

	<b>CEREMONIES</b>	Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council 1410 Etheridge Lane Boise, ID 83704 (208) 377-2011 or (800) 846-0079 <a href="http://www.girlscouts-ssc.org">www.girlscouts-ssc.org</a>
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## IMPORTANT CEREMONIES IN GIRL SCOUTING

- BRIDGING:** A bridging ceremony is an activity held to let girls be recognized and welcomed into another level of Girl Scouting.
- CANDLELIGHTING:** These ceremonies help girls think about the meaning of their Girl Scout Promise/Law.
- CLOSING:** This activity lets everyone know that the meeting or program has come to an end.
- COURT OF AWARDS:** It is a time to pause and give recognition to the girls or adults who have accomplished something. The ceremony may include the distribution of badges, Try-Its, participation patches, or anything else that girls are eligible to receive as a result of their initiative and their troop/group program activities.
- FLAG CEREMONIES:** These are part of any program that honors the American flag, the symbol representing our country.
- FLY-UP:** This is a bridging ceremony for Brownies who are bridging to Juniors.
- FOUNDER’S DAY:** Juliette Low’s birthday, October 31. This is a time to remember the important role she played in the development of the Girls Scout Movement in the United States.
- GIRL SCOUT BIRTHDAY:** A ceremony held on or near March 12, the date Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Scouting in the United States in 1912.
- GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD:** Special recognition given to honor those outstanding Senior Girl Scouts who have earned the highest award in Girl Scouting.
- GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD:** A ceremony to be held on the troop or community level to honor the special Cadette Girl Scouts who earn this award.
- SCOUTS’ OWN:** An inspirational, girl planned program to express their deepest feelings about something such as the Girl Scout Promise, friendship, nature, or any ideals or values that have meaning for them.

INTERNATIONAL CERMONIES:	These are ceremonies for Thinking Day, February 22. International ceremonies also honor the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.
INVESTITURE:	A ceremony held to welcome new members, girls, or adults, into Girl Scouting for the first time.
OPENING:	Anything which is done to make Girl Scouts aware that the meeting is beginning.
OUTDOOR/CAMPFIRE CEREMONIES:	Almost any ceremony can be meaningful held in an outdoor environment or around a campfire.
PATROL LEADER/TROOP OFFICER INSTALLATION:	A time when special recognitions are made for a troop's new patrol leaders or officers.
REDEDICATION:	When invested, Girl Scouts renew their Promise and review what the Girl Scout Law means to them.
RETIRING LEADERS:	A ceremony to announce and give recognition to a person retiring from leadership.
SENIOR GRADUATION:	A special ceremony to honor twelfth-grade seniors.
THINKING DAY:	When Girl Scouts and Girls Guides in other countries all over the world take time to learn about each other, think of each other, and exchange greetings.
TREE PLANTING:	A short ceremony for tree planting done by Girl Scouts.
WELCOME CEREMONY:	A ceremony to welcome new leaders or new girls into the troop or group.

## PLANNING CEREMONIES WITH GIRLS

1. A purpose or reason for a ceremony;
  - a. Court of Awards
  - b. Investiture
  - c. Rededication
  - d. Juliette Low's Birthday
  - e. Girl Scout Sunday
  - f. Girl Scout Birthday
  - g. Scouts' Own
  - h. Thinking Day
  
2. Who is to be invited?
  - a. Troop Members only
  - b. Another troop (sister troop)
  - c. Parent and friends
  - d. Troop Committee
  - e. Troops in your Association
  
3. Where will it be held?
  - a. Indoors
  - b. Outdoors
  - c. School
  - d. Church
  - e. Camp
  
4. What kind of material might be used?
  - a. Songs, poems, quotations
  - b. Short stories
  - c. Promise and Law
  - d. Pledge of Allegiance
  - e. Artwork by the girls
  - f. Original stories or poems
  - g. Use reference materials from a variety of sources
  
5. How will we begin or open the ceremony?
  - a. Flag Ceremony
  - b. Welcome by leader or girl
  - c. Song or quotation
  - d. Walking quietly to the place where the ceremony will be held

6. What the main section of the ceremony consists of?
- a. Promise and Law
  - b. Candlelighting
  - c. Girl Scout songs
  - d. Use of Bridge
  - e. Presentation of Badges
  - f. Short Story
  - g. Presentation of the World Association Pin
7. How will we close the ceremony?
- a. Friendship circle
  - b. Taps
  - c. Songs
  - d. Friendship sticks

How will we move from one area of the ceremony to another? Songs serve as a good transition. It provides a time for the girls to re-group, change positions, for the next part of the ceremony.

Adapted from FRAMEWORK – North Atlantic Girl Scouts

## **A SAMPLE DAISY GIRL SCOUT INVESTITURE**

1. Leader welcomes guest.
2. Salute to Flag (flags should already be posted).
3. Patriotic song by the entire group.
4. Daisy Song by the Daisy Girl Scouts.
5. Candlelighting by the leaders only, using 3 candles for the 3 parts of the Promise. This would be done as a dedication to the Promise and Law.
6. Leaders stand by the table, Daisy Girl Scouts come forward one at a time. Leader asks, “Why do you want to be a Daisy Girl Scout?” Girl answers in her own words. (Question could be “What does it mean to make a promise?”)
7. Leader asks the girls to make the Promise. Girls make the sign and say the Promise (Leader will help if they forget some of the Promise).
8. Daisy Girl Scouts only: Leader takes each girls by the hand to the vase of flowers saying, “A Daisy Girl Scout is what I will be, I’ll pick this flower, because...” girl picks up flower, “it stands for me.”
9. Other leader pins the Daisy Girl Scout pin on the girls’ uniform, gives her the Girl Scout handshake and her Beginning Certificate.
10. Girl crosses to where the other Daisies are waiting. They give handshake and welcome each other.
11. “When E’er You Make a Promise” song sung by all Daisy Girl Scouts.
12. Announcements, refreshments, etc.

This can be held indoors or outdoors – use girls’ ideas to make it their ceremony.

## **A DAISY INVESTITURE CEREMONY**

**Who:** For Daisy Girl Scouts, their leaders, and parents (if desired).

**What:** Ceremony to welcome girls into the Girl Scout family.

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

**When:** After you have met for about a month and have had an opportunity to discuss the Girl Scout Promise and Law in a way that means something to Daisy Girl Scouts.

**Why:** Make the girls feel a part of Girl Scouts, receive Beginning Certificates (see Leader's Guide), receive Daisy membership pin, help parents understand more about the Girl Scout principles and beliefs.

**How:**

### **SEND INVITATIONS TO THE GUESTS:**

This might be just the girls or the girls and their families... the leader can help design the invitation and have the girls make them or send the invitations herself... be sure to list date, time, place and details such as refreshments served, wear you uniforms, etc.

### **OPENING:**

Form a circle and call each girl's name and explain why you are having the ceremony.

### **CELEBRATION:**

Flag ceremony or Pledge of Allegiance

Sing a patriotic song

Say the Girls Scout Promise together (Leader's Guide explains how to hold hands)

Leader reads the Girl Scout Law while girls take turns explaining each part verbally, (picture which was drawn in advance, skit, etc.)

Sing the "Daisy Girl Scout Song" together

Give a Beginning Certificate to each girl (see the Leader's Guide)

Give each girl a Daisy Girl Scout membership pin. (You might want to have one leader do the pinning while the other greets each girl with the Girl Scout handshake – see Leader's Guide)

Ask girls why they are called Daisy Girl Scouts. (The answer is in the Leader's Guide)

### **CLOSING:**

Form a circle

Sing "Make New Friends"

Do a friendship squeeze around the circle (Leader's Guide)

### **REFRESHMENTS:**

Are optional but add a nice touch!

## INVESTITURE FOR BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS

An investiture is a special ceremony held when you become a Girl Scout for the first time.

NEEDS: Finger food treats (optional)

Practice ahead of time with girls to learn Girl Scout Promise and Brownie Girl Scout song.

Big mirror of foil-covered cardboard, etc.

Use real colored leaves or make leaves from colored construction paper, use potted plants or any other decoration.

Order the Brownie Pins ahead of time!

Before the girls arrive, the leader places the mirror on the floor and lays the leaves around it. (It's a pond in the woods). The Brownies sit in a circle around the pond. Refresh the girls' memories about the Brownie Girl Scout story, found in their Brownie Girl Scout Handbook.

Leader: "(girl's name) do you want to be a Brownie Girl Scout? Come to the pond with me." Have the girl walk over the pond, turn her around and say, "Twist me and turn me and show me the Elf, I looked in the water and saw (girl says, "MYSELF")."

Leader: "The only way to become a Brownie Girl Scout is to say the Girl Scout Promise." (Remember the Girl Scout sign – the three middle fingers of the right hand are raised and the little finger is held down by the thumb as the promise is said.)

The girl: Says the Girl Scout Promise by herself (as a group they can say the Law later in the ceremony).

Leader: Pin the Brownie Girl Scout Pin (a Brownie Girl Scout Pin should be placed upside down and then turned when the Brownie does a good deed.)

Repeat this procedure until all girls are invested.

Leader: Let's all stand and say the Girl Scout Law.

Leader: Let's all sing the "Brownie Smile Song: (In the Brownie Girl Scout Handbook)  
"I've something in my pocket. It belongs across my face.  
I keep it very close at hand. In a most convenient place.  
I'm sure you couldn't guess it. If you guessed a long long while.  
So I'll take it out and put it on. It's a great big BROWNIE smile."

Leader: "Let's form a friendship circle and make a wish." (Leader makes a wish and squeezes the hand of the girls next to her. This is done all around the circle till the squeeze comes back to the leader.) As you squeeze the hand next to you and pass the wish around the circle you may also put your foot out in front of you.

## INVESTITURE

The Investiture Ceremony is the time in which a new Girl Scout receives her pin, makes her promise, and becomes a full-fledged member of the troop and of the Girl Scout organization.

The Promise, which is made by every girl joining the organization, and the Girl Scout Law, state the ideals of Girl Scouting. They form a code which is easily understood, one that expresses attitudes and beliefs that are the basic, not only of good scouting, but of good citizenship throughout the world. It is important to give each girl full opportunity during the meetings preceding the Investiture Ceremony to learn and understand the Promise and Law so that when she is invested, she realizes their full significance.

To be eligible for the investiture, a girl must have paid her annual national membership dues, must know the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and be willing to live by them.

## PLANNING

The investiture is a Troop Ceremony. The troop may plan it for a meeting at the regular meeting place, out-of-doors, or on the trail. The actual investiture is the making of the Promise and being invested by the leader who has helped the girl understand what it can mean to her. If they wish, the girls may invite parents or close friends.

