

Ceremonies workshop

Key Conference

April 1, 2006



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Ceremonies mark special Girl Scout events through out the year.

Good ceremonies have a clear purpose and have ingredients that enrich the meaning and mood of the ceremony. Every Girl Scout ceremony gives girls an opportunity to share in a special part of Girl Scout history. They give girls a chance for self-expression, a sense of pride. They teach dedication and responsibility and help to foster a sense of accomplishment.

All ceremonies should be respectful of the individual belief systems of the girls and adults involved.

A guide to ceremonies in Girl Scouts...

Bridging Ceremonies are held any time a girl moves from one age level to another. A Brownie Bridging ceremony is called a “Fly-Up Ceremony” because the girls are entitled to wear her Brownie Girl Scout Wings. Bridging Ceremonies can be held indoors or outdoors. Girls can cross over a bridge; stage, paper rocks or a man made bridge. Bridging Ceremonies can be held indoors or out of doors. They can be held around a campfire and include wishes which may be written on paper and placed into a tightly closed paper bag or attached to wish bundles. The bag or bundle is placed in the fire; a girl’s wish can reach the sky.

Closing Ceremonies are used to close a meeting or event.

Flag Ceremonies are used to display our respect for the flag of our nation. They are often used to open meetings or as part of a larger ceremony.

Founder’s Day Ceremony or Juliette Low’s Birthday, October 31st is a time to remember the important role Juliette Low played in the development of the Girl Scout movement in the United States of America.

Girl Scout Birthday Ceremonies can be held on or around March 12th, the date that Juliette Low started Girl Scouts in the United States of America.

Girl Scout Bronze Award Ceremony honors Junior Girl Scouts who have earned the Girl Scout Bronze Award. Usually held at the troop/group level.

Girl Scout Silver Award Ceremonies honors Girl Scouts who have earned the Silver Award.

Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony honors Girl Scouts who have earned the highest award in Girl Scouts. The ceremony can be held at the council level or at the troop/group or service unit level.

Girl Scouts’ Own Ceremony is usually based on a central theme. It is an inspirational and reflective ceremony that the girls plan and implement themselves. It is never a religious ceremony. Themes can be taken from nature, values or the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Pinning Ceremonies help celebrate when girls receive age level Girl Scout pins.

Thinking Day ceremonies are often held around Thinking Day, February 22nd the birthday of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. It is a day set aside for Scouts and Guides to remember each other. Since Girl Scouts and Girl Guides belong to WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and

Girl Scouts) it is an appropriate time to present the World Association Pin. Thinking Day provides a time for girls to reflect on world peace and international friendship.

Pointers for all ceremonies

1. Should be girl planned
2. Should meet girl need
3. Should involve girls themselves to their maximum ability
4. Simple dignified and appropriate for the occasion
5. Be short to keep attention of girls
6. Easily understood
7. Most are for the troop/group
8. Not a performance

The ceremonies that girls like best are the ones they help create.

The level of girl planning depends on the age and of the girls involved. Daisies can make decisions based on choices provided by their leaders. Brownies get ideas from their handbook and conversation with leaders and other adults. Juniors need guidance from leaders and Teen Girl Scouts should be able to plan and implement ceremonies by themselves.

“ There is a dramatic element in all rituals which appeals to girls. Although they need guidance in planning, conducting and participating in ceremonies in order to make them significant and satisfying, a ceremony which the girls plan themselves is another opportunity for creative self-expression” (from *Ceremonies CBGSC 12-1969*)

Ceremonies could be planned around a theme, such as conservation, nature, international understanding, history, patriotism, loyalty or service. You can use music and song, poetry, stories or quotes, dance, candles, campfires, original writings, flowers, The Promise and Law, or the Girl Scout motto and slogan. Some ceremonies use acrostics, such as the word TRY-IT, BADGES or GIRL SCOUTS.

Many leaders find that planning is key to a successful ceremony. A written outline certainly helps girls take responsibility for planning. Some questions to ask when planning a ceremony are:

WHO

Who will attend?

Who will do each part?

Who will set up & clean up?

WHAT

What date will it be on?

What is the purpose? (Recognition, celebration?)

What type of ceremony? (Investiture? Scouts Own?)

What will be the theme?

What will we do for an opening?

What will the sequence of the ceremony be?

What will we do for the closing?

What equipment, props, etc. do we need & who will bring them?

WHEN

WHERE

Where will the ceremony take place?

WHY

HOW

How long will it last?

How much will it cost?

How will we express the theme? (Songs, skits, presentations?)

How will we set up the room/area?

Have we forgotten anything?

Will we have refreshments? (What will we have?)

Do we memorize or use 'cue cards'?

Will we need to have rehearsal?

If you are having a **Court of Awards** be creative in the presentation of the recognitions.

You could:

Wrap them in pretty packages

Put them on pipe cleaners and put them in a flowerpot

Use a plastic egg in the springtime,

Put them on leaves attached to a branch or a dowel

Tie them into mini bandanas

Attach them to cardboard hearts, paper airplanes, pencils, paintbrushes, crayons or markers

Attached them to a balloon

Make a corsage from paper, silk or real flowers and attach them to ribbons

REMEMBER the key to a successful ceremony is one that

- the girls take an integral part in planning
- has a clear purpose
- has ingredients that enrich the meaning and mood of the ceremony

Relax and let your girls imaginations run wild.

