



Brownie Leader Supplemental Guide

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ORGANIZING A TROOP
I have my Leaders Handbook
Now what do I Do?

Congratulations on taking that first hard step and deciding to be a leader. It's a lot of hard work, but more rewarding (for you and the girls) than you can imagine. Many workshops are offered to help you become the best Leader possible. Check with your Council for dates. **THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT REPLACE LEADER TRAINING.** It is meant as a supplement to the training.

Remember to go to your Leaders Meetings. You will receive news of upcoming events and specials for Girl Scout only. It's also a Great place to talk with other leaders. They are a valuable source of ideas, encouragement, and shoulders to cry on. As someone said, we've not only all been there and done that, but we have the T-shirts and scars to show for it!

Organizing Parents and Girls:

THE BIGGEST THING I can recommend to all leaders is to get the parents involved. Have a meeting at the beginning of the year with parents only or at a park where the kids can play. Remind parents to bring medical history updates, social calendars and **CHECKBOOK**. You can get the parents to paperwork, (medical updates and permission slips for fall products and cookies), meet each other, pay registration (if they did not do early bird registration), pay dues, answer questions, receive a parent handbook and -the **BIGGIE**- sign up for a job! Don't be afraid to tell them that you're new - I found that parents were much more ready to volunteer on their own when they thought I need their help. Here are some of the things parents can do:

SNACK: everyone signs up for one, name and phone number. That meeting they are responsible to bring snack for all the troop, drink, cups , napkins. Note if anyone has food allergies. . . . Sometimes a cookie tin is donated and a list of food allergies is taped to the lid. After the snack is gone the cookie tin goes home with the scout that will bring in the next meetings treat.

Snack Coordinator: takes the list and is responsible to call the parent 2 days ahead to remind her of snack duty. If you **CAN'T** do your date (Mike has chicken pox, etc,) you call **HER** to switch dates.

Carpool Driver - drives a group of girls from school to meeting place **OR** meeting place to home. Remind them that for \$7.00 they can register with Girl Scouts and it will be their car insurance. Cheapest policy ever!

Carpool Organizer - sets up the carpool and gives everyone a copy of the set-up. also handles carpool emergencies i.e. if someone can't drive they call **HER** and she locates a replacement.

Carpool Alternate - is available to drive in an pinch

Fall Product Mom: goes to the meetings and gets the girls and parents set up for selling

Cookie mom(s): goes to the meetings and gets the girls and parents set up for selling

"E.T." "Phone Home!" ET's are a link to parents if there is a change or addition - whatever. I place a call to them with information -they take half the phone list and call the parents.

First Aid Kit Donations: Let the parent signup to donate first aid items. I have included a list to set out at the signup meeting.

Day Camp Moms: Fun Days Summer otherwise known as Day Camp needs Mom's to help at least one day out of five. If you love the outdoors but not sleeping on the ground this one is for you!!!

OPT IONAL- Buyer: this person loves to shop, and knows a bargain when she sees one! she is able to run to council for things. I send her out to buy almost anything for the troop!

When everyone does "something" and when the pieces are small and parents don't seem to mind. The girls love that their parents are involved. The parents have more commitment to the troop. I know it seems easier to do it yourself, because you know it will be done right! but believe me - you have to get the parents involved, and involved EARLY.

Parent can take first aid/CPR and basic troop camping through council if they register as adult girl scouts.

OPTIONAL Parent Folder: A parent handbook contains the above lists of jobs, phone numbers for the Leader, Assistant Leader, Fall Product and Cookie Moms. I also recommend an extra blank permission slip for misplaced slips. The book also informs parents that you expect the girls on time for activities and meetings and that they are to be picked up at the end time indicated on the permission slip. Include meeting dates, special activity dates (that you are aware of at that point). It's also good to put in a few "frequently asked questions - and answers!" such as. . Do I have to purchase an entire uniform? NO, but if possible purchase a vest or sash. Do I have to purchase the book? NO, most of the Brownies will not be able to read until the end of their first year. If you want have the parent purchase the book for their second year of Brownies. Where is the council located? Can we do Try-It's at home? Yes, but we ask the Parent to cover the cost of Try-Its earned outside of Troop activities. Include the Girl Scout Promise and Law, Parent's Promise and Law. You can include a short biography on yourself and assistant leader if you wish. Sometimes it helps the parents realize you have a life outside of scouting. See sample at the end of this booklet

Permission Slips: In this day an age a permission slip maybe the only proof you have that the parents agreed to the activity their daughter participated in. Some recommend keeping slips for 2 years in case of a lawsuit, however if there were no accidents or injuries at an activity I throw them away.

Taking Girls home after meetings: Do you have written permission to take this little girl home? If not, you could get yourself into a heap of trouble. You cannot take a girl from the meeting place without written permission. If, God forbid, something should happen (car accident, etc.), you could be held responsible and liable. If you want to give the girl a ride tell the parents you cannot drive the girl home without a permission slip. You do not have to give rides unless you want to. If asked tell the parent one

of them, or someone they have given permission to (and have given you a name and phone #) will have to pick up the girl or tell them they will have to find a troop that meets at a time that is more convenient for them.

Also, keep this in mind, who is responsible for this girl when you drop her off at her house and no one is home? Do you realize that leaving an un-supervised minor puts you in jeopardy for liability, child abuse, neglect, and anything else the lawyers can think of? It's not your responsibility to make sure another girl gets to or from the meetings. If they can't make it there...oh well. You should be firm with parents! Most of us can sympathize with both parents working & it being difficult to transport, schedule, accommodate everyone within the family unit.

DUES: We usually charge \$10.00 once a year. This covers crafts projects until we receive money from selling Fall Products. This and the Cookies Sales fund the rest of the year. Remember to include the price of Try-Its, Patches and the Year Pin in your budget. In the Brownie handbook and on page 34, it says: The girls take an active part in the decision-making process in determining troop dues and the uses of troop funds. Managing money is a progressive experience. All girls should have the opportunity to participate in the planning and decision making processes, but you might need to play a more active role in teaching the girls responsible money management if they have not had these kinds of experiences. So if the leader is contributing the money for the troop, where does the decision making come in--money management? Part of planning an event or a trip includes "how will we pay for it?".

Who pays for adults?

The troop should pay for the adults (i.e., campout--food, overnight fee in exchange for going--very important-- and transporting the girls--gas, etc.) then the leader, as one of the adults is also paid for. If going on a big trip by car--the troop pays for the number of adults/girl ratio and divides that between the number of adults driving to help reimburse for gas (including the leader). We have gone by bus to activities and in that case, the adults help with the fundraiser for the bus and pay any extra along with the girls to finish paying for the bus. Because they are not driving --the adults (and leader) pays their own way to activities. Remember, keep track of mileage and expenses- you can use them as tax deductions

BROWNIE FOLDERS: Folders help troops organize. Sending home papers, seem to get lost in the car, backpacks, bedrooms, etc. Have the girls decorate them anyway they want. They will enjoy using them more. Each girl brings their Brownie pocket folder every meeting. The first sheet in the folder is a series of stepping stones with the dates of the meeting on each stone. When the girl arrived, she gets a sticker then place it on the stepping stone ... provides encouragement to bring their folders and to come to the meeting. For second year Brownies have the folder contain songs and flag ceremony stuff.

NEWSLETTERS: I love them, hate to write them. Our Brownie Troop sent them home monthly. This goes home at the last meeting of the month before. I include meeting dates, changes of dates, or time, upcoming trips, important messages, cookie sale or Nut/QSP (fall products) sale, anything that we feel is important.

Calendar Planning: With your Assistant Leader plan your Meeting Calendar. Always allow at least 2 meetings to do nothing but play catchup for any badge work that did not get completed. Most Try-Its can be completed in one or two meetings. Also try to include neighborhood events, council events, field trips, service projects along with the badge work. We usually meet twice a month for 1 1/2 hours, gradually increasing the time as the girls get older and try to participate in a neighborhood activity once a month.

