sign and Shake

All new girls give the leader the the Girl Scout Sign and handshake.  
The new Girl Scouts say the Girl Scout Promise together

Leader pins the girls' Brownie pins on her upside down and says:  
Now your a special Brownie Scout  
With your first good deed, turn your pin about.

### **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.

To make this ceremony something special, you can use a ceremonial board such as the one shown here. Use electrical candles if lighted candles are not allowed in your meeting place.

Paste Ceremonial Board Graphic Here
--

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 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 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.

## **Adult Investiture/Rededication Ceremony**

At each ✂, a candle should be lit.

Leader: Today (or tonight) we came in silence as we rededicate ourselves to Scouting. We light three candles signifying the three parts of our Promise as together we renew it.

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

Leader: Our opportunity comes to us through value - the right to grow through our experience in the Promise and Law. This candle becomes a bright as we realize our golden opportunities.

✂ (light candle)

Adult: On my honor I will TRY. I cannot succeed if I do not try. So I will try, I may not always succeed but I will grow with every new experience as I put into practice the Promise and Law

Leader: Our goal is to help girls be good citizens today and active citizens tomorrow

✂ (light candle)

Adult: I am proud of God and my country. And on my honor I will try to serve God, my country, and help people at all times to the best of my ability.

Leader: The Scout loves her country and has knowledge of it's relationship to the world.

✂ (light candle)

Adult: All women are sisters. We learn that there are many likenesses in all people, but where there are differences we gain exciting opportunities of understanding

Leader: The pathway of Girl Scouting grows broader and other people become involved

✂ (light candle)

Adult: Others need me. It is good to know that I have skills and knowledge which can make someone else happier

Leader: Opportunities to develop into a more capable person are given to the Girl Scout as she assumes her role in the troop and in her patrol

✂ (light candle)

Adult: I am a link in the golden chain of Girl Scouting. It can be no stronger than each link

Leader: Each Scout is an individual and by keeping herself forever fit, she is better ready to serve others and to enjoy everyday living

✂ (light candle)

Adult: It is my privilege to keep myself physically fit, to live with kind thoughts and unselfish deeds and to keep myself morally strong



Leader: And so the light grows brighter as it now fills this room and these hearts with the flame of accomplishment.

Pin new leaders, having them each repeat the Promise, if desired.

### **Adult Girl Scouting Investiture/Rededication**

Part 1: "Girl Scouting is not a world apart, but a part of the world." As we dedicate ourselves today, let's keep in mind ways in which we can make Girl Scouting an even stronger part of our world.

Here are some thoughts:

Part 2: Juliette Low frequently reminded the National Board, when much organizational planning had to be done, "We musn't lose sight of the girls. The girls must always come first."

Part 3: Thomas Edison said, "Genius is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration."

Part 4: "Thank you for loaning me your daughter  
For letting her make me smile  
Thank you for letting her be a Girl Scout  
It's an organization worthwhile" - Author Unknown

Part 5: "We cannot learn from one another - until we stop shouting at one another; until we speak quietly enough so that our words can be heard as well as our voices." - Richard Nixon

Part 6: Girls are the only reason for Girl Scouting. Everything in Girl Scouting is designed for their particular needs and interests

Part 7: "You don't have to think about doing the right thing. If you are for the right thing then you will do it without even thinking." - Maya Angelo (I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings)

Part 8: Girl Scouting is multi-cultural. We not only welcome, but seek, members from all racial, ethnic, religious, and socio-economic groups.

Part 9: Look up and not down - Look forward and not back - Look out and not in - Lend a hand

Part 10: According to Peter Drucker, often called the founding father of the discipline of management, "The best run organization in the United States is the Girl Scouts. Tough, hardworking women can do anything."

Part 11: When in charge - ponder  
When in trouble - delegate  
When in doubt - mumble

Part 12: "Ideas are clean. They soar in the supreme heavens. I can take them out and look at them, they fit in books, they lead me down that narrow way. And in the morning they are there. Ideas are straight - but the world is round, and a messy mortal is my friend - come walk with me in the mud..." - Hugh Prather

Part 13: Girl Scouting is people, people like you who give their time, their energy, and their love to help prepare today's girl for tomorrow's world.

Part 14: Let's all join in saying the Girl Scout Promise

All say the Promise together

Note: You can either have 14 different people participate or alternate back and forth between 2 people.

You may also wish to have candles lit after each speaking part.

## **THINKING DAY CEREMONIES**

### **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)

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.

### **A Thinking Day Ceremony**

Use any method of production you wish-----one idea would be to have the individual letters on posterboard, with the readings accompanying them attached to the back so the girls could read them as they held the cards.

- T Thinking Day is celebrated February 22nd. This is the birthday of Lady and Lord Baden-Powell, who organized and did so much for scouting.
- H He, Lord Baden-Powell, founded Boy Scouting in 1907. At a boy rally in 1909, girls appeared, who were most interested in the movement. They wanted in too.
- I In 1909, as a result of the Boy Scout rally, Lord Baden-Powell founded the Girl Guides of England, out of this grew our own Girl Scouts.
- N Nothing went very smoothly at first, small companies were formed who did mostly Boy Scout drills and badges. In 1912 the girls had their own handbook.
- K Knowing little about Girl Guiding, Princess Mary did have an interest and inspected companies on different occasions. She gave many gifts of money to help Girl Guides really get on their feet.
- I International Council was founded in 1928. This helped bind the Guides closer together. In wars they have done quite a good many things. Their biggest aid was in hospitals and telegraph offices.
- N No one can ever forget Juliette low, who founded our Girl Scouts here in America in 1912. She had lived in England and had received her interest there. She was a good friend of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.
- G Great was this organization started in Savannah, Georgia, Mrs. Low's main wish, at first, was to have an International Conference in the United States. In May, 1926, at Camp Macy, in New York, twenty-six different countries had this conference.
- D Day by day this movement, started by Lord Baden-Powell, has increased, not only in size, but also in its activities. Even though girls from different countries do not wear the same color or style uniform, their interest and activities are very similar.
- A And let us remember that the word "Friendship" means much to all, and "International Friendship" means even more.
- Y You are a part of this, so let us all join hands in a friendship circle with wishes for all that is good for all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides the world over.

For a closing girls form a friendship Circle and sing "Girls Scouts Together" or "World Song"

Thinking Day is also a good time to contribute to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. The money goes to provide opportunities for the international exchange programs which enables a widening of friendship around the world. It makes it possible for those who are enthusiastic about scouting, have worked hard in their respective communities but, because of finances are unable to afford such an extensive trip to places such as Our Chalet, Macy's, Our Cabana, Olave House and Sangam.

## **A Thinking Day Ceremony**

The Scouts stand in a circle or horseshoe with ten candles in the center, arranged in the form of a trefoil. As each girl representing a country steps forward to say one part of the Law, she lights one of the candles.