Each investiture ceremony should be planned by the girls; therefore, each one will be different. However, each of the ceremonies should include the basic elements:

1. Opening:
  - Flag
  - Song
2. Welcome address by leader
3. Promise
4. Law
5. Presentation of Girl Scout pins
6. Closing

## SAMPLE INVESTITURE FORMAT

1. Hostess chosen by the girls can greet the guests and take them to be seated.
2. They can call the meeting to order and welcome guests. Perhaps the whole troop could sing a welcome song.
3. The ceremony – you and the girls have planned this together
  - “The Brownie Smile Song” or “When E’er You Make a Promise” makes a nice ending to the ceremony, prior to serving refreshments.
4. Flag ceremony at closing circle; be sure to include guests in the ring.
5. Clean up.

When meeting parents or guests of your girls, don’t forget to assure them that you would like them to be a part of the troop activities. If you need help with transportation, telephoning, or specific program activities, ask them to sign up for activities which they could help with. Be ready to answer questions.

## **“TAKE MY HAND” INVESTITURE CEREMONY**

As each girl says her verse she stretches out her hand to the next girl to speak, until all the girls are standing like paper dolls. Verses may be split according to the number of girls participating.

Take my hand in friendship, I give you this day  
Let's look forward to the good times, We'll have along the way.

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 learning, Our knowledge of true Girl Scouts  
To girls we meet and talk to, Who have so many doubts.

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

Take my hand in eagerness, To be a (Brownie or Junior) Girl Scout  
We're proud of who we are, Is what we're going to shout.

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

(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.

Girls step forward to say the Promise and receive their pins.

## INVESTITURE CEREMONY FOR OLDER GIRLS OR ADULTS

An investiture is held for girls or adults joining Girl Scouts for the first time. Not all girls start in Girl Scouts as a Daisy or Brownie Girl Scout, and not all leaders were Girl Scouts as girls. When anyone joins our Girl Scout family they deserve to be invested.

NEEDS:        3 large candles  
                  Matches  
                  Candle snuffer  
                  5 Girl Scouts  
                  Order Girl Scout pins ahead of time

Girls stand in a horseshoe formation; place a table at the open end with 3 large candles.

Leader:        When you join the Girl Scout movement, you become part of the largest organization for women and girls in the world.

1<sup>st</sup> girl:        As a Girl Scout, you will have fun planning and taking part in your troop's activities

2<sup>nd</sup> girl:        You will enjoy a variety of experiences and participate in many projects.

3<sup>rd</sup> girl:        You will go on trips and experience outdoor living.

4<sup>th</sup> girl:        You will serve others in your community.

5<sup>th</sup> girl:        As a Girl Scout you will share your knowledge with sister Girl Scouts and learn from them.

Leader:        These 3 candles represent the Girl Scout Promise. This candle that I light shall shine as a symbol that the Girl Scouts are true to God and their country. (light first candle) May the light of the 2<sup>nd</sup> candle shine as a symbol that a Girl Scouts greatest desire is to serve. (light second candle) And may the light of the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle shine as symbol that Girl Scouts are true to their ideals as interpreted by the Girl Scout Law. (light 3<sup>rd</sup> candle)

Girls and adults being invested step forward and make the Girl Scout sign (the middle three fingers of the right hand are raised and the little finger is held down by the thumb)

Leader:        Would you say the Girl Scout Promise? (pin on the Girl Scout pin)

Repeat this procedure until all new girls or adults are invested.

Leader:        Let us ALL say the Girl Scout Law together.

Leader:        Let's sing "When E'er You Make a Promise"  
                  "When E'er you make a promise, Consider well its importance.  
                  And when made, Engrave it upon your heart."

(Put out the candles with a snuffer)

One of the girls: In closing we quench the flame of our candles, but the light of our promise still glows in our hearts.

## **REDEDICATION – A TIME OF RENEWAL**

By Joan McEniry

Girl Scout ceremonies can mark special occasions in the life of a troop... in the life of a girl, the opening of a first troop meeting; the campfire on the last night of camp; Court of Awards with tangible recognition for achievements; Investiture, the first time of making a special Promise, recently learned and sometimes falteringly spoken.

Few ceremonies have greater potential, value and impact for a girl than Rededication, “the formal ceremony in which girls who are advancing to the next age level renew the commitment to the Girl Scout Promise, which they made when they were invested,” since true “renewal” goes beyond mere recitation of words or repetition of past interpretations.

### WHERE AND WHEN

A girl who continues her membership from Brownie through Senior Girl Scouting has a minimum of three opportunities for formal Rededication; once when she becomes a Junior Scout, once when she becomes a Cadette and again when she becomes a Senior. (Graduation Seniors moving into adult Girl Scouting roles may also participate in a Rededication)

Girls may have additional opportunities for some form of rededication. Since Investitures and Rededication are often combined in one ceremony, girls already invested may renew their Promise when new girls join the troop at various times other than the usual “bridging”. Occasionally, too, special ceremonies involving rededication are planned as part of Girl Scout get-togethers, such as day or resident camp or intertroop get-togethers.

### WHAT IS INCLUDED

As with all Girl Scout ceremonies, the actual form and content of a rededication will vary according to the wishes and needs of the girls who plan and participate in it. Wherever or whenever the ceremony is held, participation will be most enriching if there are opportunities for each girl:

### **TO CLARIFY PERSONAL VALUES AND BELIEFS**

Re-examination of the Promise gives girls a chance to ask themselves questions about themselves and the things they value. “Do I believe in these ideals (beliefs, values of acting)? Am I willing to try to live up to them? What difference, if any, does/could making this Promise (or following these Laws) make to me? To my life? To others?” Leaders and girls together might explore questions like these that help everyone to get to the heart of the matter. There are no “right answers” to these kinds of questions. They provide a practical way to move beyond passive acceptance or unexamined words and phrases. Such exploration may lead a girl to a reaffirmation of beliefs and attitudes already held, to further exploration, or to possible changes in outlook.

## TO GAIN PERSPECTIVE AND INSPIRATION

Rededication offers a time and a setting for a girl to pause and take a new look inward (to herself) and outward (to the world around her)... perhaps to see herself as more mature in many ways, perhaps to think about the kind of person she wants to be – now and in the future. She can sense the stimulation of trying to live up to ideals she chooses as her own. She can gain strength from the heightened awareness that she is not alone. Others, like herself, are engaged in the challenging, sometimes confusing effort to discover for themselves values that will guide their lives. She can sense the “trust” that others (adults and peers) place in her ability to resolve, with help, the many problems of what to believe and how to act.

## TO EXPRESS FEELINGS, UNDERSTANDINGS, CONCERNS, ASPIRATIONS

Girls need a chance to express and share personal reactions to the Promise and Laws, not just to “think about” them. Through Rededication, girls can describe, explain, and question their understanding in terms meaningful to them according to their ages, their situations and experiences, and in their own language. (What does loyal mean to me? not What do they mean by loyal?). Such deep personal expression does not always come easily. Girls may need help and patient encouragement to realize that it is “all right” to voice their inner wonderings or to give shape to their convictions or concerns through writing, painting, drama, or in song.

## TO IDENTIFY AVENUES FOR ACTION

The Girl Scout Promise and Laws are meant to serve as guidelines for action. Each girl needs opportunities to consider some of the specific ways of acting that are implied in the beliefs in which she places value. (“If I truly believe in this ideal, how should I show it?”) Such considerations may lead to closer examination of what a specific Law or a part of the Promise can mean in everyday action, or to individual decisions as to ways to demonstrate, strengthen, or test understandings and beliefs.

## HOW IT HAPPENS

1. ENCOURAGE GIRLS TO PLAN THEIR OWN CEREMONY, using their own thoughts, words, and reflections, their own methods of expression. Original or favorite poetry or prose, questions to ponder, statements about individual action to be taken – all can be used by girls to make their ceremony more special and meaningful to them. In a combined Investiture and Rededication, encourage girl planners to make Rededication a distinct portion of the ceremony, rather than just a unison recitation of the Promise tacked on at the end of the Investiture.

2. KEEP THE FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL GIRL and her examination and understanding of the Promise and Laws. Although most re-examination, sharing and reinforcement of the beliefs are part of a group process, commitment to ideals is essentially an individual undertaking. Take this opportunity to help girls see that each person’s life is made up of different experiences, different ways of looking at themselves and others, different ways of discovering and expressing what is important to them.

3. **KEEP THE PERSONAL TONE.** A rededication ceremony can lose its value and meaning if it is allowed to become a “show” or a “production” or an “audience”. If parents or others attend, help the girls indicate by tone of the invitation and atmosphere of the ceremony itself, the highly personal nature of the occasion.

Rededication offers special opportunities for leaders too: opportunities to discover more about each girl as an individual, her hopes, understandings, wonderings and beliefs, and how these affect her growth as a person and her relations with other; opportunities for her, as a leader, to re-examine her own feelings and attitudes toward the concepts expressed in the Girl Scout Promise. Through deeper understanding of herself and girls, a leader can better prepare to develop the kind of dialogue young people want and need to help them clarify their own values and deal creatively with the conflicting attitudes and beliefs that affect their lives.

## **SAMPLE JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT INVESTITURE/REDEDICATION**

Troop stands in a horseshoe formation. Girls have been assigned parts. Table at open end of horseshoe with three large and ten small candles in holders. One girl has taper or pilot candle and matches.

Girl 1 calls names of new members and asks them all to step forward. (Patrol Leaders can escort them and assist leader in presentation of pins.) Girl 1 asks new girls to say the Promise together. She presents each girl with her pin and welcomes her with the Girl Scout handshake. Girls return to horseshoe.

Girl 1: At a rededication ceremony we all renew our acceptance of the Girl Scout Promise. Today we light candles to indicate our belief in the Promise and Law and our intent to live up to these principles.

Girl 2: The three large candles we light represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. (3 girls step forward; Girl 2 lights taper and hands it to the first girl.)

Girl 3: The first candle shines as a symbol that a Girl Scout promises first to serve her God. (Lights candle with taper; hands taper to second girl.)

Girl 4: May the light of the second candle shine as a symbol that a Girl Scout wishes to serve her country and mankind. (Lights candle; passes taper)

Girl 5: And may the third candle shine as a symbol that a Girl Scout is true to the ideals as interpreted by the Girl Scout Law. (Lights candle, extinguishes taper and returns it to Girl 2.)

Girls return to horseshoe. Girl 1 asks troop to repeat the Promise together.

Girl 2: The Girl Scout Law has ten parts, each represented by a small candle on our table. (Ten girls step forward. Girl 1 relights taper and gives to Girl 2.)