Spirit Candle---Opening

This candle represents the spirit of Girl Scouting. It burns throughout our meeting to represent the friendship and fun we enjoy together.

Look to the flame and see its challenge to you:

- ... to do more than belong... Participate.
- ... do more than care... Help.
- ... do more than believe... Practice.
- ... do more than be fair... Be kind.
- ... do more than forgive... Forget.
- ... do more than dream... Work.
- ... do more than teach... Inspire.
- ... do more than live... Grow.
- ... do more than be friendly... Be a friend.
- ... do more than give... Serve.

Bless you for being just who you are --- Girls are great!

Values of Life Ceremony

This ceremony can be used as an Investiture/Rededication, Court of Awards or for Juliette Low's birthday.

Props: Large Trefoil, seven candles

Leader (Pointing to Trefoil): The emblem you see before you represents the Girl Scout program. The seven candles represent the seven rays of the sun. We will now tell you what each of the seven ray's stands for.

- 1: WISDOM – Wisdom does not necessarily mean superior knowledge. It means putting to the right use the knowledge one possesses.
- 2: COURAGE – Courage is not the quality that enables people to meet danger without fear; it is being able to meet danger in spite of your fear.
- 3: CHARITY – Charity is not limited to donations to the less fortunate. It is acceptance of others even when you do not understand them.
- 4: JUSTICE – Justice is the practice of dealing fairly with others without prejudice or regard to race, color, or creed.
- 5: FAITH – Faith is the conviction that something unproved by physical evidence is true. A good example is when an eight year-old once 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 good to herself or her community.
- 7: LOVE – There are many kinds of love – love of family, love of home, love of fellow man, love of God, and love of country. All these loves are necessary for a full life.

This ceremony could be used for a Court of Awards or a rededication ceremony

- 1 Yellow Pillar candle
- 2 Blue Tapers
- 3 White Candles
- 10 Green Candles

The Yellow Pillar candle was lit before the ceremony began; it represents experienced leaders from the past.

The leaders say, "We have learned from the experience of leaders that have come before us. Today we pass that knowledge onto the girls in our Troop." As you say these lines you lit the blue tapers.

Leaders say "On my Honor, I will try" each girl was given a white or green candle and a card with a part of the Promise or a Law. The girl comes forward and lights her candle from one of the blue canes and says her part of the Promise or The Law.

This ceremony can be used for an Investiture or Rededication Ceremony

- Needed
- 4 different candles
- silk flowers

Arrange the candles on the table with the silk flowers wound through them

Talk a little about how each girl is unique and how she brings something of her own to the troop. Have each girl come up and light a candle and say, "I hope to bring _____." Have the girls think ahead of time and decide for themselves what they would bring. Some of the responses might be friendship, happiness, new ideas or enthusiasm.

Rainbow Ceremony

Can use colored candles, or colored ribbons tied around white candles

Silver	Stands for mornings, the beginning of a new day, when each day presents another challenge.
Yellow	Stands for Daisy, the beginning of Girl Scouts
Pink	Stands for all girls in Girl Scouting
White	Stands for the purity in every Girl Scout's heart
Gold	Stands for the trefoil pin which reminds us of our Girl Scout Promise
Purple	Stands for the horizon, the future toward which we look
Turquoise	Stands for water which sustains life in addition to giving us pleasure
Brown	Stands for the earth upon which we live
Green	Stands for all plant life, which beautifies our earth
Red	Stands for fire which glows for warmth and friendship
Blue	Stands for our sky, under which we are all, united by our ideals
Orange	Stands for a sunset, which signifies the closing of another Girl Scout day!

Used at Camp the Peninsula, 12/10/88, Camp Country Center

Diversity Flame Ceremony

Materials: six assorted shaped, colored candles. The more mismatched the better. One tall, multicolored (if possible) candle in the center. A green taper candle for every participant. GS in charge lights the tall candle in the middle: "Stars that shine together form a galaxy. Flowers that grow together create a garden. Buildings that stand together begin a city. People who work together make a difference. This is what valuing differences is all about."

1st Scout (lights the first small candle)

"I light this candle in friendship for all of the people who are older or younger, taller or smaller, richer or poorer than I."

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

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

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

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

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

Girl Scout in charge lights her green taper from the tall middle candle and says "I light this candle for me, for I am unique and special." She then walks to the beginning of the horseshoe and the first girl lights her candle from the GS in charge and recites the line. The second girl lights her candle and recites, and so forth around the horseshoe.