TRY-ITS

Try-Its: What are Try-Its? They are badges for Brownies. Each Girl must complete 4 of the activities in the Try-It section of the Leaders book. There are also related activities throughout the Leader Handbook. There are many Try-Its to earn, however do not try to earn them all. Try-Its are for fun and to expose the girls to the five worlds of scouting. Remember that there are many other activities that are not specifically geared for a Try-It but are a lot of fun to participate in. ie service projects, fall product sales, museum overnights. Also included in this folder is a list of alternative activities. Council has sheets to record which activities have been completed for each girl. Keep a record for each girl. Speaking from experience you will always have a parent say her daughter completed a Try-It but when you check you noticed she did not complete all the work. As the girls get older give them a few Try-It choices and let them decide what Try-It they would like to earn. Take advantage of Badge workshops and local museum camp-ins. They are a lot of fun. Don't forget about outdoor camping too. We try to ease them into camping by staying in a lodge with flush toilets for their first time. We also made our first camp-out a mother or female adult/Daughter camp-out.

Passing out Try-Its

Like many others we have award ceremonies several times a year. We also keep scout journals so I try to present their badges & patches in a format that can be kept in their journals... Staple a try-it to a cup cake paper, push a pipe cleaner through the cup cake paper to form a stem. These were then tied together with a ribbon and a "gift tag" attached with the girl's name and a list of what she earned. I have also presented them in card form with the theme and list of badges earned on the front and the badges stapled to the inside. When I do this I recommend the girls make a color copy of their badges before removing them so they can remember exactly what they looked like when they go back to their journals years later. What ever you do DO NOT just hand them a baggie full of badges!!!!

Participation Patches: may be earned when participating in Girl Scout activities. Patches are placed on the back of the Brownie Sash or Vest. Patches are another Troop expense. Most patches cost \$1.00 each. Early Bird Patch: If you registered last spring for the current year you will receive your patches at the Leaders meeting. Remind the mom's they are to be placed on the back of the vest or sash. This patch may be earned each year. After receiving the large patch small "arc's or arches are earned. The arcs are to be placed around the large patch. Make New Friends Patch: If the girls help at the friendship rally or if it's their first rally they receive this patch. If they are helping after they have received their patch they can also earn arcs like the Early Bird arcs. Fall Products Patch: A participation patch is usually offered. Additional patches are given to high sellers. Sea World Patches: Sea world offers excellent programs for the girls. Patches are available for purchase after each session. Watch the Trail Blazer for dates and times. A good time to go is on a free day from school such as Martin Luther King Day. Lunch may be purchased at McDonald's for an extra treat. Cookies: Like Fall Products a participation patch is offered. Super sellers can earn additional patches. Girl Scout Sunday: Attendance Patches for GS Sunday are available at Council Camp-Out Patch: Girls receive a patch for attending

the Neighborhood campout. After the first year they will receive a color coded star to indicate the number of campouts they have attended. Our troops buys the first badge, patch or insignia but if it is lost the parents are responsible for the cost of replacing the lost item.

Meetings: Have a definite starting time (and a starting activity such as a small ceremony, flag ceremony, song or poem) and start then. If half the troop is there, start regardless. You can work on several Try-Its at a time. The craft could be from Colors and Shapes, a song from Music and a game from Play. Just keep notes of what activity is done at each meeting. Try to make a sample of your craft prior to the meeting to ensure you have all the materials and have enough time, (figure on the girls taking about twice as long), to finish the project. We like to have an Investiture and Rededication Ceremony early in the new school year, (pg 27 Leaders Guide). New Girls can learn about Scouts and be invested and the returning girls are reminded of the promise and law. Also if they earned Try-Its over the summer this is a good time to pass them out. We also have a court of Awards in December and May to pass out the Try-its and Patches they have earned, or you can pass them out at the end of a meeting. **YOU ARE THE LEADER!!!** You make the rules.

Sample first meeting. We want our first meeting to be really fun and to whet their appetites for Girl Scouts.

- We worked at setting a schedule for our meetings. For us, meeting after school for 1 1/2 hours twice a month, we would gather at our table, pre-covered with white paper from a big donated roll of white paper, and would draw on the paper while we gathered.
- The snack person would distribute snacks and the drink person the drinks. We made S'Mores in the microwave. Set on high for 9 seconds (+ or - a few seconds)
- Once everyone had arrived, we would call to order, sing the Brownie Smile Song or have a flag ceremony. An 18 inch flag and a bud vase as the holder works just fine.
- Then we would go to our Brownie Ring and say our Promise, have a short discussion of what we planned for that meeting.

This all took about 20-25 minutes. The you have about 40 minutes for Try-It activities.

- Try to sprinkle active things among the sitting activities and be flexible to what is working. That is, you have some alternates or additional activities in mind if something runs short (A good place to work on the play Try-It)
- also know what you're going to cut and when, if things are running long.
- Then there's 5-10 minutes for cleanup.
- Then you can have a closing Friendship Circle .
- We also had a game after the closing. The girls took a turn each time being Game Leader who got to choose and run the game. Parents arrive during this game, pick up their newsletter, grab their daughter, fun times. I saw the Game as team building since it was Their Thing, no running it by adults (except for safety issues).

Girl Scout Ways was our first Try-It. As somebody said, this is important to get the girls into learning about Girl Scouts. For learning the Promise, we made a wall hanging out of the Promise, by copying the promise onto a sheet of paper. Cut a "Frame" out of construction paper and Frame the promise. Each girl could glue her Promise onto the frame so she'd have a "framed" copy. Then we used feathers and glitter to glue onto the frame. The craft was to stick it together,

and glue on decorations. They were sent home to (hopefully) hang up on the wall where they would see it every day and could say it often with a family member. They really learned it fast that way.

EARNING RESPECT

We have been having a little problem with girl's not respecting others, talking out of turn, interrupting other girls and leaders. My Assistant Leader and I came up with some meeting rules, we then had the girls review them, edit them if they wanted, and we voted on them this past meeting. They did pretty good the first meeting in abiding by them. We'll see how it goes the rest of the year. Below is the text of the rules.

I will treat each member of the Troop as a sister.

I will treat my sister Girl Scouts with respect.

I will treat myself with respect.

I will treat my Troop Leader, Assistant Leaders, and Troop Parents with respect.

I will raise my hand if I want to contribute something to the discussion.

I will participate in the meeting.

I will listen to the person who is talking and show respect for what they are saying.

I will let everyone have a say in Troop discussions and decisions being made.

I will conduct myself in a safe manner.

If they all get too loud, I turn the lights out (a teacher thing) until they quiet down. They need a reminder why this happens. They really begin to understand it after they have an opportunity to be in charge and everyone starts going bonkers and get to do it themselves.

TALKING STICK - What you do is get a stick or rod or something and the only person who can talk is the one holding it. Hint - the leader should hold on to the other end and not let go so she can get it back when needed.

DIME, DIME, NICKEL - The girl receives a dime for the first infraction, another dime for the second infraction and a nickel and a walk to the pay phone to call her folks to pick her up for the third infraction. Having to call your parents also means you have to explain your actions to your parents. Explain this to your parents at your parents meeting (or through your newsletter).

BELL - Ring a bell when things were getting out of hand and to stop the activity until things settled. It worked well in the beginning but they soon learned to ignore the bell. Our first try-it we worked on was Manners and we had long discussions on proper conduct in different situations. This also helped with behavior!

CBG PINS - They are little clip clothes pins----with CGB (Caught Being Good) on each. We will walk around during the meeting & clip one on those who are *caught being good* !!!! (You have to make sure even the ones who act up do something to receive the clip at some point. At the end of the meeting, the girls with the clips will come up to the table & turn it in. They will get to choose from a box of *goodies* - small erasers, little pins, etc. Don't use the pins at every meeting & the girls will never know when they will be pinned on. So, hopefully, they will be *good* in hopes of being pinned!!