Girl 2: A Girl Scout does her best...

Girl 3: to be honest (continue to light candles and pass taper in turn)

Girl 4: to be fair

Girl 5: to help where needed

Girl 6: to be cheerful

Girl 7: to be friendly and considerate

Girl 8: to be a sister to every Girl Scout

Girl 9: to use resources wisely

Girl 10: to protect and improve the world around me

Girl 11: to show respect for myself and others through my words and actions

Girls return to horseshoe.

All sing "When E'er you Make a Promise"

\*\*\*Remember to be safety-wise with lighted candles!

## REDEDICATION CEREMONY

Each girl holds a lighted candle. When the ceremony is used at a Father-Daughter Banquet, it is suggested that each father there should light his daughter's candle.

- Leader: We see before us the candle symbolizing the light of Girl Scouting. This light glows as we glow in the spirit of our ethical code. We have all said we will keep the Promise and Laws as our guides. They help us to follow the right course and let our light shine in the world.
- Girl: Wisdom. Wisdom is putting the right use to the knowledge we gain in our Scouting experience.
- All: In our flame we see...
- Girl: Courage. Courage is the strength we gain from each other; the ability to live according to the code of conduct spelled out in our Promise and Laws.
- All: In our flame we see...
- Girl: Faith. We need faith in each other, our leaders, our family, our future. Through Girl Scouting we acquire the faith that will make our world a better place for all of us.
- All: In our flame we see...
- Girl: Self-control. Self-control is always an important part of our lives. We try to gain control of ourselves in all aspects of life – at school, at home, on the playground, and in the troop.
- All: In our flame we see...
- Girl: Responsibility. We know that with every right there is a responsibility. We cannot grow in freedom until we learn that true freedom only comes to those who give it to others.
- All: In our flame we see...
- Girl: Love. There are many kinds of love: Love of God, Love of family and home, Love of fellow man, Love of Country. Love is the most powerful force in the world.

IN THE SPIRIT OF REDEDICATION, LET US REPEAT THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE.

(BENTWATERS/Woodbridge Neighborhood)

## CANDLELIGHT REDEDICATION AND/OR AWARDS CEREMONY

Girl Scouts renew their dedication to the Girl Scout Promise and Law anytime, but especially at a re-registration time. Some troops include their leaders, or other adult volunteers.

NEEDS:       Order ahead of time any pins, stars, badges, etc.  
              1 large candle  
              Matches  
              Candle snuffer  
              11 girls to participate  
              13 candles

The troop stands in a horseshoe, with a table at the open end. On the table there are 13 candles in holders and one large candle, designated as the “honor” or “Girl Scout” candle placed on one side.

Leader:       (lights large candle) This golden flame symbolizes a Girl Scouts honor, which must never be dimmed. When a girl makes the Girl Scout Promise, on her honor, she is placing here, before all those present, HER HONOR the brightest thing in her life.

Girl 1:        The three candles in the center represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. (From the large candle light each candle separately.) On my honor, I will try, to serve God (light first candle) and my country, to help people at all times (light second candle) and to live by the Girl Scout Law. (light third candle).

Girl 2:        The other ten candles represent the Girl Scout Law, Which says:  
I will do my best: to be honest (light the candle nearest to the center)

Girl 3:        I will do my best to be fair. (Lights candle nearest center on the other side)

Girl 4:        I will do my best to help where I am needed. (Remaining candles are lit in turn, lighting the nearest to the center and alternating sides, always lighting from the large candle).

Girl 5:        I will do my best to be cheerful

Girl 6:        I will do my best to be friendly and considerate

Girl 7:        I will do my best to be a sister to every Girl Scout

Girl 8:        I will do my best to respect authority

Girl 9:        I will do my best to use resources wisely

Girl 10:       I will do my best to protect and improve the world around me

Girl 11:       I will do my best to show respect for myself and others through my words and actions.

Leader:       Let’s sing “When E’er You Make a Promise”

Leader:       I’d like to present each of you with your membership star and disc. (Or other awards) Congratulate each girl on her achievement(s).

(Put out the candles with a snuffer)

The following are some suggestions for types of Investiture Ceremonies:

### **TRAIL INVESTITURES**

An outdoor investiture which may be held at the end of the trail. The trail might be marked in a number of ways by those who are already Girl Scouts, and followed by those who are to be invested. The trail signs could be traditional pioneer or Indian markings, or the end of the trail could be reached by nature or treasure hunts. In addition, there might be series of drawings representing each part of the Girl Scout Law. The followers would guess each part of the Law represented before proceeding. When the girls gather, the Law would be repeated in a simple Investiture Ceremony.

### **INTERNATIONAL INVESTITURES**

The World Flag might be used in an international ceremony. One can be checked out at the Council office. The leader should explain that the trefoil on the flag is used by the Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world to signify the three parts of the promise; that the two stars represent the Promise and Law, which are practically the same all over the world; that the compass needle, the sign of the North, indicates that we follow a true course; and that the base of the stalk symbolizes the flame of the love for mankind which Girl Scouts and Girl Guides try to keep burning, no matter how hard the winds of discord may blow. A Ceremony or short dramatization with an international theme may precede the investiture or a depiction of international Girl Guiding might be used as a background for the ceremony.

### **INVESTITURE CEREMONY**

(Girl Scouts in horseshoe formation, leader and assistant leader in front, facing group. Assistant leader holds a lighted candle and has Girl Scout pins at hand.)

Leader: Today you are to receive the Girl Scout pin. Before you do so you must know its significance. It is called a “trefoil”, which means it has three parts. Each part stands for one part of the Promise. (Holding up the pin and pointing to each section in turn )

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

Our motto is “Be Prepared”

Our slogan – Do a good turn daily. (Assistant leader hands lighted candle to leader)

Our Law is: (Then one girl with an unlighted candle steps forward to the leader and repeats the first part of the law. When she has finished, the leader lights the girl’s candle from her own. The girl steps to the right of the leader, two steps in front, facing the troop. A second girl steps forward to the leader and repeats the second part of the law, lights her candle from the leader’s, steps to the left of the leader in line with first girl. Continue until all parts of the law have been repeated and five girls with lighted candles stand on each side of leader. Leader hands her candle to troop committee member and with help from assistant, who holds pin in readiness, puts pins on new Scouts. If the whole troop is to receive them, she puts them first on girls standing in horseshoe and then on girls holding candles.

## ADULT CANDLE CEREMONY

Opening:

Leader 1: Tonight we will light candles – symbolizing the commitment that we, as adults make to Girl Scouts. These candles represent our initial acceptance or our rededication to the ideals and goals of the Girl Scout organization.

Leader 2: The first candle represents service. We understand that as members of our community it is our responsibility to assist the community to progress positively. Our presence here tonight indicates our enthusiasm to serve.

Leader 3: The second candle represents our willingness to be a resource for those who need our help. We help our families, our troops, and those in need. We accept leadership and are willing to be an example to others.

Leader 4: The third candle represents a commitment to the moral values of the Girl Scout Law. By volunteering to lead – we provide a positive role model to our troops. Leading by example allows us to pass this legacy to young women – who will be leaders of the future.

Leader 5: Please join me in renewing our commitment with the Girl Scout Promise. On my honor, I will try, to serve God and my country, To help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Closing:

Leader 6: As we extinguish the candles symbolizing service, leadership and character – let each leader pass the spark or renewed dedication. Please join with me in singing.

## ADULT REDEDICATION CEREMONY

All: We, the member of The Girl Scouts of the United States of America, united by a belief in God and by acceptance of the Girl Scout promise and Law, do dedicate ourselves to the purpose of inspiring girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens.

Our creator, we are grateful to Thee for this opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the service of the youth who will guide the world in the years to come.

Group 1: Grant us joy and satisfaction in Girl Scout leadership and give us the imagination to see the world through the eyes of the girls we lead.

Group 2: Grant us the vision of what these girls we lead may become.

Group 1: Give us the patience and wisdom to guide the very young ones in the paths of simple goodness according to the Girl Scout Promise.

Group 2: Bless us with the imagination to open the doors of adventure and high daring to the young Girl Scouts so that their lives may be touched with color and beauty, with creativity, friendship and the love of people.

Group 1: Make us generous in sharing this happiness so that all girls may find a warm welcome in our troops.

Group 2: Help us to bind them together with strong ties of love and understanding, with fun and activity and accomplishments so they will return to us year after year.

Group 1: When they reach the age of Senior Scouts, grant that we may stand beside them and help them to realize the high ideals of faith and hope for the future.

Group 2: Grant that we may nurture in them the awareness and acceptance of the diversity of all and appreciation for each person's contribution.

Group 1: Do not let them fall away, but rather increase in number, for these are their most significant years.

ALL: And give us at last the deep joy that comes from unselfish service to those who come after us, that the world may be better for our having lived upon it.

As we return to our homes, grant us the wisdom and strength to take up our part in Girl Scouting and the life our communities with the renewed love and faith that comes from this, our sincere rededication.

## OPENING AND CLOSINGS

A ceremony is one of many ways to open or close a troop meeting.

Some troops like a special ceremony to show when the meeting really begins, especially if they arrive at different times. Such ceremonies are usually very short and simple. This may just involve lining up at the door and skipping around into a circle to sing a favorite song. It may be forming a horseshoe for a formal roll call and collection of dues. Most girls enjoy a very simple flag ceremony, so they will all have a chance to participate. A Scouts' Own is another good way to open a meeting. Each week a different Junior patrol could plan the opening and closing ceremony before the meeting begins.

To close a meeting the girls can straighten up the room, get their wraps on, collect things, and have a ceremony that takes them out of the troop room and starts them on their way home. Make it quiet and serious enough to give them a thought for all the way home.

Example:

Skipping around the room in pairs, while singing one of their favorite songs. Then: Sing Taps (daylight version): "Thanks and praise for our days, 'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars 'neath the sky. As we go, this we know, God is nigh."

Another idea:

The girls could hum Taps and one of the girls could read this poem:  
"Not what we have, but what we use,  
Not what we see, but what we choose –  
These are the things that mar or bless  
The sum of Human Happiness."

C. Urmy

## **JUNIOR COURT OF AWARDS**

Purpose: This script can be used as part of a Court of Awards ceremony when Junior or Cadette Girl Scouts receive badges. It will help convey the importance and significance of badges to the girls and the audience.

\*Brownie/Cadette/Senior leaders: Can you adapt this for use when girls receive Try-Its, interest project patches or other recognitions?

Directions: The leader(s) may draw each letter on a piece of cardboard and tape explanations to audience or it may be more appropriate to have troop members participate.