"Watch the flames closely please. Notice the light from each candle is the same as the others even though the outside of each is different. So, too, are all of us in the world. We wear different clothes, speak different languages, follow different religions or beliefs, like different foods, sing different songs. And yet, we all belong to the same human race. Inside we are all the same. We all wish to be recognized, we all wish to be called by name, we all wish to be loved, we all wish for friends, we all wish for peace. In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to world friendship. (Pause for reflection) In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to peacemaking. (Pause for reflection) In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to accept the challenge to look wider still." (Pause for reflection) As Lord Baden-Powell once said, "Look wide! And when you think you are looking wide, look wider still." All Girl Scouts please raise your hand and recite the Girl Scout Promise.

Song: Girl Scouts Together

Four Spirits Campfire Opening

Four speakers as North, South, East and West

Signal all around for silence

Each speaker enters from the appropriate compass point.

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

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

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

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

All: Together we join in the fire of friendship

.

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

Ashes of Friendship

THE HISTORY: Taking ashes from one campfire to another is a ceremony conducted by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world. The main purpose of these ashes is to bring to all Girl Scouts and Guides the international aspect of the world sisterhood. Ashes taken from a campfire are sprinkled into the flames of the next campfire. The next morning, when the ashes are cold, they are stirred and each Girl Scout/Guide present at the ceremony takes some to mix with the next campfire. Each Girl Scout/Guide keeps a list of all of the campfires in which they have sprinkled their ashes. If more than one Girl Scout/Guide brings ashes to the campfire, the lists are combined; the dates and places of all campfires are recorded and passed on. As Girl Scouts and Girl Guides, the ashes circle the globe. It is a tradition that only those actually present at the campfire can receive ashes from the ceremony to carry on to another campfire.

THE CEREMONY: We carry our friendships with us in these ashes from other campfires with girls in other lands. May the joining of the past fires with the leaping flames of this campfire, symbolize once more the unbroken chain that binds Girl Scouts and Girl Guides of all nations together.

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

(Wait for others)

The ashes I spread into this campfire carry memories of past campfires dating back to <year>

I will now charge these ashes to the campfire. (Sprinkle ashes)

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

Wish Bundles

Have each patrol; gather a bundle of sticks, usually one stick for each girl tie them together with ribbon or yarn. A different color for each group, so you can tell them apart. Ask each group to decide on a wish that they would all like to see come true. Then all the bundles get thrown into the campfire. If your bundle burns all the way, your group's wish will come true. This is even better if you do it with the ashes ceremony, too, because it makes the ashes more magical for the girls.

Variations: The leader throws a handful of coffee creamer into the fire to make a "poof" or sugar to create colored flames.

Wishes Ceremony, same thing but with the wishes written on a piece of paper and placed into a paper bag and tossed into the fire.

Wishing Pot Ceremony

Is an indoor version of Wishes Ceremony. Everyone is given a small piece of paper and a pencil, and asked to write down her wish. Wishes are private. When a girl is finished writing she folds the paper to seal in the wish. The wishes are collected and placed in pot, a fire proof container, like Dutch oven. Or each girl comes forward and places her wish in the pot. As the wishes are collected everyone is told to concentrate on her wish, it is a quiet time. They remain quiet while the fire is lit and remain quiet until it is out. Another variation is giving everyone a votive candle in a baby food jar. (At the Dollar Tree store here, we can buy a box of ten "tea light" candles for a dollar.) We then sat on the floor in a circle, turned out all the lights, and passed a lighter from person to person. Each person said, "My wish for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere is . . ." and lit her candle. When all the candles were burning, we asked the girls to concentrate on their wishes in silence for a few minutes and then blow out the candles. After blowing out the candles, we stood up and did our final circle and friendship squeeze.

Wish Closing

Girl cross their arms right over left, holding each other's hand. Designate a person to start the wish. Have that person make a wish and then squeeze the hand of the person on her left. As each girl does this, she also slides her right foot forward to signify that she has made her wish. This continues around the circle until everybody has a turn. At that time everyone says, "Good night, Girl Scouts" turns under her right arm, drops hands and leaves.

Variation: After forming the circle say " Our circle symbolizes the unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Now we will open our circle, making a space for a Girl Scout who could not be with us tonight. We always have room for a sister Girl Scout"

By leaving the circle open you are thinking about Girl Scouts and Girl Guides who can't be with you.

This could be done when you are expecting a new girl in the troop.

Great Thoughts Rededication

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

Here are some thoughts:

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

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

4: Thank you for loaning me your daughter. For letting her make me smile. For letting her be a Girl Scout.

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

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

7: Look up and not down – Look forward and not back – Look out and not in – Lend a hand.

8: 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.”

9: Girl Scouting is people. People like you who give their time, their energy, and their love to help prepare today’s girls for tomorrow’s world.

10: Let’s all join together in saying the Girl Scout Promise.

Maypole Ceremony

Materials Needed:

1 pole about 1 to 1 ½ inches in diameter & five feet long (a broom handle works well)

10 ribbons ½ inch wide and seven feet long. One each of the following ten colors:

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

12 inches of string or cording

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

Ceremony: You need 11 girls to perform this ceremony.

One girl stands in the center & holds the pole. The other ten girls form a circle around the pole.

Each ribbon stands for a part of the Girl Scout Law. Have each girl (one at a time) reach for her ribbon & recite her part of the Law. Always start with the purple ribbon. Then, go in this order: orange, blue, gold, yellow, white, red, silver, brown, and green.