DOGHOUSE - A suggestion given in our video version of Basic Leadership is: Have a small dog figurine, make a doghouse, out of quart size mild carton. As long as girls are doing well at meeting the dog stays out of the doghouse to enjoy their activities. When the girls become unpleasant the dog retreats to his doghouse to get away. And the Leader tells the girls that the dog usually will retreat into his house for 5 minutes before he peeks out to check on the girls

I had a Daisy troop last year and never quite figured out how to deal with them until I realized they were just a bunch of silly girls full of giggles and as long as they left happy and couldn't wait to come back, it didn't really matter how much we got done.

If a individual girls seems to stand out as being hard to deal with talk to her parent as frankly as you can AFTER you sit the girl down and explain that if she can't behave you will need to have an "adult discussion." This might help you avoid actually talking to a parent. Some parents don't exactly know what to do and end up being too harsh on the girl. From: Karen.

OUR 5 STEP BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT PLAN!

1. Before the first meeting of the year, we will meet with Tara and her mom. We will discuss our expectations for Tara's behavior during Troop meetings/activities this year. We will keep this a positive meeting and will involve Tara in the discussion completely. We anticipate asking Tara to offer suggestions on what we can do to help her "be a sister to every girl scout", etc. When Tara's mom laughs and states (as we know she will) that Tara "...always misbehaves, she'll grow out of it", we plan to state something to the effect of "Maybe, but not here...not on our volunteer troop time".
2. At the first meeting of the year, we will invite the girls to create "Troop Rules". Each girl and leader will offer a rule and these rules will be posted and enforced by our "Troop Trooper" (see suggestion #3).
3. At the first meeting of the year, the girls will create a troop "Kaper Chart". One of the jobs will be of "Troop Trooper" (silly-named because several of the girls have Daddys who are State Troopers!). The responsibilities of this "law enforcement officer" will be to politely, kindly and quietly point out any infractions of the rules to the offending Brownie. Our idea here is two-fold: peer pressure when you are the offender *and* refocusing of Tara's energy to the positive when she is given a responsibility of being Troop Trooper or Song Leader or Cleanup Queen, etc.
4. One of our first Try-its we will work on will be the "Working it Out" Try-it...for obvious reasons!
5. We have created a chart titled "Catch a Brownie". It's a fun, colorful poster with the names of the girls down the left side and dancing "Brownie" clip art all over it. We'll explain to the girls at the first meeting that if we "catch" them doing something good ie., being "honest and fair", "friendly and helpful", "considerate and caring" (sound familiar?) that we will place a star next to their name for that meeting. When a Brownie earns 10 stars, she'll get a special Girl Scout surprise (since we meet every other week, we figure we have at least until our 10th meeting, sometime in January, to figure out what that surprise will be!!). Our idea here is to "catch Tara

being good" rather than to constantly harp at her about negative things (which has been the norm!).

We do have a sixth step in reserve, in case we should need it. As we've tried to emphasize the positive, it goes against our theme, but we feel better knowing we have it to use...if necessary. We will invoke the "Three Strikes, You're Out" rule:

First infraction:	Sit out for the rest of the activity
Second infraction:	Sit out for the rest of the meeting
Third infraction:	Mom must come (& stay) at the next meeting

MYTHS "If Three Leaders say it's TRUE is MUST BE TRUE!!!!"

Here are a few myths that are traditions not a rule:

- A girl can't wear her uniform until she is invested
- You can't have investiture until you meet 6 times
- You must have a uniform to be a Girl Scout
- You must wear a complete uniform or no uniform at all
- Try-Its must be sewn on in the order they are pictured in the handbook

PS: A Girl is in uniform if she is wearing her GS pin.

Why I'm a Leader

I'm not a Girl Scout leader for the easy hours, high pay, parents' gratitude, power or prestige.

I'm a Leader because I want the world for your Daughter and mine -- a world she can share and help shape: a world of love and laughter where she can show compassion.

I want to help her learn to finish anything she starts and do it well and to guide her to know her worth with a deeper understanding of herself.

I want to help shape women who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.

I want them to be the best they can be - whether as career women or as homemakers, wives and mothers who are the hearts of the family.

In giving of my time and myself I reap rewards far beyond what I give. I receive a better world for my children and future generations.

I'm a Girl Scout Leader because I care.

--Author Unknown--

LEADERS NEED TO REMEMBER THAT GIRL SCOUTING SHOULD BE FUN. HERE IS A LITTLE REMINDER:

L--Laugh--remember to laugh at yourself and situations, keep it light.

E--Enthusiastic--be happy, pleasant, and have a sense of humor.

A--Active--be involved and aware of what's going on in your troop.

D--Democractic--get input from parents and girls, "the GIRL is first in Girl Scouting".

E--Encouraging--let parents and girls know that they are needed and appreciated.

R--Respectful--of parents, girls and other volunteer; we are the example.

ALTERNATIVE BROWNIE CRAFTS and their Program Links

Most crafts related to Try-Its are in the handbook. However here are more you may want to try.

Art to Wear

T-SHIRTS

Stamped T-shirts (All Levels)

T-shirts 100% cotton

Trefoil Template

(Use a Cookie Cutter as a pattern or trace onto old plastic lid and cut it out)

Kitchen sponges

Paper Plates

Fabric Paint

Fabric Paint pens

T-shirts should be washed and dried without fabric softener prior to stamping. Place several thicknesses of newspaper in between the front and back of the shirt to prevent the paint from bleeding through. Trace the Trefoil pattern onto kitchen sponge and cut it out. Pour paint onto a paper plate. Dip the sponge into the paint on the plate. Press lightly onto a spare plate to remove excess paint and stamp onto the shirt. Use fabric paints to add troop numbers or names into the centers of the stamps.

Spiral Tie Dye T-shirts (2nd or 3rd year Brownies)

T-shirt 100% cotton

Fabric Dye Red, Blue and Yellow

3 Condiment Squirt Bottles

3 rubber bands for each shirt

Prepare fabric dye. Pour each color into a separate condiment container. Make sure the T-shirts have been wash and dried without fabric softener. Lay the shirt out flat on a table. Starting in the center of the T-shirt twist the shirt using a spiral motion, into a flat donut shape. Place one rubber band across the center. Place the two remaining rubber bands to form 6 equal sections. You now have the

beginning of a color wheel. Start with red and saturate the first three sections with the red dye. Next start at the third red section and cover it with yellow dye. Also saturate the next two section with yellow dye. Starting on the fifth section add the blue dye.

Continue to add blue to the last undyed section and also dye the first red section. You should now have a color wheel of Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue and Purple. Let sit for at least 10 minutes, longer if you have time. Rinse until clear then remove the rubber bands. Hang to dry.

BEADS

Beaded Necklaces

Any clay recipe

Paper clips

Bread Dough Clay

2 slices day old bread

2 tablespoons household glue

2 drops glycerin

4 drops vinegar

food coloring or paint

Cut crusts from bread. Break into small pieces in bowl. Add glue, glycerin and vinegar. Mix with your hands. May wear plastic gloves to mix. Knead until it no longer sticks to your fingers. Divide and add food coloring, if desired. Knead until color is smoothly blended. Air dry until set. *Use lotion on hands when modeling. Use for small objects. Allow to dry 1-2 days. Coat with 1 tablespoon glue and 1 tablespoon water for shiny surface. Bake at 235 for 4 minutes for ceramic finish. Make chains using the paper clips and form a necklace. Wrap the clay around the paper clip to form the beads. Bake or Air dry the clay as listed in the clay directions.