- B** stands for badges to be awarded today. What is a badge? An outward sign of an inner accomplishment.
- A** awards given at the Court of Awards. Here we do not reward you for the badge itself, but what the badge represents. It means new knowledge; new skills learned; discipline required to complete requirements; 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 most of all the earning of badges shows growth (another G). Growth as an individual in becoming an increasingly worthwhile person 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 must present challenges and difficulties and satisfaction in accomplishment.
- S** stands for many things. Service to others should be one aim in life. Self-development for the life you now lead and for the future. Most important, perhaps, is self-respect – the way you feel about yourself as a person.

Self-respect comes from setting high goals and ideal and striving ever to reach them. Self-respect comes from accepting yourself for what you are – not for what you wish you were – but all the while developing your talents and strengthening your weaknesses.

Aim your thinking and acting toward the good things in life, and you will develop strength of character. Then you will be able to take pride in yourself and so enjoy the sense of well-being known as self-respect.

And so we have badges to be given today in the Court of Awards. Your leader(s) know the work you have done to receive them. We know how eager you are to wear them, and it is with great pride and feeling of accomplishment that we present them to you today.

Adapted from material written by June Rainey

## AWARD CEREMONY FOR JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS

This ceremony can be held any time of the year, possibly twice a year, or even monthly. (Keep in mind it does take time for girls to work on their badges or any other recognition they might earn.)

NEEDS: (Order badges ahead of time!)  
Invitations to parents  
3 red sashes (easy to make out of red material cut in long strips)  
With a small group it's nice to serve refreshments (Make it finger food)  
3 girls – for the flag ceremony

Girls form a horseshoe up front (always make the open end toward the audience).

Open: With a simple flag ceremony.  
First a color guard is chosen. If only the American flag is used, a guard of 3 is needed – the bearer, who carries the flag, may wear red sash over right shoulder tied in knot on left side. Two guards, who march on either side of the bearer, may wear red sash at the waist and tied on the left side. The flag is already up front in a stand.

The color guard remains outside of the horseshoe at a spot not too far away from the flag and come forward at the leaders signal.

Leader: Color, forward  
(the color guard salutes the flag, the bearer picks it up, and the color guard moves forward together facing the troop. The members of the color guard stand quietly at attention during the ceremony.)

Leader: Let us all say the Pledge of Allegiance (everyone recites the pledge).

Leader: Color guard dismissed.

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

Leader: (name of girl) has earned the (name of badge). (Ask her to tell something that she did to achieve the badge. Continue calling upon all the girls in the troop whom have earned badges.) Give congratulations and the Girl Scout handshake.

Leader: Let's say the Promise and Law.

Closing:

One of the girls: Thank the parents for coming and invite them to have refreshments.

## FLAG CEREMONY

A flag ceremony can be used as an opening, a closing, or as part of a larger ceremony or program. Girl Scouts usually assemble in a horseshoe formation. The Color Guard is the group of girls who carry out the ceremony. It is made up of:

1. Girl Scout-in-Charge - Who stands at the head of the horseshoe and gives the commands
2. Color Bearer - Who carries the flag
3. Color Guards - Who protect the flag (two or more girls walking in pairs directly behind the Bearer, or directly to the side of her.)

The troop stands quietly at attention, with nothing in their hands. During the ceremony the Color Guard does not participate, but stands in silence.

The Girl Scout-in-Charge calls:

“COLOR GUARD ADVANCE” – the guard comes forward with the flag to the open end of the horseshoe and halts.

“GIRL SCOUTS, THE FLAG OF YOUR COUNTRY, PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE” – Girl Scout-in-Charge leads the pledge. Guard neither salutes nor speaks.

(Optional) “WE WILL NOW SING AMERICA (or other song)” – Girl Scout-in-Charge or troop leader should start song.

(Optional) “WE WILL NOW SAY THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE” – Girl Scout-in-Charge gives the Girl Scout salute and leads the Promise.

“COLOR GUARD, POST THE COLORS” – the bearer steps forward, places the flag in the stand and steps back into position.

“COLOR GUARD, SALUTE” – the guards and bearer briefly salute together (Civilian salute, hand over heart).

“COLOR GUARD, OPEN RANK” – when the color guards are walking directly behind the bearer in pairs, they each take one step to their outside at this command. If they are to the side of bearer, this command is not given.

“COLOR GUARD, DISMISSED” – the color bearer turns and walks between the guards; the guards turn and follow her out of the horseshoe. If the guards are to the sides of the bearer, on this command, together they wheel to the right and walk from the horseshoe.

\*\* If you do not wish to post the colors, omit “post” and “salute” commands. Use “open rank” followed by “Color guard, retire the colors” in place of “dismissed”. The flag is then carried out to be folded and put away.

If more than one flag is used, the American flag is the first to be brought in and the last to be posted. No other flag can be higher or on the right side of the American flag.

The Color Bearer may wear a red sash over her right shoulder, tied in a square knot on the left side of her waist. Guards may also wear red sashes around their waists, tied in a square knot on the left side.

For more information on flag etiquette and ceremonies, see the Junior Handbook or Daisy Leader’s Guide.

## FLAG CEREMONY

Flag recipe: 6 girls  
1 cup red chips (or red crepe paper)  
1 cup of blue chips  
1 cup chips  
Stars  
Large pot  
American flag  
Large spoons

It is suggested that the six girls stand in a horseshoe around the pot, facing the group.

SCRIPT: Each girl reads a part and adds her ingredient to the pot where the flag is folded and hidden.

1. We are going to fix for you a treat that is really grand, and make for you a recipe – the greatest in the land.
2. In first we will put a heaping cup of red for courage true.
3. And then we will add for loyalty a dash of heavenly blue.
4. For purity, we will now sift in a layer of snowy white.
5. We will sprinkle in a pinch of stars, (glitter or cut out stars) to make it come out right.
6. We will stir and stir and then you will see that what we have made is...

ALL: “OLD GLORY”

All put out folded flag from bottom of pot and hold up for the pledge of allegiance and song, if desired.

ALL: Our flag is the most beautiful flag in the world. Let us always be loyal to it.

Girls should hold up flag high, horizontally, facing the audience, with the field of blue and stars to their right, the audience’s left.

OR

For an outside ceremony, girls pull flag from pot, post on flag pole, and caller leads group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **THE OUTDOOR FLAG CEREMONY**

<b>COLOR BEARER</b>	The red sash, if worn, goes over the right shoulder and is tied with a square knot at the waist under the left arm.
<b>COLOR GUARD</b>	Red sashes, if worn, are tied around the waist on the left side. There are generally four guards but there may be two, six, or eight.
<b>FORMATION</b>	The camp proceeds in a single file and forms a horseshoe around the flagpole and stands at attention.
<b>THE CALLS</b>	<p>The caller, who is standing in the horseshoe formation near the flagpole, directs the ceremony with the following calls:</p> <p>Girl Scouts Attention Color Guard Attention Color Guard Advance – the bearer and the guards walk with the bearer in front and the guards immediately behind the pairs. They take their position in front of the flagpole and stand at attention facing the pole during the entire event. Color Guard Post Your Colors Color Guard Salute Please Join Me In The Pledge Of Allegiance – (or whatever your ceremony consists of) Color Guard Retreat Color Guard Dismissed Girl Scouts Dismissed</p>
<b>SILENCE</b>	There is absolute silence from the time the camp moves forward until it returns to the starting point. The Color Guard is the “official Guardian” of the flag, and does not sing, speak or salute during the ceremony. They do a short salute after raising or before lowering the flag.
<b>CEREMONY</b>	The ceremony takes place after the flag has been raised or before it is lowered. The ceremony itself varies but often consists of the Pledge of Allegiance, the Promise and Law, patriotic or nature poetry, and songs.
<b>SALUTE</b>	The camp gives salutes to the Colors from the moment the flag starts upward, holding the salute until it reaches the top. At Retreat the full salute begins the moment the flag starts down.
<b>HOW TO</b>	When saluting, the color guard steps back one full step (both feet) and salute in unison. This can be done easily with a count: One – right foot back, two – left foot back.

RAISING OR  
LOWERING

The clasps on the rope should be the same distance apart as the eyelets in the flag. All clasps should be fastened on the flag before it is started upward. At Colors one guard may hold the flag as the Color-Bearer attaches it to the rope before raising it briskly to the top. At Retreat, the first two color guards may step forward to catch the flag as it is lowered so that it does not touch the ground. The upper corner of the flag should be in the Color-Bearers hands before she unfastens the clasps.

FOLDING

The flag is held by the Color Guard with the blue field nearest the flagpole. It is folded lengthwise in half, then again lengthwise in half, folding the blue field underneath toward the outside. The last couple (farthest away from the pole) begin folding the flag in a triangle. They fold until they can pass it on to other members of the Color Guard. This continues until the flag is in a triangle preferable with no red showing.

PLACING  
FOLDED  
FLAG

The Color Guard resumes its original position. One member of the first couple steps up in front of the Color-Bearer with folded flag. She places it in the Bearer's outstretched hands so that it can be carried point forward, then return to her position.

RETURN

After the ceremony one of the ways the Color Guard may retire is as follows: the Color-Bearer does a right-about face. At the same time two of the guards turn left and face in, the other two turn right and face in. The Bearer walks forward between the lines, the first two guards fall in back of the Bearer, and the second two guards follow. Color Guard leaves the field ahead of the others in formation and the campers fall in behind.

## **FLAG CEREMONY**

### **PERSONS NEEDED:**

**COLOR CAPTAIN:** The one who gives the commands.

**AMERICAN FLAG BEARER:** The one who carries the flag.

**STANDARD BEARER:** The one who carries the flag stand.

**COLOR GUARD:** All participants who are “guarding” the flag.

### **PRESENTING THE COLORS:**

The color captain comes in first, and walks to the **LEFT** to her place about midway between the audience and the place where the American Flag is to be posted, but also about in line with the outer row of seats of the audience (so that she does not block anyone’s view, yet can be seen by all.)

### **THESE ARE THE COMMANDS:**

**COLOR GUARD – ADVANCE!**

**COLOR GUARD – HALT!**

**COLOR GUARD – PRESENT THE COLORS!**

(At this point, the American flag bearer and her standard bearer come forward and face the audience at the place where the flag is to be posted.)

Then the color captain says:

**GIRL SCOUTS (OR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN), THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY!  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE!**

Everyone in the area **EXCEPT THE COLOR GUARD AND THE FLAG BEARER** repeats the pledge, then continue:

**COLOR GUARD – POST THE COLORS!**

(The American flag is now posted. The two bearers take two steps back from the flag. Now the entire color guard gives the “silent salute”, led by the color captain.)