Once all the girls have said their part of the Law & all are holding “their” ribbon, they begin weaving the Maypole. This is done while singing a song, such as “Girl Scouts Together” or “On My Honor”.

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

Girl will hold ribbon with “inside” hand. While keeping ribbons straight (don’t let them droop) start with odd numbered girls. They will lift their inside hands and the even numbered girls will duck under. Then the even numbered girls will raise their hands and the odd numbered girls will duck under & so on....

Continue until you reach the bottom of the pole or the end of the song.

Please remember that you will get a much better weave if the girls keep their ribbons pulled tight during the weaving.

Symbolic Investiture/Rededication

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

All: Repeat the 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)

Girl scout GORP Rededication Ceremony

A ceremony and snack all in one!

1. Girl Scouts come in all colors, from all races around the world. Every Girl Scout is a sister no matter where she is from, no matter the language she speaks, no matter the color of her skin. God loves variety, and Girl Scouts are the colors of the rainbow. ((M & M CANDIES)
2. We have a promise and a law. On our honor, we try to do our best to be fair and square. (CHEX CEREAL)
3. Some of us are tall, and some of us are small. When we get together, size doesn't matter at all. (PRETZEL THINS AND MINIMARSHMALLOWS)
4. Sometimes we are nutty (corny). We love to joke and play. We'd love to put a Girl Scout smile into everyone's day. (NUTS) (candy corn) *Be careful of nuts because of allergies.*
5. Sometimes we are quiet and thoughtful. We have special gifts of love and caring to give in service to those who need our help. (BUTTERFLY CRACKERS)
6. When we get together, we seem to make circles. We may sit in circles, play circle games, and make a Friendship Circle. You could say that we are well rounded. (CHEERIOS)
7. When we are busy planning a project, or doing a craft, we pop around until we're done. (POPCORN)
8. Girl Scouts respect all living things. The earth is our home, and we want to keep it safe for everyone. (GOLDFISH CRACKERS OR ANIMAL CRACKERS)
9. Girl Scouts are "chips off the old block". Girl Scouting began in 1912. Since then we all have been part of an old tradition, and are proud to be part of the future. (BANANA CHIPS) (I used chocolate chips)
10. We get a kick out of wearing our uniforms, learning new things, helping others, and being together with our friends. (KIX CEREAL)
11. Young Girl Scouts may be hard to resist because they are fresh, sweet and new. But the older scout may be more fun, because she has more experience than you! (RAISINS)

PATCHWORK

Investiture & Rededication Ceremony--For Leaders *(may be adapted for a troop)*

Written by Cathron Deutsch, San Jacinto Girl Scout Council

Being a Girl Scout leader is like making a quilt.

First, we gather together our scraps—our girls—from different origins and cuts of material. .

Some are shy, unimposing—like pale pastels. Others are dizzy patterns of vibrant color.

We must bind them together, matching their sameness, blending heir differences. The thread of Scouting is strong. Our own hands must be steady and sure, patiently making each stitch small and even. Until –finally—the quilt is finished, with a background of the Promise and Law and a thick padding of love and understanding. And though each patch is different, together they are strong, beautiful and warm; and the seamstress can be proud.

This then is Girl Scouting. It is the Girl Scouting of returning leaders and the Girl Scouting of leaders to come. Would the new leaders please step forward to make their promise and a commitment toward building such a patchwork piece?

New leaders come forward and make their Promise, receiving their pins and giving the Girl Scout handshake.

Now, would the continuing leaders rise and commit themselves to continuing their pieces of patchwork by making the Promise together?

Let us all join in singing “Whenever You Make a Promise”

Props may be used and the ceremony extended by their use. Put a patchwork quilt in a small circular or oval hoop on a stand. Speaker could even be seated in a rocker quilting.

An oil lamp or candle could be used and the lights turned off. If desired each leader could choose from a pile of scraps, as she comes forward, one that she feels expresses her own personality.

There could be pinned, one by one, to a board in a patchwork pattern. Or, each could be given a tiny piece of patchwork in memory of the occasion – such a piece could contain sachet or be used later as a Christmas decoration – or a pincushion. Leaders might be encouraged to keep their Girl Scout pins pinned to it for safekeeping, when they are not wearing them.

Patchwork Ceremony

Adapted by Lyn Gill, SU 629 Girl Scout of Chesapeake Bay Council

Used at the Key Conference April 1,2006

Being a Girl Scout volunteer is like making a patchwork quilt.

First we gather together our scraps- girls, leaders, service team members, staff, and Board members, from different origins and cuts of material.

Some are shy, unimposing – like pale pastels. Some are bold, - like bright primary colors. Others are dizzy patterns of many hues. We must bind them all together, matching their sameness. Our own hands must be steady and sure, patiently making each stitch small and even.

Until- finally- the quilt is finished with a background of The Promise and Law and a thick padding of love and understanding. And though each patch is different, together they are strong, beautiful and warm; and the seamstress can be proud. This then is Girl Scouting. Even though each volunteer is different, he or she brings the same things to our quilt, compassion, friendship, understanding and love.