KNOTS

Finger Weaving Scrunchies

Nylon fabric loops (like for weaving looms to make hotpads). Take a single loop, hook it over your pinky finger, then twist once before hooking it over the next finger, continue this way until it is looped over 4 fingers (I think that you skip the thumb). Repeat this process with a 2nd loop, which then rests above the first loop on your fingers. Now CAREFULLY pull each twist from the bottom loop over the corresponding one from the top loop, and then completely off of each finger. Now the two loops are hooked together, similar to crochet. Keep adding more loops (one at a time) and weaving them, as described above, until you obtain the length desired. Then you just have to carefully pull off the final 4 loops and knot them together in some fashion to make the desired product. I usually pull the 2 outer loops through the 2 inner loops, and then knot them to the other end of the woven piece to make a larger ring for a bracelet, hairband, or hair scrunchy.

Colors and Shapes

Stencil Stampers

Stamped Holiday cards

Templates

(Use Cookie Cutters or trace patterns onto old plastic lid and cut it out)

Kitchen sponges

Construction paper
Paint
Paper Plates

Fold construction paper in half to form a card. Pour Paint onto paper plates. Dip sponges into the paint.. Press lightly onto a spare plate to remove excess paint and stamp onto the construction paper. Glue a sheet of white paper into the inside of the card and write your note.

Colors and Shapes Mobile

Paper Doilies
Red paper plate
Red construction paper (or use pink for hearts)
Red yarn
Glue
Optional glitter, photos

Cut out center of paper plate so you have just a ring. I do this prior to the meeting. Then cut out circles with the red construction paper and heart shapes, Paste whole Doilies and cut up doilies to both sides of circles/hearts. Decorate with glitter, or photos of the girls in the troops or Valentines Day sayings. Punch hole in top and hole in ring, affix with yarn. Attach a hanger thread for mobile.

Mobiles

Run yarn through plastic straws, leaving a good length hanging on each side. Then cross 3 of these straws and staple the center. You can hang almost anything from them. The girls like assortments and we usually use either fun foam cutouts or construction paper. Halloween - ghosts, bats and pumpkins
Christmas - trees, bells, angels, stars, etc

Making Dough Shapes

Dough Recipes

Peanut Butter Play Dough

(You can eat this recipe)

In a medium bowl, combine 2 cups of peanut butter, 2 cups powdered milk, and 3 tablespoons honey. If too sticky, add more powdered milk, one table- spoon at a time. If desired, add chopped nuts or raisins. Be sure to wash your hands before playing with the dough.

Play Clay Ornaments

1 pound box Baking Soda

1 cup Corn Starch

1 1/4 cups cold water

Stir together baking soda and corn starch in saucepan. Add water and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture reaches consistency of moist mashed potatoes (approximately 10-15 minutes. If cooked too long, finished ornaments may crack. Remove and put on a plate. Cover with a damp cloth. When cool enough to handle, pat until smooth. Roll out and cut with cookie cutters or form shapes. When sticking one piece to another, remember to moisten where the pieces are joined. Food coloring may be added to the mixture before cooking or afterward by putting desired amount into a zip-lock bag and kneading until color is mixed into dough.

Dryer Lint Modeling Material

3 cups lint

2 cups cold or warm water

2/3 cup flour

3 drops oil of wintergreen

old newspaper

Put lint and water in a large saucepan. Stir to dampen all parts of the lint. Add flour and stir thoroughly to prevent lumps. Add oil of wintergreen. (preservative) Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture holds together and forms peaks. Pour out onto several thicknesses of newspaper to cool. Shape as desired. Dries 3-5 days.

Weaving Color Patterns

Baskets

Plastic strawberry baskets

(Your local grocery store may be happy to have you take them).

Crepe paper streamers, ribbon, or strips of material.

Pipe cleaners in assorted colors.

Wash and clean the basket. Fold strips of crepe paper streamer lengthwise in half reducing it's width. Use roughly an arms length of streamer. If you want a nice bow, then start weaving from the middle of one side of the basket, with the middle of the ribbon. Weave one half then the other and stop at the opposite side, and tie a bow. Begin weaving the streamer/ribbon/material through the holes, any way you want. When done braid three different colors of pipe cleaners and attach to either side of the basket as a handle. Catch short pieces of crepe paper/ribbon/material into the braid for a nice effect. Fill the basket with whatever you like. I've made chocolates, felt, paper cup, egg carton flowers all with pipe cleaner stems.

Yarn baskets:

Paper Plates or Cardboard Circles

Yarn

The size of the basket will be determined by the size of the plate used. Trace a circle in the center of the plate. This will form the bottom of the basket. Cut at one inch intervals inward around the edge to the line marked by the circle. Fold the cut strips upward at the circle. This is your basket frame. Now cut pieces of yarn about a yard long. Starting at the circle at the bottom, weave the yarn inward and outward around the strips. Keep going until you run out of yarn and leave the ends on the inside of the basket. Cut another piece of yarn. You can choose different colors to make a pattern. Push the yarn down as you work your way around so that the weaving will be tight and the plate will not show. Finish by tucking the yarn ends into the woven part so that they do not show. You can make a cover for your basket by tracing around the top of your basket onto another plate. Allow a little extra for a good fit. Cut the plate about an inch larger and cut around the edge again at one inch intervals. Fold upward as before. Weave inward and outward through the strips. Finish as before. When you put the cover on top, the bottom of the plate will now become the top. Girls can write their names and decorate the top with markers or fabric paints.

Alternate ideas:

To make necklaces: (These make cute name tags for events): Cut smaller circles. Do not fold the cut strips upward, just weave in and out around the edges. Decorate the centers as you wish - with stickers, markers, fabric paints or even a photo cut out. Cut a piece of yarn long enough to go around girl's head and tie to circle. To make pencil cup holders: Use a plastic soda bottle as a base. Cut off the top (save to be used as bubble blowers, scoops, funnels, etc.) Cut the strips downward at one inch intervals. Weave in and out as before.

Windsocks

Construction Paper

Markers or crayons

5-6 Crepe Paper strips 24" long

Stapler

Glue

Use one full sheet of construction paper as the body of the windsock. Glue the crepe paper along the horizontal edge. This is the back of the windsock. Leave approx a 1 inch space on each end of the paper to allow space to staple the paper into a cylinder shape. Fold 1 sheet of construction paper in half across the width. Cut 7 slits into the paper and weave strips of construction paper through it. Secure the ends with glue. After the girls have woven the windsock and attach the crepe paper strips to the back. Roll the paper into a large cylinder and staple at the top and bottom to hold its shape. We usually add a double strip of construction paper as a handle.

RAINBOW OF COLORS

Tie-Dye Butterflies

2 paper coffee filters per girl

Food coloring Blue, Red and Yellow

Wooden clothespin

Pipe cleaner 3 inch piece

2 wiggle eyes per girl

Spray bottle of water

Cover you work surface. Separate the coffee filters. Fold each in half, then fold again and fold a third time. You should end up with a small fan shape. Place 2 drops of blue, 2 drops of red and 2 drops of yellow onto the filter in different areas. Spray with water. Let sit 1 minute then open and let dry.(It usually takes only 5-10 mins) Repeat with the second filter. Gather 1 filter into a bow tie shape, when dry, and place into the clothespin. Repeat with the 2nd filter. Bend the pipe cleaner into a "V" shape and also place in the clothespin. Glue wiggle eyes on the top of the clothespin.

I had my kids cut snowflakes out of coffee filters and we dipped them in colored water before unfolding them. Try using several different colors for a tie-dyed effect. Or fold tissue paper into a small square or triangle. Dip into thin paint or food coloring. Carefully unfold and hang to dry.

God's Eye

Assorted Colors of Yarn

2 Crafts sticks or any 2 six inch sticks

Place the sticks into a cross pattern. Tie a piece of yarn onto one of the sticks. Wrap the yarn over the stick once. Wrap the yarn over and under the next stick. Always wrap over the top then under and continue over to the next stick. Continue wrapping and turning the sticks. Make as full as you like. Tie a knot at the end. Use toothpicks and embroidery floss for smaller god's eyes.