**COLOR GUARD – OPEN RANKS!**

(Each line of girls takes one step to the side, away from each other.)

**COLOR GUARD – DISMISSED!**

(The American flag bearer and her standard bearer walk over and march out between the lines, with each girl in each line pivoting in pairs and following them out of the area. The color captain follows the last color guard out.)

**RETIRING THE COLORS:**

The color captain comes in first and takes her place to the **RIGHT**, about opposite of her position when presenting the colors.

These are the commands:

**COLOR GUARD – FORMATIONS!** (Is everyone ready?)

**COLOR GUARD – ADVANCE!**

**COLOR GUARD – HALT!**

**COLOR GUARD – RETIRE THE COLORS!**

(The American flag bearer and her standard bearer come forward and pick up the American flag and standard and stand there, facing the audience. At this time the audience should rise. If TAPS or song is planned, now is the time.)

**COLOR GUARD – OPEN RANKS!**

(Each line of girls takes one step to the side, away from each other.)

**COLOR GUARD – DISMISSED!**

(The American flag bearer and her standard bearer walk over and march between the lines of girls, with each girl in each line pivoting in pairs and following them out of the area. The color captain follows the last guard out.)

## **DAISY BRIDGING CEREMONY**

- 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 the Daisy level of Girl Scouts to Brownie level of Girl Scouts. (see Leader’s Guide)
- Where:** At your meeting place, at school, at 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” (Leader’s Guide), 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 perhaps receive a “World Association Pin”. (You may prefer to wait for this because there is a separate ceremony for it and it might be more meaningful when the girls are a bit older.)
- How:**

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

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

### **OPENING:**

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

### **CELEBRATION:**

Flag ceremony or Pledge of Allegiance to the flag  
Say the Girl Scout Promise together (Leader’s Guide explains how to hold hands)  
Leader could read the Girl Scout Law  
Have each girl tell what her favorite part of Daisy Girl Scouts was and what she looks forward to as a Brownie Girl Scout.  
Have each girl walk across “bridge”  
Give each girl an “Ending Certificate”, a Membership Star and blue disc, a Brownie Girl Scout pin  
Greet each girl with a Girl Scout handshake (Leader’s Guide)  
Sing the “Brownie Smile Song” (in Brownie Handbook & Daisy HELP packet)

### **CLOSING:**

Form a circle  
Sing “Make New Friends” (you might want to learn a second verse also – “A circle’s round, It has no end. That’s how long I want to be your friend.”)  
Sing “Taps”  
Do a friendship squeeze around the circle (Leader’s Guide)  
Dismiss

Refreshments are optional but they add a nice touch.

## **DAISY GIRL SCOUT BRIDGING CEREMONY**

Each Daisy Girl Scout who is bridging receives a daisy.

**OLDER GIRL:** These flowers represent the spirit of Girl Scouting (Each Daisy Girl Scout takes a flower and says part of the Girl Scout Law.) An older Girl Scout explains the meaning of each part.

**DAISY GIRL:** I will do my best: To be honest.

**OLDER GIRL:** This means that you will always tell the truth and that you won't use things that belong to others without their permission..

**DAISY GIRL:** To be fair.

**OLDER GIRL:** This means you will share things and will take turns with others.

**DAISY GIRL:** To help where I am needed.

**OLDER GIRL:** 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:** To be cheerful.

**OLDER GIRL:** This means you will be a good winner or loser when playing and that you will help others feel better if they are not happy.

**DAISY GIRL:** To be friendly and considerate.

**OLDER GIRL:** This means you will ask a new girl to play with you and that you will be polite and thoughtful of others.

**DAISY GIRL:** To be a sister to every Girl Scout.

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

**DAISY GIRL:** To respect authority.

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

**DAISY GIRL:** To use resources wisely.

**OLDER GIRL:** 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:** To protect and improve the world around me.

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

**DAISY GIRL:** To show respect for myself and others through my words and actions.

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

The next three flowers represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

**DAISY GIRL:** 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.

## FLY UP CEREMONY

(Choose flowers, with perhaps a daisy for Juliette Low) – Pledge of Allegiance – Song:  
“When E’er You Make a Promise”

**JUNIOR:** These flowers (or candles) represent the spirit of Girl Scouting. (Each Brownie takes a flower or lights a candle and says a part of the Law. A Junior explains the meaning of each part.)

**BROWNIE:** I will do my best: To be honest.

**JUNIOR:** This means that the Girl Scouts can count on you to obey all the rules and laws and to live up to our Promise.

**BROWNIE:** To be fair.

**JUNIOR:** This means that you will always be fair to your troop, your leader, your home, your church, your school, your community, your state, your teachers and your friends.

**BROWNIE:** To help where I am needed.

**JUNIOR:** This means that you will be cheerful and willing to help everyone.

**BROWNIE:** To be cheerful.

**JUNIOR:** This means that you will do what is asked of you in your home, and your troop and other places without complaining.

**BROWNIE:** To be friendly and considerate.

**JUNIOR:** This means that you will be kind to everyone, not just a few, even when you feel cross and tired.

**BROWNIE:** To be a sister to every Girl Scout.

**JUNIOR:** This means you will always remember that all other Girl Scouts deserve special treatment from you because our Girl Scout bond makes us sisters.

**BROWNIE:** To respect authority.

**JUNIOR:** This means that as a Girl Scout you will always be responsive to those in authority.

**BROWNIE:** To use resources wisely.

**JUNIOR:** This means that you will not waste your money, time, energy, supplies, natural resources or skills.

**BROWNIE:** To protect and improve the world around me.

**JUNIOR:** This means that a Girl Scout will conserve and help to better our natural resources, our environment, and to promote world friendship through the Girl Guide and Girl Scout programs.

BROWNIE: To show respect for myself and others through my words and actions.  
JUNIOR: This means that you will show concern for your own development as well as for the well-being of others.

BROWNIE: Do a good turn daily.  
Be Prepared.

JUNIOR: The next three flowers represent the three parts of our Promise.

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

(This ceremony may also be used for Investiture)

## **FLY-UP BRIDGING**

The Fly-Up Ceremony is a very important moment for the Brownie Girl Scout, and every leader wants it to run smoothly. Planning is the key. This ceremony may be planned jointly by the Brownie troop and the Junior sister troop into which the girls are going, or by either one or the other troop. Ideally, both troops will be present at the ceremony. This is a double ceremony: the fly-up from Brownie troop, and rededication to Girl Scouting. Both Brownie and Junior leaders participate. The following are the essential parts of the Fly-Up Ceremony:

1. The girl receives Brownie Wings from her Brownie leader.
2. She rededicates herself to Girl Scouting by making the Girl Scout Promise.

Keep in mind that the Fly-Up is a private ceremony in which the girl makes a serious personal promise. A small, intimate ceremony with family and friends is often the most effective. The plan should be simple and, if at all possible, girl planned. Share your ideas.

Junior Girl Scouts extend the hand of welcome to Brownie Girl Scouts who are getting ready to cross the bridge (Fly-Up) to their troop. Brownies need to learn all they can about Junior Girl Scouting before they cross that Bridge.

Sister Junior troops should invite the Brownies who are about to become Juniors to attend at least one troop meeting so they can see what a Junior troop meeting is like. Depending upon the number of Brownies involved, a regular demonstration of Junior Scouting could be set up, or Brownies could be paired with experienced Juniors who can interpret informally as the meeting progresses.

Brownies do not use the patrol system. A chance to attend a patrol meeting and see it in operation first hand means much more to the girls than an explanation.

## **BRIDGING**

Bridging is an ongoing activity. Wherever two girls or more of different age levels come together, they are participating in a bridging activity. It is important to understand that bridging should and does take place all year round. It is not intended to be exclusive to the end of the troop year.

Here again, planning is the key to a successful bridging activity. Each girl gains from the personal contact with other Girl Scouts. This can be accomplished in several ways. The following is a suggested list:

- Brownies have a party for older scouts.
- Include another troop in your holiday parties.
- Explain you uniform and insignia to a younger troop.
- Invite a Senior Scout to your meeting to tell what a Senior Scout does.

## **FLY-UP CEREMONY**

Brownies form a circle on the left; Juniors form a horseshoe on the right; the bridge is in-between.

Juniors do the Flag ceremony, Pledge to the Flag and song (audience participation).

Juniors do the candle lighting ceremony (3 girls say the Promise and light the candles, 10 girls say the parts of the Law and light the candles.)

Juniors sing: “When E’er You Make a Promise”. Girls return to horseshoe.

Brownies sing the “Smile Song”

Brownie leaders say to Fly-Up Brownies:

Brownies, you are just about to become Junior Scouts. 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.

Brownie leader approaches the bridge and calls the name of a fly-up.

Brownie troop says: Now it’s time to say good-bye, break the ring and out you fly. (Girl leaves the ring and goes to Brownie leader who hands the girl wings and offers the Girl Scout Handshake. This can be done one Brownie at a time or all Brownies that are flying-up can leave the ring together but then cross the bridge one at a time.)

Brownie then crosses the bridge where she is met by a Junior who introduces herself and escorts her to the Junior Leader. After the Junior introduces the Brownie to the Junior leader, the leader pins her with the Girl Scout Pin. Both girls then return to the Junior horseshoe. (The Brownie can be met at the other side of the bridge and receive her Girl Scout Pin from the Junior Leader and then be escorted by a sister Junior Girl Scout to the horseshoe.)

When all Fly-Up Brownies are bridged, all Girl Scouts will repeat the Girl Scout Promise.