Let us make a patchwork quilt together, showing our strengths and differences. Take a square of paper, write what you bring to Girl Scouting and paste it on our quilt.

Flowers of Friendship Investiture/Rededication

The original ceremony appears in "*Ceremonies in Girl Scouting*", however, this is updated to reflect the 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 gladiolus 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.

The Girl Scout Law in Jewels

VERSION #1

The treasures of life are not set in Silver or Gold....
More precious than jewels are the values we proudly hold...
I will do my best to be honest and fair - As the blue sapphire....
Friendly and helpful - Amethyst or friendship jewel.... (purple)
Considerate and Caring - Lovely as an opal....
Courageous and strong - As the red ruby....
Responsible for what I say and do - Speak with pearls of wisdom....
Respect myself and others - A reflection of pure spirit a diamond...
Respect authority - Confidence that the darkest problems can be solved he onyx...(black)
Use resources wisely - As amber preserves the past.... (clear honey color)
Make the world a better place - aquamarine....
And be a sister to every Girl Scout Emeralds are sisters in green.
These may be added to a jar, strung on a necklace or added to a treasure chest as each one is read.

VERSION #2

A variation on "The GS Law in Jewels"--The GS Law in semi-precious stones which are much easier to find in the form of powerbead bracelets necklaces or from bead vendors. It's also very easy to substitute different stones (i.e. malachite for aventurine, etc.) We have ten girls in our troop, so after reciting each law I gave each girl one of the representative bracelets as a surprise. They seemed to appreciate receiving something nice that they could wear anytime.

Girl(s): I will do my best to be honest and fair

Leader: Represented by the blue turquoise

Girl(s): Friendly and helpful

Leader: Amethyst is the friendship jewel

Girl(s): Considerate and Caring

Leader: Fluorite stands for love and compassion

Girl(s): Courageous and strong

Leader: The red color of Carnelian is associated with these traits

Girl(s): Responsible for what I say and do

Leader: Mother of pearl to remind one to speak with pearls of wisdom

Girl(s): Respect myself and others

Leader: The pure clarity of quartz as a reminder that all people matter

Girl(s): Respect authority

Leader: Black onyx is a symbol to remind us to recognize and appreciate the wisdom and experience of others.

Girl(s): Use resources wisely

Leader: Honey jade representing harmony with nature

Girl(s): Make the world a better place

Leader: The blue lapis to remind us of our blue planet

Girl(s): And be a sister to every Girl Scout

Leader: Aventurine to represent the familiar color we all associate with Girl Scouting.

by Jill Bork

PEARLS LIKE OUR LEADER'S CEREMONY
(Investiture/Rededication)

What you need:

4 Adults as Leaders

10 Adults as Pearls

Treasure Chest

2 Candles

10 large plastic pearls

Leader #1: Tonight we are gathered to share in the dedication of our new and old leaders to the ideas of Girl Scouting.

Leader #2: At this time, the members of Service Unit will share with each other the "Lesson Of The Pearls", found in our discovered treasure chest of Girl Scouting.

Pearl #1: The first pearl stands for WISDOM. You have shown your joy in exploring wisdom through Girl Scouting. (Place pearl in treasure chest)

Pearl #2: The second pearl shall symbolize BEAUTY. You are beautiful to your sister Girl Scouts for you give of yourself. (Place pearl in treasure chest)

Pearl #3: The third pearl is STRENGTH. You are the strength of the future of Girl Scouting. (Place pearl in treasure chest)

Pearl #4: The fourth pearl will be the symbol of TRUTH. You are the example of the truth of the ideas of Girl Scouting. Place pearl in treasure chest)

Pearl #5: The fifth pearl will be FIDELITY. You have kept your promise and have affirmed it for life. (Place pearl in treasure chest)

Pearl #6: The sixth pearl is our symbol for FELLOWSHIP. You have extended the hand of friendship and you have gained the rewards. (Place pearl in treasure chest)

Pearl #7: The seventh pearl is COOPERATION. You are an example of total cooperation and your many accomplishments reflect your willingness to work in harmony with others. (Place pearl in treasure chest)

Pearl #8: The eighth pearl will be a symbol for LOYALTY. You are committed to the law of Girl Scouting and strive to live by it. (Place pearl in treasure chest)

Pearl #9: The ninth pearl will be for VISION. You can see the future of Girl Scouts and will do your part to ensure its continued success. (Place pearl in treasure chest)

Pearl #10: The tenth pearl shall stand for SERVICE. You continue to give of yourself to others in need. (Place pearl in treasure chest)

Leader #3: You stand here, a golden link in our chain of green and gold. A chain of friendship that encircles the globe. Our chain is made strong by your caring, your sharing and a desire to be the best that you can be.

Leader #4: Our wish is for you to explore the many treasures to be found in our chest of pearls. Remember to always be a golden link in our chain of friendship and let nothing break this chain of green and gold.

Please join me in reciting the Girl Scout Promise.