DANCERCIZE

Dance on stage

Take the girls to a local performance of the Nutcracker. Most Theaters will give Girls Scouts a discount when asked.

GIRL SCOUT WAYS

Friendship Pins Teach to Sing Make New Friends during this activity.

Small Gold safety Pins

1 gold bead 3mm

1 silver bead 3mm

3" strand of embroidery floss in Blue, Green and White

Small piece of tape

Open the pin and have the girls place the gold and silver beads on the pin. Close the pin. Twist together the blue, green and white floss. Use a small piece of tape to hold the end together and thread through the circle end of the pin and tie a knot. I usually teach the girls to make a square knot at this point. Then we exchange the pins with our new friends.

Special Girl Scout Ways

2 sheets construction paper use 2 different colors

Pencils or Markers

Scissors

Glue

Each girl should trace their hand with one of the pieces of paper and cut it out. Then glue the hand onto the second sheet of construction paper. Bend down the thumb and pinky to form the Girl Scout sign (three fingers up).

Girl Scout Necklace

30" of each: red, yellow, orange, blue, purple yarn or embroidery floss

3 - 3/4" round wooden green beads

The 5 strands of yarn represent the 5 Worlds of Interest:

Red- The World of Well-Being

Blue- The World of People

Purple- The World of the Arts

Yellow- The World of the Out-of-Doors

Orange- The World of Today and Tomorrow

The 3 green beads represent the 3 parts of the GS Promise

1. Place all 5 pieces of yarn together.
2. Recite the GS Promise as you string the beads on to the yarn.
3. Push the beads to the center of the yarn.
4. On each side of the beads, tie 5 overhand knots (10 all together) These represent the 10 parts of the GS Law.
5. Read or recite the Law as you tie the knots.
6. Put necklace around your neck and tie the ends in a double knot, being sure to keep the necklace long enough to put on and take off easily. Trim the ends.
7. Explain your necklace to someone else!

Manners Try-Its

Have the Girls count off, 1,2,3,4. Have all the ones go to the first station, the twos to the second station etc. Set a time limit and have them switch, until they have all have been to each station. This Try- It will probably take 2 meetings.

At the phone station they had to role play answering the phone and making phone calls. Each girl got to try their hand at each.

At the table station they had to set the table. I also had made up a simple ice cream menu and had the scouts pretend they were at a restaurant and place an order. I also had them pretend to be the server and take the order so that they can see how difficult it can be if someone doesn't order with a clear voice.

At the introduction station they got to role play being friends and adults and introduce them (They really enjoyed pretending to be the principal as another girl introduced her to a "new child" in school)

At the party station they discussed what it takes to be a god party host and guest. We ended this Try It by taking a trip to the local Friendly's Ice Cream Parlor and trying out their new found manners there. We had a great time. The whole thing for my 18 Brownies cost around \$25 dollars and was worth it.

MOVERS

Twig Rafts

Teach your Girls how to lash when making the rafts. If possible have a raft race at a local pond or lake. (We used the Lake at Great Trail)

MUSIC

Singing in Sounds

Action Songs

Listen to the Melodies to girl scout songs. Also printouts of the words.

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/3017/songsag.htm>

OUTDOOR FUN

Rubbings

Paper (I've used everything from lunch bags to computer paper)

Crayons

Go outside if you can or use Bark, Grass, Sand, Twigs, Pinecones, Leaves or anything from outdoors. Tear the paper off the crayons. Teach the girls to use the side of the crayon and rub over the above items. I like to fold the paper into sections so they can identify the items they chose.

KNOTS

Use 1 piece of red licorice and 1 piece of black licorice to teach the girls how to tie knots.

When she successfully tied the knot she gets to eat the knot.

OUTDOOR HAPPENINGS

Seed Race

Potting Soil

6 kinds of seeds

1/2 of an Egg Carton

1/2 shells 6

spoon and Water

Fill each 1/2 egg shell with about 2 tablespoons of soil. Put one kind of seed in each section. Label the sections. Cover the seeds with soil and sprinkle with water everyday. Which sprouts first? When the plants are ready to be transplanted gently crush the shells and plant shell and all.

PLAY

Earn this Try-It when you need activities to fill the time. Keep a copy of the pages with you or have your Leaders book on hand at all times.

Me and My Shadow

Making Shadow and Light Plaques

Juice lids

Hammer and nail

String or Yarn Hanger

Optional Lace

Cut out paper circles the size of the lid and let each girl draw a simple design on it (for young Brownies, provide simple designs of stars, gingerbread men/girls, etc.) Tape the circle to the lid. Put lid over a block of wood, give each girl a hammer and nail. They "tin-punch" the design. The girls LOVE to hammer and will want to do more than one. You can glue gun lace around the outside edge and attach a string/yarn hanger, but it's not necessary for a nice result.

SAFETY

Safety try-it activities

TASTE NOT, TOUCH NOT

POISON GAME - The object of the game is to remind all Brownie Girl Scouts which substances are poisonous, so that they may help protect themselves and their families from accidental poisoning. Have the girls or the leaders cut out pictures of good, edible items such as soaps, medicines, drain cleaners, cleaning supplies, etc. Mount the pictures on cardboard for stability, if you wish. Play the following game with the girls.

1. Show the girls one picture at a time; if it is poisonous, attach a poison warning stick to it. When you have a picture of something that is good to eat, attach a Happy Face or a Brownie Sticker to that picture, and the girls may keep that picture. There are many variations for this game.
2. The girls may find, cut out, and label their own pictures; and discussion can follow.
3. Try making your own game of Old Maid, but use a poison picture with a poison warning on it as the Old Maid.
4. This may also be a way to introduce good nutrition practices. Excessive sweets may be considered undesirable, and don't get any sticker.

FIRE IS TOO HOT TO HANDLE

1. Practice Fire Drills at your meeting place.
2. Visit a Fire Station
3. With the permission of the building supervisor draw a pretend fire on an outside
4. wall of your meeting area with colored chalk. Use water-filled squirt bottles to put the fire out. As your child squirts, the fire will magically disappear.

LITTLE PEOPLE SAFETY

BABY SAFETY - Play a game. Bring (or ask a Brownie to bring) a large doll baby-like, not a "Barbie" type. Have one or two Brownies go out of the room. Set up a situation with the doll and have her (or them) come in and fix it so the "baby" won't get hurt.

1. Put some small objects (such as popcorn, pieces of crayons, tiny parts of building sets, paper clips, "Barbie" shoes, etc.) on the floor by the doll. Of course, the Brownies should realize the baby can eat them, or even put them up her nose (yes, gross!) which might cut off her air.
2. A plastic bag over the doll's head (such as a dry cleaner's bag.)
3. A bottle of aspirin (or other medicine) close to the doll.
4. Liquid and powdered cleansers close to the doll.
5. Saucepan with handle stick out of a pretend stove (put a sign on a chair.)
6. Matches within the doll's reach.
7. Lamp cord or tablecloth which the doll can pull.
8. Knife within reach.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Scripts for Stranger Danger

1. Don't go in Strangers' Houses -- "So, you are selling Girl Scout cookies? Won't you please come in? I have just prepared a delicious hot lunch. I'm an elderly lady -- I just love children. Your mother won't worry. After lunch, you can go on your way." (There's lots of similar scenarios)

TRAVEL WITH CARE

1. Seat belts -- Make tags to be hung in the family car as reminders to fasten their seat belts. Use construction paper and string or yarn. They may draw seat belt pictures or write slogans on the tags. (i.e., A cat has nine lives. You don't. Wear Safety Belts.
2. Wherever you go -- buckle up first!
3. Airplane pilots and race car drivers wear safety belts. Do you?
4. Buckle up for safety.
5. Safety belts save lives.
6. I care about YOU. Please buckle up!
7. Make it Click!