## **BRIDGE/FLY-UP CEREMONY**

- Master of Ceremonies:** Greetings to all of you and a very warm welcome to our Fly-Up Ceremony.
- MC:** The Fly-Up Ceremony is a special time when Brownie Girl Scouts become Junior Girl Scouts. So, Brownies prepare to fly over the bridge to the Junior level of Girl Scouting and Junior Girl Scouts prepare to receive your sister Brownie Girl Scout.  
Brownies, please form your Brownie ring. (Brownies form a circle)
- Leader:** A Fly-Up Ceremony symbolizes the continuity of Girl Scouting as our girls progress from Brownies to Juniors. For the Brownies it is a time to anticipate the new horizons they will explore when they bridge to the Junior age level.
- MC:** Fly-Ups, please take your position in the center of the Brownie ring. (In multi-age troops, girls not flying up form a ring with girls flying up standing in the center. In a single-age troop, all girls join hands in a ring.)
- Directions:** Each girl flies up one at a time. When the girl's name is called off, the remainder of the Brownies will say the following chant:  
Now it is time to say good-bye. Break the ring, and away you'll fly.  
The girl whose name has been called then goes to her leader, receives her wings and the Girl Scout handshake, and then crosses over the bridge.  
She is greeted by the Junior leader and Junior Girl Scout. She is given her Girl Scout pin and a daisy. She takes her place in the Junior troop.  
When the last Brownie fly-up crosses the bridge, the Juniors do a tribute to the new Juniors.
- MC:** And now, sister Girl Scouts – to give you the welcome you deserve into the world of Junior Girl Scouting, we present to you the letters of the Junior Girl Scouts with a special meaning for each.
- Directions:** One girl will carry each of the six letters of the word “Junior.” One will carry the word “Girls,” one will carry “Scouting”. As the MC reads the letter, the girls take their place. Girls with “Girl” and “Scouting” get in line after the others.
- MC:** J means you're JUST the one we've needed all these days.  
U is for the UPS and downs you'll have along life's way.  
N means we won't say NO to religion or to race.  
I means INTERNATIONAL Girl Guides in a far off place.  
O is for OPEN hearts and hands we extend to you.  
R means that we REALLY want you to try to like us too.
- Directions:** Add words “Girl” and “Scouting”. Ceremony is completed.

## FLY UP

A Brownie Girl Scout “flies up” to Junior Girl Scouts 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.  
              Brown construction paper (paper cut to represent stones, write the Girl Scout Law on each) or paper bags (same as above).  
              Cookies and Kool-aid (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.

Everyone sings “Girl Scouts Together” (or any other appropriate song).

“Girl Scouts together, that is our song  
Winding the old trails, 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. You’re ready now 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 could 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 (anchored with tape) and enter the horseshoe. With the Brownies facing the Juniors, the Girl Scout Sign is made (the middle three fingers of the right hand are raised and the little finger held down by the thumb), and the girls recite the Girl Scout Promise:

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

Have the Brownies and Juniors, facing one another, walk forward to the stepping stone with the first Girl Scout Law printed on it and have the girls say the Law. Now the next two girls come and stand on Law #2, continue until all the laws are said. If there are not enough girls in the troop, they may have to say the law by themselves.

I will do my best to be:       Honest and fair,  
  Friendly and helpful,  
  Considerate and caring,  
  Courageous and strong, and  
  Responsible for what I say and do,  
  And to respect myself and others,  
  Respect authority,  
  To use resources wisely,  
  Make the world a better place,  
  And be a sister to every Girl Scout.

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).

Leader:                       Let's all sing "Make New Friends"  
  "Make new friends  
  But keep the old  
  One is silver  
  And the other gold."

  "The circle 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 couple 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.

(Don't forget to thank your guests for coming. Announce the refreshment line – optional).

If you have invited guests it would be wise to have the girls practice to gain self-confidence. Each girl should know the exact order of events and exactly what she is to do.

## CANDLELIGHT REDEDICATION AND/OR AWARDS CEREMONY

Girl Scouts renew their dedication to the Girl Scout Promise and Law anytime, but especially at a re-registration time. Some troops include their leaders, or other adult volunteers.

NEEDS:       Order ahead of time any pins, stars, badges, etc.  
              1 large candle  
              Matches  
              Candle snuffer  
              11 girls to participate  
              13 candles

The troop stands in a horseshoe, with a table at the open end. On the table there are 13 candles in holders and one large candle, designated as the “honor” or “Girl Scout” candle places on one side.

Leader:       (Lights large candle) This golden flame symbolizes a Girl Scouts honor, which must never be dimmed. When a girl makes the Girl Scout Promise, on her honor, she is placing here, before all those present, HER HONOR the brightest thing in her life.

1<sup>st</sup> girl:       The 3 candles in the center represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. (From the large candle light each candle separately.) On my honor, I will try to serve God (light first candle) and my country, to help people at all times (light second candle) and to live by the Girl Scout Law (light third candle).

2<sup>nd</sup> girl:       The other ten candles represent the Girl Scout Law, which says:  
I will do my best: to be honest and fair (light the candle nearest the center).

3<sup>rd</sup> girl:       I will do my best to be friendly and helpful (lights candle nearest center on other side).

4<sup>th</sup> girl:       I will do my best to be considerate and caring (remaining candles are lit in turn, lighting the nearest to the center and alternating sides, always lighting from the large candle).

5<sup>th</sup> girl:       I will do my best to be courageous and strong.

6<sup>th</sup> girl:       I will do my best to be responsible for what I say and do.

7<sup>th</sup> girl:       I will do my best to respect myself and others.

8<sup>th</sup> girl:       I will do my best to respect authority.

9<sup>th</sup> girl:       I will do my best to use resources wisely.

10<sup>th</sup> girl:      I will do my best to make the world a better place.

11<sup>th</sup> girl:      I will do my best to be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Leader:       Let’s sing “When E’er You Make a Promise”  
“When e’er you make a promise, consider well its importance. And when made, engrave it upon your heart.”

Leader:       I’d like to present each of you with your membership star and disc (or other awards). (Congratulate each girl on her achievement(s).)

(Put out the candles with a snuffer)

## BRIDGING: NATURE – OUTSIDE

(Paint one block letter of the word N A T U R E on each of six cardboard squares. On the reverse side of each, print the speaker's part. Either put the letters on stakes and have speakers stand behind them, or have each girl hold her card. This ceremony needs a leader and six scouts.)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Junior: N stands for your name. Be proud of it. As you advance from Junior Scouts to Cadette Scouts, you will add new laurels to your name. Everything you do affects your good name and your family.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior: A is for attitude. As sunlight is essential to growth, so attitude affects your spirit. Girl Scouts with the right attitude are friendly, fair, and helpful.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Junior: T stands for task. As the beaver works hard at his task, so does each Girl Scout.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Junior: U stands for usefulness. Just as animals and birds are judged by their usefulness, so your place in life depends on your usefulness.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Junior: R means that you are ready. As the squirrel gathers food for future use, so you have worked on your achievements getting ready for the day when you will become an adult.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Junior: E stands for energy. As the bee is never idle, so you keep busy giving goodwill.
- Leader: The letters on the cards spell NATURE – a precious gift to each of us. As you cross the bridge into Cadette Girl Scouting, you also possess gifts you may share with others. Learn what these gifts are and share them whenever possible.

## CADETTE BRIDGING CEREMONY

1. Cadettes stand in horseshoe, facing table.
2. Juniors stand in smaller horseshoe, in front of Cadettes.
3. Lights turned down:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Cadette: Welcome to Cadettes. Here is a new world of Girl Scouting for you, different from any you may have known before. Girl Scouting is a way of living up to the best of your abilities. It is a way of learning about yourself and about others.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Cadette: Cadette Girl Scouting is different because you are different. As a Brownie and Junior, you did a great many things under the guidance of your leaders. Now you are older and ready do more, much more, on your own.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Cadette: Cadette Girl Scouting is different because it brings you a program for deeper understanding of yourself, development of your special abilities – and more fun than ever.
4. Two Cadettes ask each Junior: “Why do you want to be a Cadette?”
5. After answering, each girl takes a small candle from the table, lights it from the large candle, and stands in front of the table facing the Cadettes.
6. When all Juniors are holding candles, everyone says the Girl Scout Promise together.

Cadette: “When you blow out your candle, you will be a Cadette.”
7. All form friendship circle. Sing “Make New Friends” and “Taps”, turn and leave.

## JULIETTE LOW FRIENDSHIP STORY

Actions: As the story is read,  
On **WORLD**, stand and spin around once.  
On **JULIETTE LOW**, join hands with persons on right and left.  
On **GIRL SCOUTING**, give a smile and Girl Scout sign.

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

Once upon a time, there was a lady whose name was **JULIETTE LOW**. She became interested in **GIRL 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 **GIRL SCOUTING** was a wonderful idea. When she returned to America, she decided to start a **GIRL SCOUT** troop. So on March 12, 1912 in her home town of Savannah, Georgia, **JULIETTE LOW** started the first **GIRL SCOUT** troop in this 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 goodwill.

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 is 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 SCOUT** from our country to Out Chalet, and international house in Switzerland, where **GIRL SCOUTS** from all over the **WORLD** get together to learn more about each other, or maybe you will be helping, with your money, to start new **GIRL SCOUT** troops in other countries.

No one knows to what part 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, as we give our money to the **JULIETTE LOW WORLD** Friendship Fund, that we are helping to spread **GIRL SCOUTING** around the **WORLD**.

## JULIETTE LOW

Girl Scouting was started in the United States in 1912 by a woman named Juliette Gordon Low (nicknamed Daisy). She is remembered as a woman who worked for peace and goodwill. Her dream was to have young people make the world a friendly, peaceful place. She once said, "I'm glad I was born on Halloween (October 31<sup>st</sup>), when everyone has fun, because it gave me a good reason to play with girls all my life."

This is a ceremony where you may want to invite other troops to help you celebrate, and have a birthday cake after the ceremony. (Especially if held on her birthday)

**NEEDS:** Order the World Association pins ahead of time!  
Three girls  
Basket (to hold money for Juliette Low Friendship Fund: decide ahead of time how much the girls will give a penny for every inch of your height, nickel for every inch around your waist, a dime for every year of your age)  
12 girls  
12 different colored candles (symbolic colors as below)  
Matches  
Candle snuffer  
Make out invitations inviting other troops  
Buy or make a birthday cake

1<sup>st</sup> girl: Juliette Low wished Girl Scouts could know Guides and scouts in other countries, so the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund was set up as a fitting tribute to her memory. It turns the idea of world friendship into a reality, and it expresses the faith and goodwill of every single Girl Scout.

2<sup>nd</sup> girl: Most of the money received goes to the Girl Scout International exchange plan, giving many Scouts and Guides a chance to learn about Girl Scouting in other countries. Some of it helps new troops in other parts of the world by providing books and training for leaders.

3<sup>rd</sup> girl: Helping with and being part of this international friendship fund will help spin the magic thread which links the youth of the world together.

Leader: As we walk around the basket let's all sing "Make New Friends"  
"Make new friends. But keep the old. One is silver and the other gold." (Repeat until everyone has put their money in).

At this time I'd like to present everyone with a World Association pin. This shows that each of you are a part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. You may wear it on your regular clothes as well as your uniform. (Pin on each girl's pin.)

Leader: In closing we have a very impressive candle lighting ceremony. (Have the twelve girls picked ahead of time come forward and light the candles one at a time as they say what the color stands for.)