Narrator: Today is Thinking Day, the joint birthday of our founders, the late Lord Baden-Powell, and his wife, our World Chief Guide. On this day Guides and Scouts everywhere gather to think of their Sister Guides throughout the world, and to send them greetings. In our international family we are bound together by the unseen chain of our three fold Promise and the Guide Law. Let us now bring in the Law in the words of other countries. This is the first law from Sweden.

1st Scout: A girl guide speaks the truth and keeps her word.

Narrator: The second law from Finland

2nd girl: A guide is loyal and respects the convictions of others.

Narrator: The third law from Argentina.

3rd girl: A Guide serves and helps other people without expecting reward or praise.

Narrator: The fourth law from Norway.

4th girl: A guide is friendly to all and a good comrade.

Narrator: The fifth law from Australia.

5th girl: The girl guide is grateful and courteous.

Narrator: The sixth law from Austria..

6th girl: A guide sees God in nature and therefore protects plants and animals.

Narrator: The seventh law from Haiti

7th girl: A guide obeys without question and does nothing in halves.

Narrator: The eight law from Belgium.

8th girl: The guide is always good-tempered.

Narrator: The ninth law from Italy.

9th girl: A guide is hardworking and thrifty, and takes care of other people's property.

Narrator: The Tenth law from Luxembourg.

10th girl: A guide has self-respect.

Narrator: These are our laws. We try hard to keep them so that the spirit of guiding may bring light into the world, even as our candles bring light into the room. While each part of the law is followed, the flame of the Girl Scout spirit will never die.

## **Countries of the World Thinking Day Ceremony**

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

Materials needed:     Eight small candles with holders  
                              One large candle with drip catcher  
                              LARGE cardboard cutout of the World Association trefoil in appropriate colors

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

The girl at the top of the trefoil represents the Spirit of Friendship. She carries a the large candle with the drip catcher. It should be lit before the ceremony begins. Eight other girls representing Finland, Brazil, Italy, India, Ghana, Japan, Great Britian, and America, carry small, unlighted candles. These eight girls should be evenly distributed around the trefoil.

Spirit of Friendship: (taking several steps forward)

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

Troop (all together):

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

Friendship:

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

Finland: (steps forward, walks to Friendship, lights her candle, returns to the left base of the trefoil where she places her candle in the holder and kneels beside it):

Finland's my home, where sun at midnight shines on mountain snow; where work and service light us, like our sun. Friendship and peace are the aims of Girl Guides in our land. Our hope is that soon in all the world there shall be no more night.

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

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

Italy: (Stepping forward)

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

India: (stepping forward)

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

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

Ghana: (Goes to Friendship, lights candle, returns to trefoil, puts down candle and stands beside it)

From yet another continent am I. Bringing you greetings from Ghana. At home, the trefoil makes us all as one, links us, regardless of our race or creed. So, to our sisterhood, honor and love.

Japan: (Similar action to Ghana's)

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

Friendship:

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

Great Britian: (Similar action)

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

Friendship:

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

United States: (Similar action)

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

Paste World Trefoil Pin  
Graphic Here

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

## **Juliette Low World Friendship Fund Story**

Story can be used at a birthday celebration for Juliette Low (October 31), on Thinking Day (February 22) or at any time contributions to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund are collected.

ACTIONS: As the story is read: On World, stand and spin once.  
On Juliette Low, join hand with person on right and left.  
On Scout or Scouting, big smile and Scout sign.

Be sure to practice motions first so everyone understands what to do.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Juliette Low Ceremony**

The founder of Girl Scouting in the United States, Juliette Low, is honored in all that Girl Scouts do, in the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, in the growth of Girl Scouting, and in special ceremonies presented by individual Girl Scout groups. Here again the ceremonies vary, and by their variety and spirit reflect the qualities of the founder. The following is one type of ceremony in which Juliette Low may be honored. It may be used for presentation of Juliette Low World Friendship Fund moneys at a regular troop meeting or on Thinking Day (February 22nd) or on Juliette Low's birthday (October 31st), following the ceremony with a birthday party including birthday cake, songs and games.

Place: Indoors or Out-of-Doors

Equipment: An American flag, a small table placed in center of room, two candles and candlesticks, flowers or leaves attractively arranged on table.

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

Order of Ceremony: Girls form a horseshoe. When all are in place, the Color Guard enters, after which all salute the flag and the group sings a patriotic song. At the conclusion of the flag ceremony, the flag bearer posts the flag at the side of the table. The Color Guard takes its place in the horseshoe as the two Masters of Ceremony step forward to the right and left of the table.

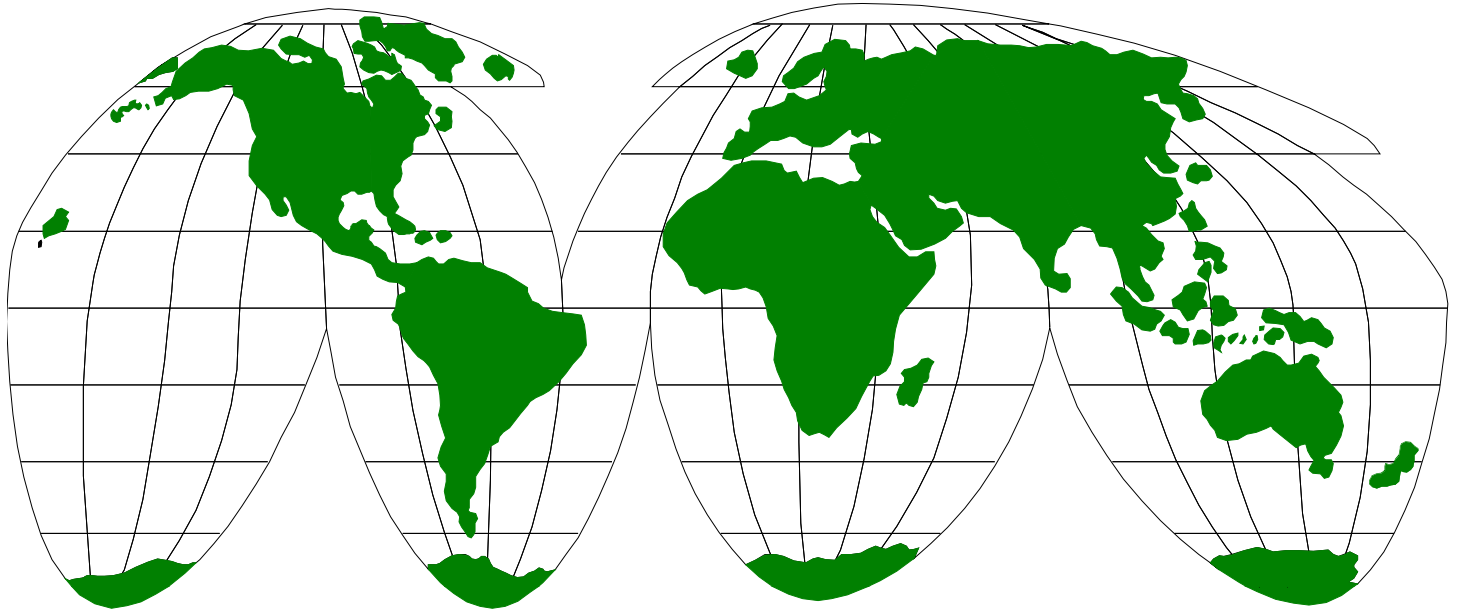
First Girl Scout: "I light this candle for Juliette Low who started our Girl Scout organization \_\_\_\_\_ years ago. Even though we lost the personal presence of our founder in 1927, her spirit has led us constantly to greater growth and fellowship. Today there are over three million Girl Scouts in the United States. (lights candle)

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

The girls then walk to the table one by one and put their contribution to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund on the table or into a container. They return to the horseshoe formation.