SCIENCE WONDERS

BUBBLES

9 pints warm water

1 pint liquid dish soap

1/2 pint glycerin (available in pharmacies)

Non-glycerine Bubbles

1/4 cup sugar

2 quarts warm water

3/4 cup liquid detergent (Joy)

Mix 1/4 cup sugar with 2 quarts of warm water. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Add 3/4 cup liquid detergent (Joy works best). Be careful not to whip up small bubbles while mixing. Use six-pack holder, a circle of yarn, bent clothes hangers to blow bubbles.

Static Electricity

Be sure to check out the activity on pg 143 of the Girls handbook.

Static Spiral

Space Explorer

Star Gazer

Trace circles the size of a toilet paper or paper towel roll onto black construction paper. Cut them out and glue them on larger circles of waxed paper. Let the girls draw the constellation within the black circle and punch through the paper where the stars would be. You don't need to use a pin for this, a mechanical pencil punches quite well, without hazard. Spread glue around the sides of one end on the roll and position the black circle over the end to cover it, smoothing the waxed paper down over the glue.

You can use construction paper for all of this, skipping the step of gluing it

onto the waxed paper, but the wp is much easier to handle, and is less cumbersome.

You have just made a Star Gazer. Look into the light & it'll filter through the 'star holes' you punched in the construction appear, thus reproducing the constellation.

Brownie spaceship

This activity resembles the popular Lion Hunt and the girls loved it. You can create something similar with older girls. Have the girls lay on their backs head to head in a circle, or have them scattered around the room with the lights low. To make designs on the ceiling, practicing with punching holes in tin can lids and attaching to the end of a flashlight for a dramatic effect to the story.

Going on a spaceship!

Gonna have a lot of fun.

Launch pad....

Tall rocket

There I am on top

Can't stay to talk now

Got to keep going.

Oh look!

Over there...

Big, fluffy clouds

Can't go over them

Can't go under them

Gotta go thru them.

Going on a spaceship

Gonna have a lot of fun

Can't stay to talk now

Oh look!

Over there...

It's the Milky Way

Twinkle, twinkle little star

I'm hopping over all the stars.

Going on a spaceship

Gonna have a lot of fun

Can't stay to talk now

Look out!

Meteor Shower!
That was close...
Everybody alright?
Let's keep going...

Oh look!
Over there...
It's the Big Dipper!
Don't get your feet wet...

Going on a spaceship
Gonna have a lot of fun
Can't stay to talk now
Gotta keep going....

Oh look!
Over there...
See that planet?
Let's stop and take a look..

Fire retros!
Easy now...
Ssshhhhhhhhh
Bump!

Open the hatch
Down the ladder
Jump now..
It's cold.
It's green.
It's pistachio ice cream.
Time for a snack
Yummy, yummy it's good in my tummy.

Time to go home now
Back up the ladder
Close up the hatch
Vroom!
Whoosh!
Watch out for the Dipper
Splash!
Twinkle, twinkle little star
We're crossing over all the stars.
Meteors ahead.
Duck!

Missed us again.
Big fluffy clouds
Earth straight ahead
Reverse engines.
Fire retros...
Ssshhhhhh
Bump!
Safe at home!
Oh my.....yawn!
Time to get up now...

SOUNDS OF MUSIC

Paper Plate Tambourines
2 Paper Plates for each girl
5-6 strip of crepe paper
Paper Punch
Yarn
Small piece of tape
Markers or crayons
2 small bells per girl or use small beads or beans

I usually pre-punch the plates prior to the meetings. Place the plates right sides together. Use several clothespins to hold the plates together and punch holes approximately 1 inch apart. The girls can color pictures on the outside of the plates. Then they glue on the crepe paper between the holes. Wrap tape around the yarn to form a needle. Place the 2 bells in between the plates. Teach the girls to use an overcast stitch to sew the plates together. We usually sing and dance to "Going to Kentucky" and the use their tambourines to keep time.

OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES TO DO WITH YOUR GIRLS

RECIPIES

GOOP

4 oz. white school glue
1 cup water
Liquid food coloring
1 teaspoon borax

Pour the glue and 1/2 cup water into a bowl. Mix. Add a few drops food coloring. Put remaining 1/2 cup water into another bowl. Add 1 teaspoon Borax and mix well. Pour the two mixtures together and stir. You should have a thick mass in a liquid. When the glob has formed into one chunk, pour off the remaining liquid. The mixture thickens when you knead, stretch, and play with it. CAUTION: Do not eat. Avoid carpet and furniture.

SILLY PUTTY

2 tablespoons white glue
food coloring
cover with 1 tablespoon liquid starch

wait 5 minutes

SIDEWALK CHALK

1/3 cup plaster

4 tablespoons water

food coloring

Form in cookie cutters or toilet tissue paper tubes lined with waxed paper.

Allow to dry well.

CRAYON SHAPES

Line a cookie sheet with foil and arrange metal cookie cutters on top or use an old muffin pan with liners. Take old stubs of crayons and break them up into the shape. Put in approximately 250 degree oven where they will melt. Remove carefully. Cool. Single colors or no more than three work best.

BATH CRYSTALS

1 Cup Rock Salt

1 Tsp Glycerin (available at pharmacies)

30 drops Fragrance Oil (usually located by potpourri at a craft store)

Mix well. A few drop of food coloring may be added to tint the salts.

BATH SALTS

1 box Epsom's salts (2 qt)

Food coloring

Perfume or fragrance

Pour the salts in a large bowl, use food coloring to reach the desired color. Add fragrance if desired. I let the kids mix this with their hands. Decorate cheap bottles to put the salts in. These make great gifts.

HOMADE STICKERS

2 parts glue 1 part white vinegar

Mix the ingredients together and brush onto anything you want to use as a sticker

Sticker Solution

With this solution, you can turn magazine pictures, wrapping paper motifs, or comic cutouts into customized stickers.

11 teaspoon flavored gelatin

2 teaspoons boiling water

Place gelatin & boiling water in a small bowl. Stir until the gelatin is dissolved. Let mixture cool 1 minute. While the sticker solution is warm, brush a thin coat on the back of each cut out. Use your finger or a small brush. When dry you can lick them & stick them on paper or glass just like a real stamp!

Buddy Bracelets

Take two different colored pieces of yarn about 18" long. Have the girls buddy up and hold the ends of each together. Each girl should twist in the same direction so the pieces of yarn are twisted tightly. After the twisting is tight, fold the strings in half and knot at the end. They will curl up and look like braiding. Wrap the braid around the girl's wrist and slip the knotted end through the first link in the braid. This makes a great bracelet and the more colors the brighter and wider the braid. Our girls liked it so much they ended up with anklets and left some braids in long strands that were

Instructions

- get a partner - "a friend"

1. Take the two pieces, put them together, and each person holds an end - while holding tight, the person making the friend, twists the wool as tight as possible - This signifies how tight and strong you want the friendship to be.
2. The person making the friend, rubs the string - to smooth out any differences you may have with the other person - and stop your finger in the middle of the length.
3. The new friend, folds her end, with the other person still holding the middle, and gives her the other end to signify giving her friendship also.
4. The person making the friend ties a knot at her end signifying the sealing of the friendship, that cannot be broken.
5. The person making the friend then takes the wool and shakes, it signifying shaking all the parts of the friendship that might cause problems and arguments.
6. What you have left is a Friendship Twist, which you give to your new friend.

You can make these longer to go around camp hat band to identify patrols. I once took this craft to Brownie camp and the brownies liked it so much they used up all my wool that I have for another craft.

Friendship bracelets

the colors on a friendship bracelet can mean things pertaining to the theme you want to use. For a nature theme I have used bright blue=water, light blue=sky=green=grass/plants, yellow=sun, white=moon, brown=soil/earth. Seems like there is something in the Brownie Handbook about this theme, a poem possibly or a story. We have also used it on a girlscout/thinking day theme..brown=African american girls, yellow=asian girls,green=girlscouts bringing all different girls together as scouts(always would go in the middle), red=Native American girls, white= caucasian girls.