THE GIRL SCOUT LAW AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

When your girls repeat the Girl Scout Law, do they start out strong, and then fade away to “mumble, mumble, mumble?” This finger game can help you and your girls remember all the Girl Scout Laws, in the correct order too!

1. It takes strength to be truthful in what we say and do, and to treat others the way we wish to be treated. Our strong thumb helps us be: **HONEST AND FAIR**
2. Girl Scouts love to make new friends and keep the old, and we always lend a hand to help others. This pointer finger leads the way. We are: **FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL**.
3. Our tallest finger reminds us to do our very best to care for our family, our friends, our pets and the environment. Girl Scouts are: **CONSIDERATE AND CARING**
4. It is important that we hold fast to our values and face challenges head on. In our heart we find courage and strength. Our ring finger has a vein that runs directly to our heart and helps us be: **COURAGEOUS AND STRONG**
5. This little finger may seem small, but it reminds us to take a stand for what we believe, and to be responsible for our actions. This finger says “I must be: **RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT I SAY AND DO**
6. We strive to be confident individuals, and we also know that each one of us is special and unique. This dainty little finger says: I **RESPECT MYSELF AND OTHERS**
These next three fingers stand together to make the Girl Scout Sign, just like these three laws stand together.
7. We respect our parents, our teachers and our Girl Scout leaders. We: **RESPECT AUTHORITY**
8. We must take care of our resources, such as endangered animals, our farmland, our family history, and our money, or these resources will not last. It is important that we: **USE RESOURCES WISELY**
9. There are many things we can do to bring a smile to someone’s face, and to bring the world closer together. We can: **MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE**
10. Thumbs up for Girl Scouting! We are proud to: **BE A SISTER TO EVERY GIRL SCOUT**
Of course, we know that being able to say the Girl Scout Law perfectly is not the most important thing. Just as idle hands are useless. So, let’s learn to the Girl Scout Law and live it!

“The Book of Trees” Ceremony

Adapted by Betsy Wenny, SU 629 Girl Scouts of Chesapeake Bay Council

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 any 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 girls take this trail.

Girl 1: Reading from the Book of Trees:

Girl 2: I am the Oak Tree – Sturdy, courageous and strong am 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 honest and fair.

Girl 4: I am a Birch Tree – With my bark and my wood, I am friendly and helpful, as is every Girl Scout.

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 Pine Tree – The wind through my needles softly whispers “I am responsible for what I say and do,” as are Girl Scouts.

Girl 7: I am the Elm Tree – Providing shelter for the little folk of the woods in my gracious branches and roots, I have respect for myself and others.

Girl 8: I am the Tulip Tree – Tall and straight as a soldier who respects authority, just as does every Girl Scout.

Girl 9: I am the Maple Tree – Brightening the spring, my leaves beautiful in the fall, I always put my best foot forward, as a Girl Scout does.

Girl 10: I am a Hickory Tree – Tough of wood, I keep my nuts stored in strong tight cases, using my resources wisely, as a Girl Scout would.

Girl 11: I am the Dogwood Tree – In the Spring, I stand clean and beautiful in the face, as does a Girl Scout, making the world a better place.

All: (The Conservation Pledge) I give my pledge as a Girl Scout to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country – its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife.

All: Sing “This Land Is Your Land.”

Rededication Ceremony

Setting: The room is dark, except for 20 lit candles.

Leader: Tonight we are here in to invest those who have joined Girl Scouts for the first time this year. We are also here to rededicate each member, new and old, to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. These are the ideals by which Girls Scouts try to live, and through which we, as leaders, help girls to gain worthy citizenship." [A large candle is lit, house lights are dimmed].

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

Each speaker blows out a candle as she says her part...

But what would the world be like if...

... we each stopped serving God and our country?

... we each stopped helping people in need?

What would the world be like if...

... we each stopped living by the Girl Scout Law?

... we each choose to be dishonest and unfair to others?

What would the world be like if...

... we were unfriendly and did not help those in need?

... we were inconsiderate and didn't care about anyone but ourselves?

Girl #10: What would the world be like if...

Girl #11: ... we chose to be fearful and weak?

Girl #12: ... we chose not to take responsibility for what we say and do?

Girl #13: What would the world be like if...

Girl #14: ... we chose not to have respect for ourselves and others?

Girl #15: ... we chose to disregard all authority?

Girl #16: What would the world be like if...

Girl #17: ... we used up all the resources?

Girl #18: ... we didn't try to make the world a better place?

Girl #19: What would the world be like if...

Girl #20: ... we were not a sister to every Girl Scout?

Leader: If we choose this path, our world becomes very dark. *Pause*

Leader: Who wants to renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law?

Leader: Before you, you see a golden flame. The flame symbolizes a Girl Scout's honor, which must never be dimmed. When a Girl Scout makes a promise, she is placing her honor, the brightest thing in her life, before her fellow Girl Scouts, her leaders, her parents, and her friends. Girls should understand that giving the Girl Scout Promise on one's honor is a serious thing.

Allow the girls to re-light each candle while they say their part of the Girl Scout Law:

Girl # 21: I make a commitment to...

Girl #22: ...serve God and my country.