1. Silver..... Stands for morning, the beginning of a new day, and each day presents a new challenge.
2. Yellow..... Stands for Daisy Low, the founder of Girl Scouts.
3. Pink..... Stands for girls in Girl Scouting.
4. White..... stands for purity in every Girl Scouts' heart.
5. Gold..... Stands for the trefoil pin, which reminds us of our Girl Scout Promise.
6. Purple..... stands for courage to stand up for what we believe.
7. Turquoise.. stands for water which sustains life and gives us pleasure.
8. Brown.....stands for the earth on which we live.
9. Green.....Stands for all the plant life which beautifies the Earth.
10. Red.....stands for fire, which glows for warmth and friendship.
11. Blue.....Stands for our sky under which we are all united by our Girl Scout ideals.
12. Orange....Stands for the sunset, which signifies the closing of another Girl Scout day.

(Birthday cake optional)

## BROWNIE THINKING DAY CEREMONY

Purpose: This script may be used as part of a Thinking Day celebration or can be adapted for use during any international friendship activity. (Junior /Cadette/Senior leaders: How can this be adapted for use by your troops? How can you find information to add countries that are not included here?)

Directions: Identify countries and friendship by pinning a paper sign on each girl or have each girl wear a costume representing her country. Girls stand in a line facing the audience. "Friendship" travels to each country and then returns to her starting spot "home".

Friendship: Friendship is my name and everywhere I go, I meet so many people who say to me "Hello". At church, at school and on the street and with Brownies too. I'm always very welcome at whatever people do. I travel, travel far and near, and even across the sea, and in so many countries, Brownies come to welcome me.

Netherlands: I'm from the Netherlands and I greet you, as our Promise says – "I shall try to be a real Brownie and help everybody, especially those at home". We have just four Laws and the last one is: "A Brownie is good to plants and animals", so we try to be friendly with things as well as people.

India: I'm from India. Do you know about the bluebird? It stands for happiness. Here we believe that everywhere Brownies should be happy, so we call ourselves Bluebirds instead of Brownies, for happiness always makes Friends.

France: France is my home. Please don't think I'm not a Brownie. This blue blouse and skirt with straps is my uniform and if you look closely, you will see my pin on the left strap. I wear it proudly for I know I have lots of friends who wear the same shaped pin as mine.

England: Welcome. Mine is an old country – England. I speak for the youngest Girl Guides. When you are young, there is so much to learn and adults always help you and are our friends. We have only one Law: "A Brownie gives in to older folks. A Brownie does not give in to herself."

Mexico: We are glad, Friendship, that you traveled to Mexico, for we have a new home where we can make you welcome. It is called our Cabana. Do you know Spanish? It means a cabin or a county cottage. I hope you will tell the Brownies everywhere about it, for we hope it will be a friendly place for everyone.

United States: Hi – I'm the United States. We are glad you came on Thinking Day, February 22, for that is the birthday of the father of our country, and the father of all Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell. They had friends everywhere and were always thinking of others. We hear you have been many places and that you always carried a candle. Did you see many Brownies?

Friendship: Friendship is my name and everywhere I've been. I've met so many people who've welcomed me as a friend. At church, at school and on the street and with Brownies too. I found I was most welcome at whatever people do. I travel, travel far and near, and even across the sea. And in so many countries, Brownies came and welcomed me.

## THINKING DAY CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY FOR BROWNIES

Equipment: 13 candles and candle holders; flashlights can be used, with tissue paper flames.

Girl 1: This light is for Brownies in Greece who are called Poulakia or “little birds”. To them I wish happiness.

Girl 2: To Petites Ailes in France I send a message of love with this light. They are helpful to all people.

Girl 3: May the Sunbeams of South Africa always send rays of sunshine out to all people. My light is a little gleam of happiness.

Girl 4: My light is for Bulbul and Tara in India, whose happiness comes from helping others.

Girl 5: In Belgium, Brownies are called Lutins or Kabouters. To my Belgian friends I send this light with thoughts of love and kindness.

Girl 6: In Korea, Brownies are called Yunyo Taiwon. I send this light for Yunyo Taiwon who love to sing and dance just as I do.

Girl 7: This light is for the Fairies in Iceland. Fairies always smile, although they must work very hard. I send them a wish for happiness for always.

Girl 8: I light my candle for my sister Brownies south of the border, which are called Haditas. Perhaps someday we will meet at Our Cabana (World Center in Mexico).

Girl 9: Brownies in Norway are called Meise (Mace). They love to be helpful to people, especially their parents. My light is for the Meise in Norway.

Girl 10: Japan has many Brownies who are called Buraunii. They are very respectful to their elders. They love to work and play. This light is for Japanese Buraunii, with a thought for love and peace.

Girl 11: With this light I send a message of good will to the Alita in Spain. They are my sister Brownies too.

Girl 12: I light my candle for the Brownies in Great Britain.

Girl 13: My candle is for the man who made Scouting possible for all of us, Lord Baden-Powell, Founder of Girl Guiding in Great Britain. His birthday is February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Unison: To Brownies all over the world, we send messages of love and hope for peace and happiness for all.

## A THINKING DAY CEREMONY

Commentator: Spending this year looking inward at our heritage we make a special point today at extending our vision. We try to remember that we represent people from all parts of the world.

Just as our country grew from the original settlers from a few countries to our over 200 million from many countries, so Scouting developed from one small troop in England to troops in 91 Member Countries around the world. In the USA Girl Scouting grew from Juliette Low's Troop of 12 girls to an organization today of about 4 million girls.

Here is our "campfire" setting we are thinking back to our earliest days as we reaffirm our faith in mankind, and rededicate ourselves as we day our Girl Scout Promise and the Law.

Song Leader: Let's all join in singing the first verse of "Each Campfire Light Anew" and then hum once through while we renew our Promise. During the humming while we make the Promise sign, one girl will give the Girl Scout Promise and three girls will light the Promise Candles and make their promise at this time.

Commentator: We will now read together the Law. (Each girl reads from a card she has prepared and keeps in her pocket. Ten girls will be lighting the Law candles as we read each part of the Girl Scout Law.

At this time we would like to take a few moments to think of our sister Guides and Scouts around the world. Our costumes being worn here today reflect the heritage that we have in common with many of them. We can wear a special pin as a symbol of our friendship and unity, and have a flag of our World Association to which we pledge our loyalty and honor. We will now have a World Pin Ceremony.

Leader: (See World Pin Ceremony. Note that a song may be sung at the conclusion such as "The World Song")

Commentator: Every Thinking Day, in honor of the birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, a collection is taken among girls around the world. It is this Thinking Day Fund which is used to help our Guide and Scout movement grow stronger and bigger so that many more girls may have the opportunity of joining us as Brownies, Guides and Rangers, or Scouts. In our country we have the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund in honor of our Founder Girl Scouting. It is from this fund pooled at National Headquarters that the Girl Scouts of the USA make their gifts to the Thinking Day Fund.

Scouts: The Juliette Low Fund helps make possible close international friendships, by bringing girls from the member countries of the World Association closer together, actually bringing Girl Guides and Scouts from many countries to ours, and also sending some of our Girl Scouts to far away places. It also helps to support our Four World Centers where girls from all over the world may meet and share their concerns and hopes for the future.

Leader: We've talked in our troops about the many kinds of wishes we would like to send worldwide. Today we shall add a "friendship log" to our "campfire" to keep it burning bright as we send our greeting to our sister Guides and Scouts in many of our Member Countries. Now let us make out contributions to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, using this special container for the collection. Send your greetings to the country you've chosen, (World map may be used here if desired), and add your "Friendship Log" to the "campfire".

Song Leader: As we do this let us hum "Hands Around the World Begin with Hands Around the Block" and gradually form one big friendship circle around our Thinking Day "campfire". At this point we will sing the words of this verse, concluding with "Make New Friends, Make New Friends, In This Way." We will then close by singing "Taps".

## A THINKING DAY CEREMONY

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

Leader: Today is Thinking Day, the joint birthday of our Founder, the late Lord Baden-Powell, and his wife, our World Chief Guide. On this day Guides and Girl Scouts everywhere gather to think of their sisters throughout the world, and send them greetings. In our international family we are bound together by the unseen chain of the threefold Promise and the Scout Law. Let us now bring in the Law in the words of other countries.

Leader: This is the first Law, from Sweden.

Girl 1: A Girl Guide speaks the truth and keeps her word.

Leader: The second Law is from Finland.

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

Leader: The third Law is from Argentina.

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

Leader: The fourth Law is from Norway.

Girl 4: A Guide is friendly to all and a good comrade.

Leader: The fifth Law is from Germany.

Girl 5: The Girl Guide is grateful and courteous.

Leader: The sixth Law is from Austria.

Girl 6: A Guide sees God in nature and therefore protects plants and animals.

Leader: The seventh Law is from Haiti.

Girl 7: A Guide obeys without question and does nothing by halves.

Leader: The eighth Law is from Belgium.

Girl 8: A Guide is always good-tempered.

Leader: The ninth Law is from Italy.

Girl 9: A Guide is hardworking and thrifty, and takes care of other people's property.

Leader: The tenth Law is from Luxembourg.

Girl 10: A Guide has self-respect.

Leader: 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 this room. While each Law is followed, the flames of the Guide Spirit will never die.

All: WORLD FRIENDHIP PLEDGE – We join hands around the world and pledge ourselves silently to friendship. (A moment of silence before dropping hands)

## A THINKING DAY CEREMONY

Light: I am light. Who are you, thus gathered here, and what is your purpose?

1<sup>st</sup> Speaker: We are Girl Scouts. Today we are meeting to pay tribute to the memory of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, our founder; and our World Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell, and to speed Guide greetings to our sisters across the world.

Light: By what are we linked in this world of Sisterhood?

2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker: By the common bond of our Law and Promise, and by the spirit of Guiding which lives always among us.

Light: It is well that such good will should spread among the nations. I travel fast around the world. If it is your desire, I will take your message.

3<sup>rd</sup> Speaker: Gladly would we entrust to you this mission. Let our greetings be as a flame that leaps from nation to nation.

Light: It shall be as you say. On my journey I shall not only give greetings, but also receive them. I circle the earth and will return to tell you.

4<sup>th</sup> Speaker: Here we have a globe, our planet Earth. See the International Date Line where the day starts. New Zealanders are first to greet the rising sun. On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Girl Guides of New Zealand climb to mountain top and to the first ray of sun they anchor the golden chain of friendship of kind thought and good wishes, which will go around until the sun is seen again from the same mountain emerging from the sea 24 hours later. Let's add links to the golden chain as every continent, every nation, every city and every home enters into sunlight. The globe turns. Every minute a new face of the Earth leaves the shadow and slumber of night to warm itself, to live, to act. Let's follow the Light through Australia, Asia, Europe and the Americas, back into the Pacific where the setting sun of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February becomes a new sunrise, a new day on planet Earth. (Candle Ceremony following the sun around the world.)

