

Short & Snappy Session - Traditions



What is a Short & Snappy?

- Short training segment provided at a Service Unit Meeting
- Any interested volunteer may lead a Short & Snappy
- Trainings are 10-30 minutes in length

Things to Remember

- Have participants sign the attendance sheet and keep for Service Unit records
- Stay within the allotted time
- If you don't know the answer, seek the correct answer from the appropriate support person

Supplies Needed

- Girl Scout Trivia Handout & Answer Key

Why do Girl Scouts focus on traditions?

Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. With the goal of bringing girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air, Girl Scouts hiked, played basketball, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first aid. Within a few years, Daisy's dream for a girl-centered organization was realized.

Tradition is what gives us our link to the past. To the people and places, the events, that make us who we are. The traditions handed down from one generation to the next give us a common ground with our families and friends, something we can all do together, share. They are a way of making sure that the ones who have left are remembered and the things you hold dear are passed on.

Traditions with millions of Girl Scouts - and the huge network of Girl Scout alumnae who came before them - help remind girls they belong to a big powerful sisterhood. Traditions make the Girl Scout experience unique to other organizations. While some of the traditions may seem small, all together they make the Girl Scout experience memorable for the girls.

Girl Scouts of the USA is a member of the World Association of Girl Guides, and our uniform shares one pin with WAGGGS. This pin should be given to a girl at her first World Thinking Day event.

The World Association Pin shows a trefoil because Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere make a three-part promise.

The three leaves represent the three fold promise as originally laid down by the founder.

The two stars represent the Promise and the Law.

The outer circle represents our world-wide Association.

The flame represents the flame of the love of humanity.

The vein pointing upwards represents the compass needle pointing the way.



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Girl Scout Traditions

Girl Scout Sign

Girl Scouts make the Girl Scout sign when they say the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Made by raising the 3 middle fingers of the right hand and bending your elbow. This is also used as the quiet sign so when you raise your hand in the Girl Scout sign, everyone follows and becomes quiet. The sign stands for the 3 parts of the Girl Scout Promise. You give the sign when:

- You say the Girl Scout Promise or Law
- You are welcomed in the Girl Scout organization at an Investiture Ceremony
- You greet other Girl Scouts and Girl Guides

The Girl Scout motto

The Girl Scout motto is "Be Prepared." In the 1947 Girl Scout Handbook, the motto was explained this way: "A Girl Scout is ready to help out wherever she is needed. Willingness to service is not enough; you must know how to do the job well, even in an emergency." The same ideas are true today.

Friendship Circle

The friendship circle stands for an unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Everyone stands in a circle, crosses their right arms over their left, and clasps hands with their friends on both sides. When everyone is quiet in the friendship circle, a designated person starts the friendship squeeze by gently squeezing the hand of the person on her right. The squeeze is passed from hand to hand around the circle until it returns to the originator. In some groups, girls put their right foot out into the circle when they have received the friendship squeeze, so that everyone can see it travel along the circle. Often "Make New Friends" is sung during this.

Investiture and Rededication Ceremonies

Investiture is the ceremony where a girl becomes a Girl Scout (Daisy, Brownie, ... or Adult) by making the Promise and reciting the Law and receiving a membership pin. Investiture happens ONCE in life. The ceremony is called Rededication when girls and adults rededicate themselves to scouting at the beginning of the membership year. Investiture and Rededication can happen at the same ceremony. For more information, check out the Investiture and Rededication Short & Snappy.

Girl Scout Handshake

A formal handshake in which you shake with your left hand and make the Girl Scout sign with your right hand.



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Kaper Chart

A chart showing all jobs (kapers) available and who is responsible for each job; kapers generally rotate through a series of meetings or weekend camp until ALL girls have completed each kaper.

Buddy System

Girl Scouts always use this safety practice of pairing by twos: always used on field trips.

Girl Scout's Own

An inspirational ceremony with a theme that girls plan and implement themselves.

Girl Scout Mission

"To build girls of courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place."

Sit-Upon

A waterproof pad or mat to sit on when the ground is damp or dusty that each girl makes herself. Can be made from almost any material, e.g. from newspapers coated with plastic shower curtain material, etc.

SWAPS

"Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere" Traditional crafty items made by Girl Scouts; traded at camp or an event with girls of other troops or councils.

Court of Awards

A ceremony to present badges and earned recognitions at any grade level when parents are invited once or twice a year.

Girl Scout Week

Girl Scout week occurs during the week of March 12, the birthday of Girl Scouts. The week is spent celebrating Girl Scouts every day and girls can earn a patch for doing activities all week!

Leave a Place Better Than You Found It

This is a Girl Scout saying that means not only do you clean up after yourselves, but go above and beyond to leave a place better than how it was when you arrived.



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Girl Scout Trivia

1. Who is the Founder of Girl Scouts?
 - a. Daisy Powell
 - b. Juliette Bow
 - c. Juliette Low
 - d. Julie Brown
2. What is the Girl Scout Motto?
 - a. 'Be Prepared'
 - b. 'Be Ready'
 - c. 'Do Your Best'
 - d. 'Pack in Pack Out'
3. What Year was the first Girl Scout troop chartered?
 - a. 1921
 - b. 1913
 - c. 1912
 - d. 1910
4. Who did the Founder of Girl Scouts meet that inspired her to start Girl Scouts?
 - a. Brian Baden-Powell
 - b. Robert Baden-Powell
 - c. Robert Power
 - d. Daniel Baden-Powell
5. What US holiday is celebrated the same day as the Founder of Girl Scouts' birthday?
 - a. Thanksgiving
 - b. Valentines Day
 - c. Halloween
 - d. Earth Day
6. On what date each year do Girl Scouts celebrate Thinking Day?
 - a. February 12
 - b. February 22
 - c. February 23
 - d. February 25
7. What was the Founder of Girl Scouts' nickname?
 - a. 'Violet'
 - b. 'Rose'
 - c. 'Junior'
 - d. 'Daisy'
8. What does WAGGS stand for?
 - a. World Association of Girly Girls and Girl Scouts
 - b. Wild Awesome Giggling Going Girl Scouts
 - c. World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
 - d. That isn't a real acronym
9. What are SWAPS?
 - a. Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere
 - b. Girls trading badges
 - c. Leaders swapping ideas with one another
 - d. Something We All Play Standing

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