PLACEMATS

Put this poem on the placemat and have them dip their hands in paint and make a handprint.

WARNING.... THIS MAKES ANY PARENT WITH A HEART CRY!!!!!!
" SOMETIMES I MIGHT UPSET YOU,
JUST BECAUSE I'M SMALL
BY LEAVING FINGERPRINTS OF MINE,
ON THE TABLE, CHAIR OR WALL,

BUT EACH DAY I GROW A BIT
AND I'LL BE BIG ONE DAY
WHEN ALL MY TINY FINGERPRINTS
HAVE LONG BEEN CLEARED AWAY

SO KEEP THESE PRINTS OF MY TWO HANDS
TO HELP YOU RECALL
JUST HOW BIG MY FINGERS WERE
THAT TIME WHEN I WAS SMALL"

Edible fire

Idea for an indoor campfire:

Use large marshmallows for the fire ring, pretzel rods for logs, small pretzel sticks for tinder, and candy corn for the fire. Don't forget to put out the fire with a bucket of water (bucket filled with Lemonade.

Crafts to make or use outdoors

Bird Seed Heart

Flat wooden heart

non-toxic glue

birdseed

1/4 inch ribbon (approx. 6 inches)

Glue ribbon to the heart to form a hanger. Cover the wooden heart completely in non-toxic glue and then place the heart in a bowl of bird seed. Cover the entire area of the heart with the birdseed making sure no bald spots are left anywhere on the heart. Let the glue dry and touch up any spots where the birdseed may have fallen off, etc. Hang bird biscuit in a tree or somewhere birds have easy access to it.

Bird Feeder

Cut an orange in 1/2 and scoop out all of the pulp. (This could be the snack, breakfast or you could ask the kids to bring their already hollowed half of an orange). Punch three holes about 1/4 of an inch from the top spacing to form an equilateral triangle (all the sides are equal). String some yarn through

each hole and tie at the top. You can adjust length depending on where they will be hung. Fill your orange with peanut butter and birdseed mixture or whatever other type of mixture you like. If the children are young, have them put the peanut butter and birdseed on before you punch the holes or they will get it all over the yarn and it makes for pretty messy hanging! Have fun!

Wind Chime

numerous orange juice lids
string
nails of various sizes
one hammer per girl
a block of wood per girl just bigger than the juice lid
a coat hanger per girl

Each girl needs a piece of wood and a hammer for her "work station". Give each girl about six lids (more or less depending on the number you have). The girls can then place one lid at a time on their block of wood. Using the hammer and nails the girls can hammer out holes to make whatever patterns they want. When all lids have been designed they can be strung from a hole punched in the top of each lid to a coat hanger or other suitable object.

OUTDOOR WINDSOCK

Cut the top and bottom off a soda bottle so that you have a clear plastic tube. At one end, the top, punch 4 holes with a hole punch. These should be evenly spaced apart. Tie a 6-8 inch piece of yarn or ribbon to one of the holes. Tie the other end to the opposite hole. Tie another piece of yarn or ribbon (same size) to a third hole, attaching the other end to the opposite hole. This becomes the hanger. Punch about 10 holes in the bottom of the tube. Tie curling ribbon, satin ribbon, etc., to these holes as desired. Hang in your favorite windy spot!

Ocean Waves

Clear Plastic Water/Pop bottle (approximately 20 oz - 1 liter)
Mineral or Baby Oil
Food Coloring
Water

Fill half with baby oil (mineral oil), and half with water with a few drops of food coloring in it. (I actually prefer a little less water). Screw on cap tightly!! Rotate on side up & down, and watch the waves.

DECORATED BANDANA NECKERCHIEFS GOOD FOR 3RD YEAR BROWNIES

We took the bandana, opened it up and only beaded around one corner. We started midway along one side and went around the corner to midway along the next side. We made 2" long cuts every 3/8". The corners were a little trickier because we had to cut away some of the fabric to make it a strip that would fit through the hole in the bead. No real formula to this, just eyeballed it. We used pony beads (some were the heart-shaped ones) and every girl counted how many strips they had and then counted out their own beads. They used about 30-35 per bandana, give or take a few. We used toothpicks to

help push the fabric strip into the hole of the bead. Even the resistant girls liked this project and we found cool colored bandanas at KMart (pink, purple and teal).

Colorful Paper Weights (Good Camp-out activity)

Smooth stones or rocks, about the size of a paperweight

Damp rag or brush

Cookie sheet covered with aluminum foil

Pot holders

Newspapers

Old, broken crayons

A soft rag

If the rocks are dirty, clean them with a brush or damp rag. Let them dry. Place them on a cookie sheet covered with aluminum foil. Place the rocks in an oven at 200 degrees. (Or Over a hot fire.) Let the stones "bake" for 2 hours. I do this prior to the meeting. Cover the table with a thick layer of newspapers. After 2 hours, take the cookie sheet out of the oven. Using a pot holder, place the rocks onto the newspaper. Always use a pot holder when touching the rocks. To make designs, press down with the crayons on the tops of the hot rocks right away, letting the wax melt. To draw pictures, like flowers or fish, let the rocks cool for about 5 minutes before you draw on them. Put the finished rocks back on the cookie sheet. Let them cool overnight. The next day, polish each rock with a soft rag until it looks shiny. This will take a minute or two.

TABLE DECORATIONS

12 Small clay pots (approx 3 inches high)

Silk Daisy Bush

1 1/2 inch styrofoam ball

1/4 inch wide ribbon

wire

Markers

Spanish Moss

Cut the silk bush into 12 stems with 2-3 flower per stem. (this may vary bush to bush). Cut the styrofoam ball in half. Place into pot. Cover with small amount of Spanish moss. Press the floral stem into the styrofoam ball. Loop the ribbon four times around your first finger and thumb. Twist a small piece of wire around the center of the loops. Press wire into the styrofoam ball. Write your Troop level, ie Daisy or Brownies and add the year.

HOLIDAY CRAFTS

Ornaments

Paper grocery bags (or craft paper)

cookie cutters

glue (low-temp glue or craft glue)

scissors

fiber fill (or shredded newspaper)
ribbon for hanger
colors, markers, paints
beads, sequins, stones, lace, etc. (optional)

Trace cookie cutters (such as a snowman, mitten, tree, candy cane, etc.) onto paper bag, and cut out (they need two of each). Glue them together along the edges, leaving part open. Stuff with fiberfill (or old newspapers), add a ribbon loop (or something comparable), close the opening with more glue. Embellish the outside with paints, etc.

Coffee Filter Angels

2 coffee filters
2 cotton balls
Gold pipe cleaner
Gold gift wrap cord (2" pieces)
White ribbon, (2 (4") pieces)

Place 2 cotton balls in center of filter, fold coffee filter in half, and form the head of the angel by making a ball and using the ribbon to tie it up. You can place a small loop in the center of the ribbon to use as a hanger, then tie the bow in front. Split the coffee filter up the back and fold the "wings" in accordian pleats. Secure with a spot of glue as needed. The angel is finished by putting on the gold halo and a face if you want to.

Hershey Kiss Ornament

1 styrofoam ball cut in half 1/2 or 1 inch balls
aluminum foil
ribbon
glue
computer printed strips or labels that say "Merry Kissmas"

Cut your styrofoam ball in half. Also cut your aluminum foil into small squares and cut ribbon into lengths of less than 3 inches. Place flat part of 1" ball on foil. Make a loop with your ribbon (fold in half). Place ends of ribbon along side of ball, dab in a bit of glue and gather the foil up around the top of the 1/2 ball to make a Hersheys Chocolate Kiss shape. Once the glue dries you can use the loop to hang your ornament. To finish, glue the Merry Kissmas label across the outside near the top of the Kiss!