First Girl Scout: When you became a Girl Scout, you made a promise. Let us rededicate ourselves by repeating our Promise and singing "When're You Make A Promise."



### **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

#### Sun-Daisy

My name is Sun-Daisy  
And we're here to speak  
About Juliette Low  
And Girl Scout Week

Just before the Civil War  
Juliette was born  
In Savannah, Georgia  
One October morn

#### Mon-Daisy

Daisy was her nickname  
Throughout her living days  
She loved games and writing  
And performing in plays

When Daisy grew up  
She began the Girl Guides  
Her first troop was in Scotland  
With seven girls by her side

#### Tues-Daisy

Daisy sailed to America  
March 12 was the day  
She started a troop  
Called Girl Scouts U.S.A.

Eighteen girls met with Daisy  
Very eager to start  
To make uniforms and badges  
Each doing her part

#### Wednes-Daisy

Daisy spoke of the Law  
For all Girl Scouts to learn  
And told of requirements  
For badges to earn

The troop went on hikes  
Along nature trails  
Watching birds of all kinds  
And recording details

#### Thurs-Daisy

Sports were important  
To keep the girls fit

Basketball was the first game  
To become a big hit

Daisy told the girls of camp  
Under stars shining bright  
Destination - Camp Lowlands  
The first Girl Scout campsite

Fri-Daisy

For the rest of her life  
Daisy spread the word 'round  
To millions of girls  
In town after town

Shortly after her death  
A World Friendship Fund began  
To honor this grand lady  
And her work through the land

Satur-Daisy

Each year we partake  
In a friendship celebration  
With Scouts 'round the world  
And with great dedication

We'll remember Juliette Low  
Of whom we will speak  
And we're proud to be Girl Scouts\*  
Each day of the week

\*The word *Daisies* can be substituted for *Girl Scouts*

## BRIDGING CEREMONIES

Bridging takes place as a girl moves from one level of Girl Scouting to the next. Bridging ceremonies typically take place toward the end of the school year and they are easily combined with a Court of Awards ceremony.

Here are a few reminders:

- Advancing from Brownie Girl Scouts to Junior Girl Scouts is usually called “Flying Up”. For all other age levels (Daisy, Junior, Cadette and Senior) it is called “bridging”
- These insignia are traditionally presented to girls as they fly-up/bridge:

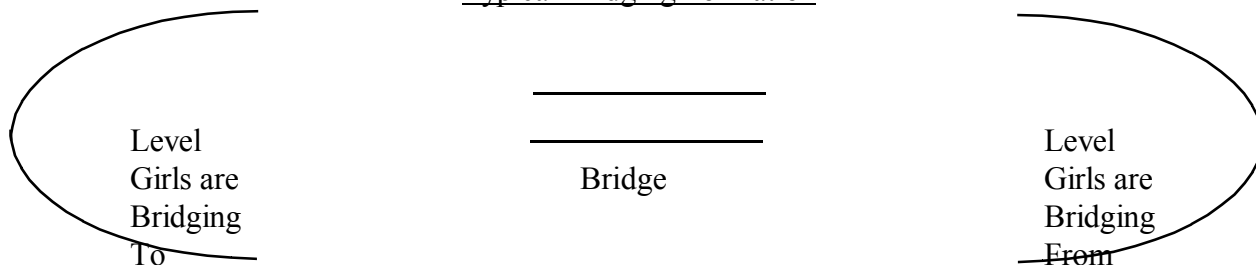
Age Level:	Automatically Given:	Must Be Earned:
Daisy Girl Scouts	Membership Star with blue disc Ending Certificate Brownie Girl Scout Pin (optional)	Bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts
Brownie Girl Scouts	Membership Star with green disc Brownie Girl Scout Wings Girl Scout Pin (optional)	Bridge to Junior Girl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

On Bridges:

A bridge can be constructed out of just about anything, the point is for it to be a symbolic crossing from one level to the next.... The following are some ideas for you to use or adapt:

- A rustic bridge out-of-doors
- An arch of colored paper
- Stepping stones cut out of cardboard and labeled with the Five Worlds of Interest
- Turn a card table upside down and string crepe paper between the legs
- Anything else the girls can think up!

### Typical Bridging Formation



## **Daisy Bridging Ceremony (to Brownie Girl Scouts)**

**Who:** Daisy Girl Scouts, their leaders, parents, and perhaps a Brownie Girl Scout “sister” troop with which you have done some bridging activities.

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

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

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

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

**How:**

### **SEND INVITATIONS TO ALL OF THE GUESTS**

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

### **OPENING**

Form a circle and call each girl’s name  
Explain why you are having this ceremony

### **CELEBRATION**

Flag ceremony OR Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Say the Girl Scout Promise together

Leader could read the Girl Scout Law

Have each girl tell what was her favorite part of Daisy Girl Scouts and what she looks forward to as a  
Brownie Girl Scout

Have each girl walk across the bridge

Give each girl an Ending Certificate, a Membership Star and blue disc, and a Brownie Girl Scout pin  
(you may want to wait until the beginning of next year to give the girl her Brownie Pin)

Greet each girl with a Girl Scout handshake

Sing the “Brownie Smile Song”

### **CLOSING**

Form a circle

Sing “Make New Friends”

Make new friends, but keep the old

One is silver, and the other’s gold

A circle is round, it has no end

That’s how long I want to be your friend

Sing “Taps”

Do a friendship squeeze around the circle

Dismiss

### **REFRESHMENTS**

Are optional but add a nice touch

## Another Daisy Bridging Ceremony (to Brownie Girl Scouts)

Each Daisy Girl Scout who is Bridging receives a Daisy.

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: These flowers represent the spirit of Girl Scouting. This spirit is often represented with the Daisy, which was our founder, Juliette Low's, nickname.

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: The first three flowers represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: To help people at all times

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: And to live by the Girl Scout Law

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: I will do my best: To be honest and fair

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: This means that you will always tell the truth and that you will share things and take turns with others.

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: To be friendly and helpful

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: This means that you will ask a new girl to play with you and when you see a job that needs to be done, and you can do it, you will be willing to help do it.

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: To be considerate and caring

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: This means that you will respect the feelings of others and care about how they feel and what they think

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: To be courageous and strong

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: This means you are willing to try new things, even though you may be a little scared and that you will stand for what is right.

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: To be responsible for what I say and do.