Girl # 23: ...help people at all times.

Girl #24: ... live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl #25: I make a commitment to be honest and fair.

Girl #26: I make a commitment to be friendly and helpful.

Girl #27: I make a commitment to be considerate and caring.

Girl #28: I make a commitment to be courageous and strong.

Girl #29: I make a commitment to be responsible for what I say and do.

Girl #30: I make a commitment to respect myself and others.

Girl #31: I make a commitment to respect authority.

Girl #32: I make a commitment to use resources wisely.

Girl #33: "I make a commitment to make the world a better place". Re-light another candle.

Girl #34: "I make a commitment to be a sister to every Girl Scout". Re-light another candle.

Leader: These burning candles represent the points of the law and promise and how they brighten the life of the Girl Scout who observes them. When through practice they become a part of our

daily lives, they also brighten the lives of all whom we come in contact. Girl Scouts make world a brighter and more hopeful place, please join us in singing *Make New Friends*.

Our ceremony is over, so we will extinguish our candles now, but the flame of friendship still glows in our hearts. May we always be true and helpful friends to each other and to all humankind.

Court Of Awards Ideas

Attach badges to a ribbon tied to a helium-filled balloon and anchor them with a small baggie of sand. Display the balloons by placing them across a table at the head of the room. As each girl receives her badges, she adds to her balloon bouquet.

Cut Trefoils out of cardboard (green is nice). Attach lengths of ribbon to the Trefoils, and put each girl's awards on one. Attach the badges to a length of ribbon and pin each girl's ribbon on her using her membership star

Flashcards 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.

The Spelling of Girl Scouting

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

G is for the Gracious way we all proclaim our birth

I points up the Ideas shared and those we'd like unearthed

R is for Respect we have for every race and creed

L is for our Loyalty to promises we heed

S is for Sincerity of deed and word and mind

C is for the Countless ways in which these are combined
O is Obligation that we owe to fellow man
U means that it's You who must be first to lend a hand
T is for the Teamwork which has evidenced our growth
I is for Integrity which backs the Girl Scout oath
N is for the Noble way we remember days of old
G is for the Grateful thanks for efforts toward our goal
Each of these is Girl Scouting
What work! What fun! What pride!
To recall with admiration
And seek with greater stride.
Receiving all these badges
For all that we have done
Shows the pride we carry
What pride! What work! What fun!

Four-Winds

North Wind:

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

South Wind:

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

East Wind:

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

West Wind:

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

Collection of ideas to use to spice up your award presentations.

- ❖ Starting as Daisies or the girls or troops first year, give the girls a silk flower with a ribbon attached. On the ribbon are all the badges and patches earned so far. At each ceremony use a different silk flower after all the girls years in scouting they will have a lovely bouquet to remember their award ceremonies with.
- ❖ Staple the girls badges & patches onto a wide ribbon with a pin at the top so the ribbon can be fastened to the vest/sash or staple badges & patches directly onto the vest/sash so parent knows exactly where to sew it! The latter takes a good stapler (one of those little wimpy ones won't work) but the girls liked it the last time we did it this way.
- ❖ Get one of those straw wreaths (one for each girl) wrap the wreath in fabric, you can have the girls bring in fabric they like. It takes about 1/2 yard. If there is material left over a bow can be added. Use straight pins to attach the badges to the wreath. The size of the wreath depends on how many badges they have earned.

- ❖ Cut out of poster board a vest/sash the program age level color and attach the patches/badges on them.
 - ❖ Make trefoil shapes out of poster board as a troop - tied it into GS traditions. Each girl makes one. At a Court of Awards Ceremony, the patches were attached with double-stick tape. Simple, but eye catching.
 - ❖ >Earned your Sign of the Satellite? Make a shooting star. On The star part put everything that goes on the front of the vest/sash and on the shooting part put all of the other patches earned.
 - ❖ Theme your ceremonies. For example: Gardening - give girls small bags of potpourri and the adult's garden glove memo pads for lending a hand. Staple the girls recognition's that they earned since the last ceremony on a themed cotton ribbon 3-4 inches wide (the kind you use for wreath bows) and cut nice on the bottom. Many parents don't get around to sewing the badges and patches for a few months, so this long ribbon was sure not to get lost in the shuffle during the summer months. You could even put a magnetic strip on it so it could be hung on the fridge!
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- ❖ Use pinwheels and attach streamers to it and on each streamer was a try it or patch.
 - ❖ Make chocolate kiss roses and attach to each leaf a badge
 - ❖ Put the badges in Ziploc bags and insert into a big balloon blow up or use a helium tank. Should be a hoot watching those girls try and figure out how to get the badges out!
 - ❖ Pin each badge to a ribbon--one ribbon for each girl could have a nametag or even a "mum" at the top.
 - ❖ Make paper flowers with a cardboard backing in the shape of the trefoil behind, with streamers in the colors of the world hanging from it. Use little wooden pieces for the girls to hold on to. The badges and pins were then put on the streamers and given to the girls as they crossed the bridge.
 - ❖ Make Daisies out of construction or poster board. Attaching badges to petals, also attaching to ribbons that can be pinned onto the girl's uniform during ceremony.
 - ❖ Staple the badges/try-its to a thin ribbon and then tie the ribbon very tightly to a lollipop stick. Take assorted lollipops and stick them in Styrofoam and then fit small clay flowerpots. Now you have a flowerpot full of flower- lollipops! You could do one of the flower ceremonies and then hand these out as each girl says her part or at the end of the ceremony!
 - ❖ Make a vest from a plain brown grocery bag, then attached the one year star, Try-It, and Bridging patch, they had earned during the bridging steps or throughout the year.
 - ❖ Use with Try-Its - make a mini Pizza Pan and mount them with a dab of hot glue on the back, to form a portion or whole Pizza.
 - ❖ With Junior Badges perhaps a mounted on a fun foam Ice Cream dish, like scoops of Ice cream
 - ❖ Then for the IPP's you could build a Pyramid, as they are the 'Building Blocks of Life'
 - ❖ Staple patches/badges to a strip of wide, kind of stiff ribbon. Attach a sticker/label to top of ribbon with girl's name so you know whose it is. When presented to the Scout, pin it to her sash/shirt.
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- ❖ Get 1 helium balloon per girl. Tape or staple try-its/patches to the end of the streamer on the balloon.
 - ❖ Do a Hawaiian theme (great in the winter!) Order cheap Hawaiian decorations from Oriental Trading or buy at your local "party and paper" store. Put each try-it/badge on a lei and present the lei to the girl.