Light: I've circled the Earth, as promised. I return with all the good wishes. And so I wish you plenty of bright, warm sunshine, no clouds but clear thinking, and much love on this Thinking Day and always.

Sing "Taps" three times

## SCOUTS' OWN

SCOUTS' OWN is an inspirational gathering planned and conducted by girls with the help of their leader. It is based on the ideals of Girl Scouting and gives girls an opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings about those ideals. It is not a religious ceremony and should not be used to take the place of one.

A SCOUTS' OWN can take place anywhere, but the outdoors provides an ideal setting. It is another experience that has special meaning for girls when held on an outing or camping trip.

### HOW TO PLAN A SCOUTS' OWN

1. Explain the purpose and meaning of a Scouts' Own.
2. Have the girls decide on a theme. Suggest a few ideas to get them started:  
Friendship...Promise and Law...Stars...Music...Juliette Low or other outstanding women
3. Decide how to develop the theme and the order in which each thing will be presented.  
A Scouts' Own may include:

Nature's Beauty	Historical Events	Meaning of Girl Scouting
Friendship	Art	Holidays
Citizenship	World's Future	Lives of Great Men and Women
Legends	About Us	Courage
Feelings	Music	Growing Up
Expressions of Self		

4. Determine the setting for your Scouts' Own and how to move the group to the spot – a place in the woods, around a campfire circle, a meadow with a clear view of the surroundings. The girls in charge of the Scouts' Own should create a quiet thoughtful mood by the way they conduct themselves.
5. Have an evaluation. The girls will benefit from talking it over afterwards. A successful Scouts' Own will have a positive effect on girls' feelings and regard for one another and the group. A leader will see real growth in individuals and a deepening group spirit as girls have good experiences in planning and carrying out Scouts' Owns.

Some possible starters to help you:

Begin with The Hug by Lesley Simpson. Discuss what other things the girls have wished they could be or do. Were they happy or sad when given a chance to Be. Close with a song or read "When We Grow Up", from Marlo Thomas' Free To Be You and Me.

For a topic like Growing Up, you might use “Talk It Over” or “Boy Meets Girl” from Marlo Thomas’ “Free To Be a Family”. Discuss feeling curious about the world around you. Share something you wonder about. Use puppets to explain those curiosities. Close with the cookie song, “We Can Do It Together If We Try.”

Other books that lend themselves to Scouts’ Own themes for all ages are:

The Little Engine That Could

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein (book of poems)

Mother Goose Rhymes

Aesop’s Fables

A Cadette Scouts’ Own used Where The Wild Things Are and the girls shared thoughts about things that made them afraid.

An Adult Scouts’ Own discussed the beauty of our children in tomorrow’s future. Each adult shared her wish for the children of tomorrow. A discussion followed as to the adult commitment to provide ways for that wish to come true.

The girls may want to find a special place where they can return to have a Scouts’ Own from time to time. Remember your limits go as far as your imagination. Take time now to plan with your troop.

## A SCOUTS' OWN FOR TROOP OCCASION

A Scouts' own is a special ceremony built around a theme. Its purpose is to show how girls and leaders feel about the topic. Patrols can take turns being in charge of a Scouts' Own perhaps once a month.

NEEDS: 4 girls  
THEME: HAPPINESS

1<sup>st</sup> Girl: Ask each girl in the troop "What does happiness mean to them?" (ask individually)

2<sup>nd</sup> Girl: Let's all sing, "Music Shall Live"  
"All things shall perish from under the sky  
Music alone shall live, Music alone shall live.  
Music alone shall live, never to die."  
(Try this song in a three part round)

3<sup>rd</sup> Girl: Read the poem, "Song," by Robert Browning.  
"The year's at the spring,  
And the days' at the morn;  
Morning's at seven;  
The hill-side's dew pearled;  
The lark's on the wing;  
The snail's on the thorn;  
God's in his Heaven –  
All's right with the world."

4<sup>th</sup> Girl: A quote from Saint Pierre:  
"One makes ones own happiness only by taking care of the happiness of others."

## A SCOUTS' OWNS AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

NEEDS: paper and pencil      a twig      string or yarn      campfire

Before the ceremony begins have each girl print her wish on paper and wrap the wish around a twig. She holds the twig until the end of the ceremony. Have the girls lead the others in favorite songs around the campfire; in turn maybe they can think of some songs with the word "wishes" in them. After the girls have finished singing, have them stand and walk to the campfire, tossing in (carefully) their wishes twig as they express their own wish. Ask them to be silent for a brief period and form a friendship circle (each girl crosses her right arm over her left and clasps the hand of both her neighbors). You might begin by saying my wish is for the bond of friendship between all Girl Scouts that will bring world peace. Have the girls hum "Taps". (After all have express their wish say: Goodnight Scouts.)

## FRIENDSHIP CEREMONY

**Purpose:** May be used as a Girl Scouts' Own or as part of a Thinking Day celebration. May be presented by one group to another or may be meaningful without an audience.

Open with a song – “Rise Up O Flame”, or another song.

**Equipment:** 10 candles, matches, candleholder

**Directions:** Each girl may carry a candle and place it in a holder or 10 candles may be placed on the table, lighted separately by 10 girls.

**Script:** *1<sup>st</sup> Girl Scout:* We carry the candles of friendship. These are symbols of our pledge, as Girl Scouts of troop (or SU #) \_\_\_\_ of friendship to the entire world, and of special friendship for Girl Scouts everywhere. The flames are small and burn steady and bright. We light them with thoughts of friendship glowing as steadily and brightly in our hearts.  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Girl Scout:* We watch the glowing flames with grateful thoughts of Girl Scouts here and abroad who have put their friendship to a special test these last few years and found it true.  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Girl Scout:* This candle is for the Founder of all Guiding and Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell.  
*4<sup>th</sup> Girl Scout:* This candle is for the Founder of Girl Scouting in these United States, Juliette Low.  
*5<sup>th</sup> Girl Scout:* This candle is for all Girl Scouts and Guides wherever they may be today.  
*6<sup>th</sup> Girl Scout:* This candle is for service to our country.  
*7<sup>th</sup> Girl Scout:* This candle is for the hope of peace in every land.  
*8<sup>th</sup> Girl Scout:* This candle says, “Good luck to all who are away from home.”  
*9<sup>th</sup> Girl Scout:* This candle is for our Girl Scout Law.  
*10<sup>th</sup> Girl Scout:* This candle is for the Promise we make as Girl Scouts together.

**Suggestion:** Song, “When E'er You Make A Promise”

*11<sup>th</sup> Girl Scout:* We blow out the flame of our candles, but the light of friendship still glows in our hearts. May we always be kind, true and helpful friends to each other and to all mankind.

Put out candles all at once, in a manner agreed upon, after the speaker is finished.

Entire troop repeats the Promise.

**Song:** “Juliette Low Taps”: “On this day, we have come  
From the North, from the South, East and West  
All your dreams will live on,  
Juliette.”

## PRESENTING THE WORLD PIN TO BROWNIES

All Girl Scouts and Girl Guides wear the World Pin. Brownies will understand it better if it is explained to them through a ceremony. This is a standard Thinking Day Ceremony.

Equipment: Gold flannel graph or poster board cut and made to represent the World Pin (use blue background).

Girl 1: An important part of our uniform is the World Pin. It is worn by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world and symbolizes that we are a part of the world-wide organization of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides, so it is very special.

Girl 2: (Hold up or points to blue circle) The blue background stands for the blue sky that shines on children all over the world.

Girl 3: (Hold up or point to gold ring) The gold color stands for the golden sun that shines on children all over the world.

Girl 4: (Hold up or point to trefoil shape) The trefoil is used by all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere in the world to represent the three parts of their Promise.

Girl 5: (Hold up or point to two stars) The two stars stand for the Promise and Law.

Girl 6: (Hold up or point to the vane) This is the compass point that helps to show Girl Scouts the true direction to go.

Girl 7: (Hold up or point to the base) This is the flame of international friendship.

Girl: The World Pins are then presented and demonstration of where the pins are worn (above the Scout or Brownie Pin).

Leader: The World Pin, also known as the World Association Pin, is worn on the left side above the Girl Scout Pin. If you forget where to wear it, remember it represents the largest organization and should be worn over the Girl Scout Pin.

We will all join hands in the Friendship circle, leaving a space open to invite all our sister Scouts and Guides all over the world to join us at this time. (Close by singing Taps.)

The ceremony can take whatever form the girls decide. It could include the following:

1. An opening or closing song such as “Make New Friends” or the “World Song”
2. Building the World Pin – as each piece of the pin is put together, its symbolism is explained.
3. Presentation of pins to girls who do not have them.
4. All join hands and say together the “World Friendship Pledge”  
“We join our hands around the world and pledge ourselves to friendship and understanding.”

## WORLD ASSOCIATION PIN CEREMONY

**Purpose:** This is a short ceremony when girls receive World Association Pins and learn what it symbolizes.

**Equipment:** You will need some sort of cut out parts of the World Association Pin.

**Suggestions:** Make a flannel graph – a square of flannel hung up or covering cardboard will serve as a background. Cut out felt pieces (they will stick by themselves); or use construction paper with dried, but tacky rubber cement, rolled tape, or bits of Velcro – hook on the back.

- Script:**
1. The bright blue background stands for the sky which is over us all.
  2. The gold background stands for the sun that shines on children all over the world.
  3. The gold leaves stand for the 3 parts of the Promise:  
(All may join on the Promise)  
On my honor, I will try:  
To serve God and my country,  
To help people at all times,  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.
  4. The gold circle around the pin is the circle of friendship.
  5. The two stars stand for the Promise and the Law.
  6. The vein is the compass needle that points the way to go.
  7. The base – shaped like a flame – stands for the flames of international friendship.

Girls make the following World Friendship Pledge:

We join our hands around the world and pledge ourselves to friendship and understanding.

Couples turn face to face and pin each other with the World Association Pins. Form a Friendship Circle. Sing “Make New Friends” or whatever might be appropriate.

## **BROWNIE MEMBERSHIP STAR CEREMONY**

Some troops like a star ceremony for receiving membership stars on the completion of a year of Girl Scouting. A good time for this to be planned is just before wings are pinned on the Brownies, while the girls are in a circle.

Place a large shiny star in center of the Brownie Ring. (Cardboard covered with aluminum foil.) Call each girl, in turn, to the center of the Ring. As girl steps onto the star, give her the membership star, saying:

“Keep this star bright by night and day, By Brownie good turns along your way.”

\*Junior leaders: How can you adapt this to use with your troop?