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: This means that you will be careful about what you say and do so that you don't hurt other people or things

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: To respect myself and others

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: This means you will try to be the best person you can be, and will be courteous to others.

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: To respect authority

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: This means you will respect adults, obey the law and will cooperate with others.

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: To use resources wisely

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: This means you will try not to waste paper, will turn off the lights, and turn off water faucets after you use them.

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: To make the world a better place

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: This means you will help with a neighborhood clean up, put litter in trash cans, and treat all animals kindly.

DAISY GIRL SCOUT: To be a sister to every Girl Scout

OLDER GIRL SCOUT: This means you will be a kind friend to everyone, not just to a few people

## **Brownie Girl Scout Fly-Up (to Junior Girl Scouts)**

A Brownie Girl Scout “flies up” to Junior Girl Scouting in the spring, and receives her Brownie Wings. If possible, have your fly-up ceremony with a Junior troop in your Service Unit. Often all age groups of Girl Scouts are involved, including the parents.

NEEDS: Order your Brownie Wings ahead of time, also your Girl Scout pins and Membership Stars and green disc if you plan to present them now.

Brown construction paper, cut to represent stones, or paper bags cut the same way. Write a Girl Scout Law on each one.

Refreshments (optional)

The Brownie Girl Scouts sit on one side of the room in a Brownie Ring, and the Junior Girl Scouts sit in a horseshoe (always make the open end toward the audience) on the other side of the room. Place your Stepping Stones between the two groups and tape them down to the floor.

Everyone sings “Girl Scouts Together”, found in the Girl Scout Pocket Songbook (or others)

Girl Scouts together, that is our song  
Winding the old trail, rocky and long  
Learning our motto, living our creed  
Girl Scouts together in every good deed

Brownie Leader: You’ve been a Brownie and you’ve earned your wings of sunlight gold  
Now you’re ready for Junior Girl Scouts, new adventures you’ve been told

(The girls all stand)

Brownie Leader: I would like to present my Brownie Girl Scouts their wings; they are ready to fly-up to the next level of Girl Scouting. As I call your name, would you please come forward?  
(as they come forward, pin on their wings).

Junior Leader: Each step of Junior Girl Scouting can be filled with fun and adventure. As a troop, we would like to welcome you.

The Brownies walk on the stepping stones and enter the horseshoe. With the Brownies facing the Juniors, the Girl Scout Sign is made and the girls recite the Girl Scout Promise.

Have the Brownies and Juniors face one another, and walk forward to the stepping stone with the first Girl Scout Law printed on it and have the two girls say the Law. Now the next pair of girls come and stand on Law #2; continue until all the Laws are said. If there are not enough girls in the two troops, they may have to do this as single girls instead of in pairs.

Junior Leader: With the help of (Brownie Leader’s Name) we would like to present our new Juniors with the Girl Scout membership pin. (pin on Girl Scout Pins). At this time you may also wish to give the girls their Membership Stars and green disc.

Brownie Leader: We will now all sing “Make New Friends”

Make new friends, but keep the old  
One is silver and the other’s gold  
A circle is round, it has no end

That's how long I want to be your friend  
Junior Leader: Junior Girl Scouts you'll be for a few short years  
Make the most of each day that goes by  
Be cheerful and helpful and do a good turn  
And greet each Girl Scout with a Hi!

### **Junior Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony (Bridge to Cadettes)**

Junior Girl Scouts form a horseshoe at one end of the bridge, while Cadette Girl Scouts form a horseshoe on the other. Each Junior Girl Scout is presented with a candle while she is still on the "Junior" side of the bridge. One by one, each bridging Junior walks to the center of the bridge, escorted by her leader. When they reach the center of the bridge, they are met by an experienced Cadette Girl Scout. The ceremony then proceeds in the following manner:

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

Cadette Girl Scout: I, \_\_\_\_\_, challenge you, \_\_\_\_\_, to serve your younger sister Girl Scouts, your community, and your country; as we have served you. If you accept this challenge, I will light your candle in respect, that you will live your challenge to the fullest. Do you accept this challenge?

Bridging Junior: I will accept this challenge.

(upon accepting the challenge, the Cadette will light the bridging Junior's candle)

Leader: \_\_\_\_\_, would you please recite the Girl Scout Promise  
(name of new Cadette GS)

New Cadette: Recites the Promise

Cadette leader and girls congratulate the new Cadette Girl Scout and welcome her to Cadette Girl Scouting  
The same procedure is repeated until all girls are bridged.  
Do closing song or other closing activity

### **Paper Doll Ceremony**

(could also be adapted for use with other Brownie level by substituting the word "fly-up" for "bridging")

This could be used as an invitation to this bridging ceremony:

As an invitation, or expanded to a large table centerpiece, this idea clearly conveys the meaning of bridging from one level of Girl Scouting to the next.

Cut a piece of construction paper into a rectangle 5" x 9" Fold paper in thirds (ends folded toward center)  
Trace pattern on front of paper, and cut as indicated, leaving doll attached at arms, skirt and shoes. Open up dolls.  
Write message on center doll.  
Different colors of construction paper can be used for the different levels:  
Brown for Brownies  
Green for Juniors  
Blue for Cadettes

Paste Paper Doll Graphic Here
----------------------------------

For centerpiece, enlarge pattern on posterboard, cutting 4 paper dolls to form a square when opened to stand

As each Girl Scout says her verse she stretches out her hand to the next Girl Scout to speak, until all the girls are linked like paper dolls across the front of the room

Verses may be split if you have more than seven girls bridging. Girls who do not have speaking parts could also stand up with hands linked like paper dolls

Take my hand in friendship  
I give to you this day  
Remember all the good times  
We had along the way

Take my hand in thanking  
Our leader and our guide  
With sincere appreciation  
For standing by our side

Take my hand in helping  
Other people that we know  
The more we give to others  
The more that we will grow

Take my hand in eagerness  
To be an older scout  
We're proud to be bridging  
Is what we're going to shout

Take my hand in learning  
To camp on nature's ground  
Enjoying trails and campfires  
With new friends that we have found

So take my hand to follow  
New scouting paths in sight  
We'll join hands with each other  
And in friendship we'll unite

Take my hand in giving  
Our knowledge of true scouts  
To girls we meet and talk to  
Who have so many doubts

(In unison):  
We give our hands in promise  
To hold our country dear  
And abide by the Girl Scout Law  
Each day throughout the year

### **Bridge to Cadettes Ceremony (for Bridging Juniors)**

All are standing in horseshoe formations. All repeat the Girl Scout promise

Leader: (a poem)

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

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

Leader: The daisy symbolizes your dedication to the Girl Scout Movement, which was started by our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, and began in our country on March 12, 1912. Juliette Low's nickname was



Daisy. You are following in her footsteps as you become a unique and caring influence in today's and tomorrow's world.

Have on table - 1 candle for each world color (red, orange, yellow, blue, and purple) and a green candle representing Girl Scouting. Also, need one more white candle with a daisy.