- ❖ Do a "Make new friends but keep the old" theme ceremony. Decorate everything in silver and gold. Buy cheap silver and gold metallic material and make little drawstring bags big enough to hold patches/try-its. Give the gold to the "old" scouts (3rd graders?) and silver bags to the "new" brownies (1st graders?) or random or whatever.
- ❖ Give out badges or patches in a card.
- ❖ Attach the badges to heart doilies in February.
- ❖ Attach the badges to a paper Jack-o-lantern in October
- ❖ Create a charm bracelet using their badges as the charms.
- ❖ Take pockets from old jeans and add a jute handle, staple the try-it to the pocket and fill the pocket with important troop information.
- ❖ TRAVEL theme get empty black video boxes from our video store donated cut handles out of black foam sheets and simply closed the box on them--instant "luggage"! Add luggage tags with the girl's names on them and they are done. We then used a dab of hot glue to put the badges earned on like stickers on a suitcase when you've been traveling and incorporated travel theme comments- (-We're begun our journey, etc.--here's some of the things we've done-.)-Each girl spoke about an activity we did this year and how it helped us grow as a scout. The girls loved the suitcases and so did! --We also put a message from the Asst. and I about how proud we are of them inside. It was great to do something so different--Total cost- 79 cents for a sheet of foam-we had some old plastic cards with holes that we glued each girl's name with a brown border--made it look like a luggage tag that was looped around handle.
- ❖ Buy 8x10 frames at Dollar store, print the girl's name on yellow paper trim the page to fit the frame. This was used as the background in the frame. Used Plasti-tak to hold the patches and badges on. Stick the pins directly through the paper and cardboard backing. Put the glass back in the frame.

Bouquets of Badges

Present badge Daisies at your next Court of Awards. Cut "daisies" from colored construction paper. 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.

PLANNING A GIRL SCOUTS' OWN

A GIRL SCOUTS' OWN is an inspirational ceremony during which Girl Scouts have an opportunity to reaffirm their values. It is a special and important program, which gives Girl Scouts time for quiet and reverence. It is based on the ideals of Girl Scouting and makes them more meaningful to the girls in their daily lives. It gives them an opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings.

A GIRL SCOUTS' OWN, to be all that its name implies, should be planned by the girls with minimal guidance from the leader. The plans, which are made in a girl/adult partnership, should be carried out by them, each contributing a part to make the meaningful whole.

HOW TO PLAN

1. Be sure the girls understand its purpose and meaning.
2. Select the theme. A good Girl Scouts' Own has a central focus to give it unity. The theme may grow out of camp events, girl's thoughts, poems, songs, observations, international understanding, and many other possibilities.
3. Choose suitable material for reference after the theme has been selected. The ceremony can include poetry, stories, legends, history, music, pictures, etc.
4. Develop the theme. A Girl Scouts' Own may include:
 - Group Singing
 - Pantomime
 - Special Chorus
 - Tableaux
 - Instrumental Music
 - Short Talks
 - Original Poems
 - Costuming
 - Dramatizations
 - Special Effects
 - Choral Reading
 - Sign Language

SETTING: Many times the group presenting a Girl Scouts' Own is hidden amongst trees so that the choir and individual readers are not seen. It can be quiet time in the woods to sit in some favorite spot using appropriate background music. It may be a reverent hour of communion around the campfire with every member permitted to participate. It can be a special time taken out of a troop meeting to reflect upon an idea of importance to the girls.

REMEMBER: A Girl Scouts' Own is a solemn occasion. The girls should enter and exit in silence. It is not a performance and should not be done before a public audience.