Have Cadettes light appropriate candles and read the following scripts:

While lighting white candle w/daisy - (this candle is used to light all other colors)

The light of Cadettes I share with you as you explore the Girl Scout World through Interest Projects, Service, Career Exploration, and leadership opportunities.

While lighting the red candle:

The red candle stands for the World of Well-Being, which helps young women understand themselves, their values, needs, emotions, and strengths, while also being aware of what it takes to be physically fit.

While lighting the orange candle:

The orange candle stands for the World of Today and Tomorrow, which lets a young woman look into the hows and whys of things, to solve problems and to recognize the ways their present interests can build toward future ones.

While lighting the yellow candle:

The yellow candle stands for the World of the Out-of-Doors. Explorations in this world can help a young woman to enjoy and appreciate her natural environment and to take action to protect and preserve her world and environment.

While lighting the blue candle:

The blue candle stands for the World of People. This world can help a young woman to build pride in her own heritage, while appreciating the uniqueness of each culture and the common theme of all peoples.

While lighting the purple candle:

The purple candle stands for the World of the Arts. To develop a personal taste and appreciation for the many art forms and things of beauty in the world around them.

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

From the light of the Five Worlds, may your Girl Scout world ever grow

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

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

All girls return to horseshoe. Sing an appropriate song, such as "Girl Scouts Together" or "Where'er You Make A Promise"

### Other Ideas for Cadette Bridging

♥ After Juniors have crossed the bridge:

We present to you a Silver Key, which will symbolize that you are seeking to unlock the door to Cadette Scouts as you begin your work on the Silver Leadership and Silver Awards. Wear it as a symbol that you are in pursuit of the gold at the end of the Rainbow of the Girl Scout Worlds

♥ After the Juniors have crossed the bridge:

(This ceremony can also be adapted for Cadettes bridging to Seniors)

You are about to enter another phase of Girl Scouting. You will find yourself leaving behind your childish enthusiasm and entering a world of new experiences where you will gain an understanding of

your own self worth and individuality. As you accept more responsibility you will experience a growth in your knowledge, abilities and judgements. In these tools place your new enthusiasm for the future - use them wisely.

\_\_\_\_\_, are you willing to accept the challenges and responsibilities of a Cadette (Senior) in Girl Scouts?

Cadette (Senior) response: I am

Leader: As you say the challenges, light the candles before you as a symbol of this acceptance. (You could use different colored candles to correspond to the different worlds: Red for #1, blue for #2, orange for #3, purple for #4, yellow for #5, white for #6, green for #7, and silver or gold for #8)

The Challenge of Cadette Scouting:

1. I challenge myself to a greater understanding of the World of Well Being
2. I challenge myself to better serve the World of People
3. I challenge myself to accept the changing World of Today and Tomorrow
4. I challenge myself to have a better insight and appreciation of the World of the Arts
5. I challenge myself to understand and preserve the World of the Out-of-Doors
6. I challenge myself to learn leadership and give service
7. I challenge myself to accept and live the challenge of being a Girl Scout (or challenge of living the Promise and Law)
8. I challenge myself to achieve the highest award as a Cadette (Senior), the silver award (the Gold Award).

### **Bridge to Senior Girl Scouts Ceremony (for Bridging Cadettes)**

Cadettes should be in a horseshoe on one side of the bridge, and a Senior or Seniors on the other side of the bridge. After the cadettes cross the bridge and are met and given the Girl Scout handshake by the Senior Scout(s), they should then form a horseshoe with the Senior(s).

Leader:

“When you are a Senior Scout, your life is filled with action. In addition to group activities, Seniors have many individual opportunities coming their way. You can take part in special events and activities planned by Seniors for Seniors. You can be a delegate or a member of the Council board and help plan council activities. You may be selected for one of the many Wider Opportunities open to Girl Scouts each year. And you can now begin work on the Gold Leadership Award and the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouts. We invite you to get involved!”

Need eight white candles in holders. New Seniors may alternate lighting candles and saying the parts of the following pledge:

I pledge as a Senior Scout to:

1. Uphold the highest ideals of womanhood as expressed in the Promise and Law
2. Be thoughtful and considerate and assume my share of responsibility in the activities of my troop
3. Be a better citizen of my community and prepare myself for the duties and responsibilities of adult citizenship in a democracy
4. Realize my deep commitment to volunteer my services wherever and whenever needed
5. Keep myself healthy and the world around me as safe as I can make it
6. Seek new knowledge and the skill to use it
7. Increase my knowledge and understanding of the peoples of the world toward the goal of peace

8. Prepare myself for the future

Return to horseshoe

Leader:

As you begin your Senior journey to the Gold Award - we give you a gold key to help you unlock the doors to the Five Worlds of Girl Scouting. Keys have quite a history. They were first used back in Biblical times. They were quite large and made of wood; they were carried as a sign of prestige. We hope that you will carry your key as proudly as the first keys were carried - and that this key will open many doors and worlds in your Senior years of Scouting. Welcome to Senior Scouts.

**Bridge to Seniors Ceremony (for Cadettes bridging to Seniors)**

The speaking parts can be split up into a few more parts if you have more girls available. This ceremony can be adapted to bridge girls into Adult Scouting with a few wording changes

Senior Scout Speaker:

Tonight we Seniors celebrate with these Cadettes who are ready to bridge into Senior Girl Scouting. It is our aim during this evening to see that you have a glimpse into the different options of the Senior Girl Scouting program and that we can get to know each other. We know that you have prepared yourselves well and will want to use your experiences to extend your knowledge and to explore new interests. We know too, that you will adhere to the belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law which underlies the activities in the Senior Program. May we all repeat the Girl Scout Promise and Law together.

Senior Scout:

There are so many worlds to explore! There is the World of Yourself, partly known, but still full of mysteries and surprises. There is the World of People, like you and unlike you, girls and boys, men and women, little children and senior citizens. There is the World of the Out-of-Doors, and there are the worlds of laughter and beauty and career and growing up to be a woman.

Speaker:

It now gives us much pleasure to present you with a gift to represent your bridging from Cadettes to Seniors.  
As your name is called, will you please come forward to receive your gift.

Speaker: (after all girls have received gifts)

Let us be friends in everything of duty and of play  
And in whatever other deeds we do from day to day  
Let us be kind and generous to those who cross our path  
And not allow ourselves to live in jealousy or wrath  
Let us consider what we have and how much we can spare  
To spread the sunshine with us to others everywhere  
For, after all, our happiness to some degree depends  
On how we go about the task of comforting our friends  
So let us follow friendliness with every step we take  
And do some worthy deed wech day for someone else's sake

Close with an appropriate song

Gift ideas:

Daisies  
Yellow Roses  
Personalized I.D Pin  
Membership Star  
Part of the Senior Uniform  
Certificate  
Bridging Patch

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

For an idea on how to set up the bridge, circles and horseshoes, please see next page.

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”

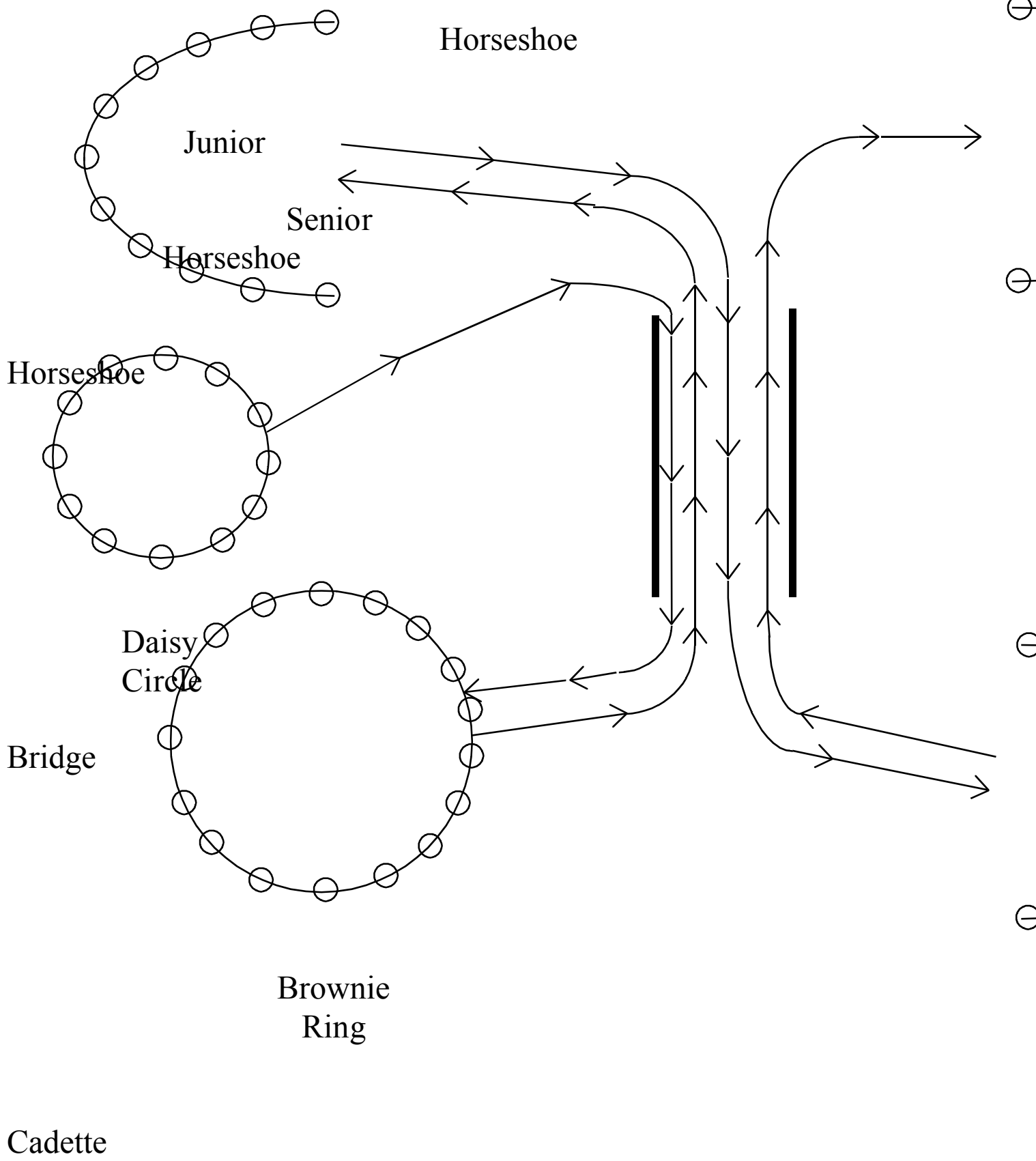
Junior leader stands at end of the bridge and says a good-bye to sixth grade Juniors as they start across the bridge. Seventh and eighth grade Cadettes meet them at the other end of bridge and take them to their horseshoe.

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”



# **COURT OF AWARDS**

## **CEREMONIES**

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

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

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

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

### **Things to Think About**

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

- Emphasize the effort each girl made to earn whatever awards she is receiving, rather than the number earned.
- Hold award ceremonies frequently, especially for younger girls. Brownies and young Juniors Girl Scouts should receive recognitions as soon as they have earned them to help them understand that the award is a symbol of their work. These can be very simple ceremonies with just the troop present.
- Recognize each girl individually by name. If possible, comment on what was done to earn the recognition.
- To save time, pin the awards to ribbons and then pin ribbons on the girls.

### **Brownie Try-It Ceremony**

Decorate the ceremony site with samples of the activities girls did to complete Try-Its; or have girls draw pictures of Try-It activities they did.

Leader:

To complete a Brownie Try-It, girls choose and do four activities in one of four Try-Its. There are four Try-Its, eight in each of the five Worlds of Interest. Today we are celebrating the completion of the \_\_\_\_\_ Try-It(s) in the World(s) of \_\_\_\_\_. Let's tell about what we tried and learned.

Ask each girl to name one thing they tried to do as part of a Try-It activity. Girls may hold up samples of their work, etc. Present each girl with her Try-It patch(es).

### **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.

### Junior/Cadette Court of Awards

Write each letter on a 9" x 12" piece of posterboard. On the back of the cardboard write the explanation. Use as flashcards for a Court of Awards. Girls may have their own ideas for what each letter could stand for.

**B** Stands for **Badges** to be given today. What is a badge? An outward sign of an inner accomplishment. The scrap of colored material is not nearly so important as the job that was done to earn it.

**A** Awards given at the Court of Awards. Here we are not rewarded for the badge itself but for what the badge represents. It means new knowledge, new skills learned, and new opportunities to be of service to others.

**D** stands for **Deeds**. Good deeds to be done now and in the future for family, friends, and the community. Good deeds done with the knowledge and skills acquired through the badges.

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

**E** is for **Eagerness** and **Energy** necessary to earn badges. Badges do not come easily and they should not, or their value would be small. Badges present challenges and satisfaction in accomplishment.

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

And so we have badges to be given today in this Court of Awards.

### Bouquets of Badges

Present badge Daisies at your next Court of Awards. Use or adapt the pattern shown here. Cut "daisies" from colored construction paper (red for Well Being badges, blue for People badges, yellow for Out-of-Doors badges, etc.) Use double sided tape or staple badges to the center of each flower. The girls' name, troop number, etc. can be written on the daisy petals.

Girls who have earned several badges can be awarded "bouquets." Add a wire stem and leaves and place in a vase and you have a table decoration for your ceremony.

Paste Daisy Graphic Here



**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

### 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

### More Ideas for Presenting Awards

- ♥ Wrap recognitions in festive packages
- ♥ Put recognitions on pipe cleaner stems in a flower pot
- ♥ Put recognitions in a plastic egg for a springtime ceremony
- ♥ Put recognitions from the World of the Out-Of-Doors
  - On leafy branches or pine boughs
  - In a bandana on a stick
  - On a natural wood plaque
- ♥ Put recognitions from the World of People
  - On a paper doll chain
  - Attached to international flags
  - On small U.S. Flags
- ♥ Put recognitions from the World of Well Being
  - On cardboard hearts
  - On tongue depressors
- ♥ Put recognitions from the World of Today and Tomorrow
  - On paper airplanes
  - Attached to pencils or rulers
- ♥ Put recognitions from the World of the Arts
  - Attached to paintbrushes or sheet music
  - In crayon boxes
  - Strung on balloons
  - With a photograph of something girls did

### SCOUT'S OWN CEREMONIES

#### What Is A Scout's Own?

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.

## SOME SAMPLE SCOUT’S OWN

### 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
- 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

### 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



## 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")

## **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)  
"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"

**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"

## **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 ... these 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."

### **"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"

## **OTHER CEREMONIES AND IDEAS**

The following ceremonies, poems, sayings, etc. can be adapted and used in any type of ceremony, from Investiture to a Scout's Own. They have been included in this section so that you may use your imagination as to how they can be used. This is true of any ceremony in this book. If you see a poem, saying, idea, that you like, feel free to use it in any type of ceremony. This book is to give you ideas, not to stifle your creativity.

### **Building the Girl Scout Pin (Traditional)**

As each girl says her part, lighting a candle can be symbolic of the three parts of the Promise and the ten parts of the Law.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Girl 5: Tying together all parts of the Promise and serving as its foundation is the fact that we pledge on our honor to try. When we are discouraged, when we have made mistakes, our Promise reminds us that the best we can do is to keep on trying with a sincere effort. We do more than believe in our Promise, we try to live by it. Our pin is symbolic of our Promise, and we are here to explain the parts of our pin tonight.

Girl 6: The eagle is a bird of great endurance and strength. It is used on the Great Seal of the United States to represent power and strength. We wear it on our pin because we are chartered by the Congress of the United States.

Girl 7: The Shield represents protection. In the design of the Great Shield of the United States, it rests only on the eagle to show that we are a self-sufficient government. One of our aims in Girl Scouting is to become self-reliant citizens.

Girl 8: In the right talon of the eagle is an olive branch representing peace. To show that we are a peace loving nation, the eagle's head faces the olive branch. Girl Scouting is similarly a peace-time movement.

- Girl 9: However, the arrows show preparedness to fight for our ideals. As Girl Scouts, we prepare ourselves to cope with every situation and emergency.
- Girl 10: On the scroll are the words “E Pluribus Unum,” meaning one from many. There are many states but one nation. In the United States we have three million in Girl Scouting. Each one is an individual personality, each one has her own place, but we are working in one organization toward one goal according to the ideals that we have in common.
- Girl 11: The G.S. on the pin stands for Girl Scout. It means many different things to many different people. All of us have to decide what it means to us - new friends we have made, things we have learned, understandings about people we have gained, experiences we could have not have had except as a Girl Scout. The list is almost as endless as the number of people in the organization.
- Girl 12: There is a destiny that makes us brothers  
None goes his way alone  
All that we send into the lives of others  
Comes back into our own
- Girl 13: Three candles lighted here represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. Ten candles lighted here represent the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law. All rise and join us in singing “Girl Scouts Together”.

### **Building the Girl Scout Pin (Contemporary)**

- Girl 1: Our pin is symbolic of our fundamental beliefs. Beliefs which have not changed since our beginning, although methods change with the times. Beliefs which help each girl attain the highest development of which she is capable. This pin is in the shape of a trefoil, meaning three-fold, and reminds us of the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.
- All: “On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country...”
- Girl 2: We learn to find God in nature, to recognize spiritual values as more important than material ones, to seek the beautiful, and to see God in other people. Girl Scouts learn devotion to and seek pride in their country.
- All: “On my honor, I will try: to help people at all times...”
- Girl 3: In her consideration for others, a Girl Scout learns to give generous, selfless service. She comes to realize that service to others is an expression of dedication to people.
- All: “On my honor, I will try: to live by the Girl Scout Law.”
- Girl 4: The Girl Scout Law is a guide for daily living - stated simply enough for a young girl to apply to her own life, profound enough to serve as a measuring post for adults. Think about the people you admire; what makes you admire them? Friendliness, dependability, enthusiasm to serve. These are the qualities that the Girl Scout Law helps us attain.
- Girl 5: Tying together all parts of the Promise and serving as its foundation is the fact that we pledge on our honor to try. When we are discouraged, when we have made mistakes, our Promise reminds us that the best we can do is to keep on trying with a sincere effort. We do more than believe in our Promise, we try to live by it. Our pin is symbolic of our Promise, and we are here to explain the parts of our pin tonight.
- Girl 6: Our pin retains the original trefoil. However, Girl Scouting is changing and we want the public to see what we are today, so we present a new symbol, a new face for Girl Scouting.
- All: We are contemporary

Girl 7: Girl Scouting offers informal and useable education to help prepare us to live in a world of fast changing needs and resources. The open edges of the trefoil signify our openness and flexibility to change. The three faces face to the right - to the future.

All: We are pluralistic

Girl 8: Girl Scouting is available to all girls. We must commit ourselves to a goal of racial, cultural, and socio-economic diversity and respect and appreciate that diversity.

All: We are independent

Girl 9: Through new concepts of volunteerism, Girl Scouting is a major organization - locally, nationally, and worldwide - will help us grow and develop values and achieve our full potential.

Girl 12: There is a destiny that makes us brothers

None goes his way alone

All that we send into the lives of others

Comes back into our own

### **How to Grow a Girl Scout Volunteer**

First plant seven rows of P's:

Promptness, perseverance, preparation, participation, presence, purity, and performance.

Next, plant three rows of squash:

squash unfairness, squash criticism, squash indifference

Then plant seven rows of lettuce:

1) Let us delegate responsibility

2) Let us give assistance whenever necessary

3) Let us recognize the importance of pooling ideas and encourage full and free ideas and encourage full and free discussion before decisions are made.

4) Let us appreciate and respect the attitudes of other people

5) Let us encourage cooperation

6) Let us arrive in advance of scheduled meetings, with all materials needed

7) Let us be prepared

No garden is complete without turnips:

Turn up for meetings

Turn up with enthusiasm

Turn up with new ideas

Turn up with a smile

The harvest is one terrific Girl Scout Volunteer

### **The Brownie Story (a poem)**

For those who've come, I'm here to share  
The Brownie Story with girls who care

For once, a long time ago  
When fairies and elves in England did grow  
Two little girls as normal as you  
Lived with their father and grandmother, too!

Their father, a tailor, worked hard all day  
And Granny, very busy, had no time to play  
The girls loved to play and dance and sing  
They could make a game out of any old thing

Then one day the father, a wise old man  
Told of the magic of Brownie Land  
He told them of the Brownies who work and dust  
And clean for their families without making a fuss

Granny told them to look for a magical place  
Where the wise old owl might show them the face  
Of a Brownie who was willing to clean and sew  
And dance and sing, 'cause Brownies love that, you know!

Our two found the owl with the answers to share  
With all the little girls waiting way out there  
Said he "Go to the Magical Brownie Ring,  
Join all the Brownies in everything."

"Deep in the woods when the moon is out  
Go to the pond - turn yourself about  
You'll find magic that starts with a rhyme"  
And this magic circles the world in time

"Twist me and turn me  
And show me the elf  
I looked in the water  
And saw myslef"

Now all of us know of the magic Brownie woods  
Where each little girl helps as she should  
Where trees and flowers and the rain and the sun  
Are friends of children who join Scouting fun

### **A Girl Scout's Prayer**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Investiture Ceremony Poem**

These golden trefoils in my hand  
Upon our new Girl Scouts we will bestow  
But first the meaning that the trefoil bears  
The spirit of our Promise we must know  
Three gold leaves that the trefoil wears  
Threefold the Promise that it bears  
To serve God and your country dear  
To bring others hope and cheer  
And everyday in every way  
The Girl Scout Law learn to obey  
And yet another message too  
These three gold leaves should bring to you  
There are three ways each girl should grow  
Three sides of life each Scout should know  
Your body is the temple of your soul  
Oh, Girl Scouts build it strong and straight and fair  
In God's great out-of-doors your kingdom lies  
Health and happiness await you there  
In beauty, too, in this great land  
Our Father made so fair  
Seek long for Beauty, and even more  
Make beauty where no beauty was before

### **A Leader's Promise**

(Huron Valley GS Council)

I will do my best:  
To be honest about my girls abilities and  
fair to their talents  
To be friendly and helpful because my girls  
deserve the best  
To be considerate and caring even when  
things don't work out  
To be courageous and strong because  
my girls need me  
To be responsible for what I say and do  
because others are depending on me  
To respect myself and others, after all, I am  
a Girl Scout  
To respect authority, even the girl's  
To use resources wisely by not wasting the  
potential in each girl I work with  
To make the world a better place by sharing  
my best, and not sharing when necessary  
To be a sister to every Girl Scout and care for  
each Girl Scout as family

### **Around the Campfire**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Discovery**

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

## **A Girl Scout Leader's Desiderata**

Go placidly amid the noise and excitement of your meeting,  
And remember that this is one sign of good Scouting.  
As far as possible without surrender  
Be on good terms with all your fellow leaders.  
Plan your programs carefully and cheerfully;  
And listen to others,  
Even the youngest Daisy Scout;  
She will give you many moments of Joy.  
Avoid loud and aggressive gatherings of Leaders,  
Except when you're part of one.  
If you compare your troop with others,  
Do not become vain or bitter;  
For success can only be judged by the smiles on their faces.  
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.  
Keep in mind the Aim of the movement,  
However hard to understand at times,  
It is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.  
Exercise caution with your troop funds;  
For a Girl Scout works hard for her money.  
But let this not blind you to what Girl Scouting is all about..  
Baden-Powell wrote it himself; Camping and the Outdoors.  
Be yourself.  
Especially, have fun.  
Neither burn out too soon;  
For in the face of all aridity and disenchantment  
Those girls are depending on you.  
Take kindly the counsel of your Service Team,  
They will help you all that they can.  
Nurture strength of spirit in case of a failure  
But do not blame yourself... you have done your best,  
And what you think of as failure may be super fun to your  
Girl Scouts.

Beyond a wholesome discipline,  
Be gentle with yourself.  
You are the most important person in Scouting;  
We need more adults like yourself  
To help the youth of this world.  
And whether or not it is clear to you,  
You are molding the future of this country.  
Therefore, be at peace with God,  
Whatever you conceive Him to be,  
And whatever your labors and aspirations,  
In the noisy confusion of your meeting  
Keep peace with yourself.  
With all its hard work and sometimes frustration,  
It is still a wonderful movement.  
Be cheerful and strive for good Scouting ...

## **From An Old Camper**

You may think, my dear, when you grow  
quite old  
You have left camp days behind  
But I know the scent of wood smoke  
Will always call to mind  
Little fires at twilight  
And trails you used to find

You may think some day that you have  
quite grown up  
And feel so wordly wise  
But suddenly from out of the past  
A vision will arise  
Of merry folk with brown, bare knees  
And laughter in their eyes

You may live in a house built to your  
taste  
In the nicest part of town  
But someday for your old camp togs  
You'd change your latest gown  
And trade it all for a balsam bed  
Where the stars all night look down

You may find yourself grown wealthy  
Have all that gold can buy  
But you'd toss aside a fortune  
For days 'neath an open sky  
With sunlight and blue water  
And white clouds sailing high

For once you have been a camper  
Then something has come to stay  
Deep in your heart forever  
Which nothing can take away  
And heaven can only be heaven  
With a camp in which to play

## **Blessed are the Girl Scouts**

Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are taught to see beauty in all things around them...

For their world will be a place of grace and wonder.

Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are led with patience and understanding...

For they will learn the strength of endurance and gift of tolerance.

Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are provided a home where family members dwell in harmony and close communion...

For they shall become the peacemakers of the world.

Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are taught the value and power of truth...

For they shall search for knowledge and use it with wisdom and discernment.

Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are guided by those with faith in a loving God...

For they will find Him early and will walk with Him through life.

Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are loved and know that they are loved...

For they shall sow seeds of love in the world and reap joy for themselves and others.

## **Angel in Green**

Having left mortal earth I passed through Heaven's gate

And while anxiously awaiting the outcome of my fate

I walked amongst the angels all robed in purest white

Whereupon I saw one figure that cast a greenish light.

She sat upon a misty cloud, a harp held to her breast,

In a flowing, blowing gown of green, unlike all the rest;

I asked what great deed she'd done to earn the special hue

That gave her color where others had none, or maybe just a few.

She said, "On earth I sought no fame, fortune was not my goal

I shunned the power of politics and worked without a toll;

I spent time with children, helping them to grow

For as you reap in life, so must you learn to sow."

"You see," she said, "the dividend while growing up I'd share

I repaid where many others were too self involved to care;

Girl Scouting was my choice of roads to follow in my quest

For among the girls I found a love deeper than the rest."

"A teacher was I, my work was hard, I had no diploma or pay

But where family and institutions failed I helped them find the way;

The lessons I taught were obscure and difficult to see

For they didn't have names like spelling or math or geometry."

"They were lessons in life delivered through guided experience

And they taught such things as character, spirit, and confidence;

Though on earth my life was blessed, it's even more so today

For when I look down I see my work as my girls show others the way."

"On earth Girl Scouting taught me to leave things better than before

And the same applies to that mortal place where life never was a bore

Now having lived by that Girl Scout rule in every earthly endeavor

I have become an Angel in Green and shall be a Girl Scout forever."



## **The Red, White and Blue**

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

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

Can you see in it's folds mountains and hills  
Wide flowing rivers and picturesque rills?  
Fields that are golden with ripening grain  
And cowboys roaming across the plain?

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

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

## **The American's Creed**

I believe in

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

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

## **A Careful Soul**

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

This book is dedicated to the memory of all Girl Scout Leaders everywhere, for without you there would be no Girl Scouting.