Fun Foam Shapes

Red and green fun foam
Clear-drying glue
Glitter
Sequins
Christmas cookie cutters (trees, bells, stars, etc.)
Self-stick magnetic strips
Hole puncher
Red and green ribbon

Use Cookie Cutter to cut thin Fun Foam into the cookie cutter shapes. Make sure you have a hard flat surface or trace cookie cutter shapes on foam. Cut out shapes. Apply glue, sprinkle with glitter and sequins. Let dry. Punch hole at top, insert ribbon loop for hanging.

Poinsettia Napkin Rings

red and green felt

scissors.

Cut 1 - 3 inch square and 1 - 4x8 inch rectangle from the red felt. Cut 1 - 4 inch square from the green felt. Starting with the red; using the rectangle cut a dog bone shape lengthwise. Using the red square cut a four point flower shape. Cut the same flower shape from the green felt. To both flower pieces cut a slit about 1 inch in length in the center. Place the red flower on top of the green flower; fold the bone shape in half and feed through the slit so that the rounded bone ends are on top of the red flower. Open up the bone ends and the loop (that has now formed under the green flower) and you should end up with a poinsettia shape napkin ring.

BEADS

CANDY CANES

Here's one we did for a local Hospital for tray favors. Take a white pipe cleaner. Cut in 3's Alternate red and white tri-beads. Bend the top part down enough to make it look like a candy cane. Hot glue (Leaders) the ends so the beads don't come off, and also Hot glue a pin on the back. Easy, and fast once the girls do one.

ICICLES

These are quick, easy and pretty! It looks like an icicle. Use a silver pipe cleaner and clear beads. Cut the pipe cleaner in half and turn up the end slightly so that the beads won't fall off. Put on four 6mm faceted beads, four 8mm faceted beads, four tri beads, four small paddle wheel (sunburst) beads, then four large paddle wheel beads. Make a loop at the top with the rest of the pipe cleaner and tie on string for hanger. We also added a ribbon bow at the top.

WREATH PIN

Red pipe cleaners 12"

8 red faceted beads

28 green tri-cornered beads

Put one red bead on the pipe cleaner, then four greens. Repeat six more times, then end with another red bead. Push the beads to the middle of the pipe cleaner, then twist the ends of the pipe cleaner together once near the beads to secure them. Take one pipe cleaner end and twist it into a loop near the beads. Take the other end and do the same, to make a bow. Add a safety pin to make a pin to wear, or add a hook to make it into a Christmas ornament.

CANDLE WREATH

1 - 12 inch chenille stick (green or red)

25 - 6mm round red beads

24 - 18mm green starburst beads

10 - white tri-beads

1 - yellow rice bead

1 white ribbon bow (could be green or red)

1 - ornament hanger

Low melt glue gun

Take one round bead to the end of the chenille stick (leave about 1/2 on end) Follow round bead with a starburst. Alternate between round beads with the starbursts. When all of these are on, form chenille into a circle, twist ends together. Point the long end of leftover chenille into center of circle. Place the tribeads on this piece to form candle. Top with yellow rice bead to form flame. Glue white bow ribbon on with low-melt glue gun. Use ornament hanger to hang from tree.

Valentines Day

Hershey Kisses Rosebuds

Hershey kisses

wooden floral picks with wire attached (I used 6")

pink or red cellophane

green floral tape

artificial leaves

Take two kisses, still in foil, place flat ends together then a 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" piece of cellophane and place the kisses in the middle, bring the cellophane down around a point and twist tightly, this is your "rosebud". Holding the twisted end next to the floral stick and starting right at the base of the kisses, wrap the wire tightly around the twisted end of the "rosebud". Wrap the floral tape tightly around the wire and cellophane. 6. While wrapping with tape add a leaf up next to the bud. You can go a bit smaller on your square size but it is trickier. Might want to have it a little big until you get the hang of making them. If you start too far down on the twisted cellophane the bud will be floppy. The tighter you can twist the cellophane and the tighter you wrap the wire the better your stem looks, not too bumpy. I have also seen other colors of cellophane used, yellow, blue or purple. A mixture of all the colors makes a great bouquet.

SWAPS

Share With A Pal

SWAPs are a little something that you make that can be traded or "SWAP'd" with others. SWAPs have a safety pin, clothes pin or string so as to allow the SWAP's attachment to something....."

On the day of the swap, each girl will come with a shoebox (or something) with her swaps in it, and will mingle with other girls, trading her swaps for others that interest her. Hopefully, the swaps will have small safety pins attached and can be pinned to a swap hat or jacket. Leaders may want to come prepared with a few extra swaps for girls who were absent when they were made.

Why swap ? To promote friendship. To learn to talk to other people. To have mementos of a good time. To share our handiwork with other scouts. Girls on wider opportunities and adults at national meetings swap patches and handmade items. These often reflect the area the scout lives in. Camp swapping is a great background for this.

POTLATCH is the ceremonial exchange of gifts practiced by Native Americans of Northwest Coast tribes. The custom stems from the legend explaining why birds have colored feathers. As the story goes, two Indian girls plucked feathers of a magic bird and distributed the multicolored plumage to the colorless birds living in the forest. From that time on, birds have had brightly colored feathers, and those gifts were remembered at potlatch ceremonies. Families were summoned to the potlatch by a messenger carrying a bundle of sticks representing the number of people to be invited. The ceremony included speeches, songs, dances, games, races and refreshments. The host and members of his family were costumed and enacted legends about their heritage. The gift giving came last of all, just before the guest departed. Since potlatch gifts were symbols of the families status in the village, they were often quite elaborate, often being carved boxes, canoes, dishes, jewelry, mats and baskets. The potlatch ceremony was given to commemorate the births, deaths, marriages or coming of age or members of the group.

FILM CONTAINER PROJECTS

BUBBLE BLOWER

plastic 35mm film container
pony bead
plastic lacing
plastic canvas scraps

Poke a hole in the lid of the container and use plastic lacing and a pony bead as the necklace part. (The bead keeps the gimp from sliding in the film container.) The blower part is a small square of plastic canvas. You cut the canvas and leave a row in the middle sticking up. This goes through the hole in the lid and is tied into the gimp. It makes lots of little bubbles! The lid pops off easily to refill it and the kids can wear it around their neck. It seems like we have a lot less spilled bubbles this way.

NOTE: Check with your local film developing centers. They usually have tons of the containers and are happy to give them to someone who can use them!

Tic Tac Toe

film canister
hole punch
light colored fabric square
permanent pen
4 tokens of type 1 and 4 tokens of type 2 (pony beads, seeds, etc.),
Safety pin

Draw tic tac toe on fabric square. Put fabric square and tokens in film canister, punch holes in lid to hang from a string.

Situpon swap

Take a 2" x 4" piece of contact paper, put a cotton ball on one side. Fold over, matching the edges, and seal. With a marker, draw stitch marks. Attach a safety pin.

ANTS ON A LOG

1 - 1 1/2 inch twigs gleaned from gardening
plastic ants
tacky glue
pin backs (this is the expensive
Glue 2 to 3 ants on a stick, glue on pin back.

S'MORES

Supplies:

thin tan colored cardboard
brown felt
white felt
pin backs

Leader pre-cuts cardboard to 1 inch square, felt to 1 1/4 inch square. Girls glue sandwich together in this order: cardboard, brown felt, white felt, cardboard, pin back.

Oscar The Grouch

1 Green Pompom
1 Film Canister
2 Wiggle eyes
Glue

Put glue on full circumference of lip of film canister. Glue one green pompom to this lip. Glue top of canister to the top of the green pompom. Glue at whatever angle desired to look like garbage can lid. Then glue wiggly eyes to green pompom to look like a face.

- Wooden clothespins, large and small. Painted and made to look like different people or animals. A pin is glued to the back.
- Shells--glue eyes on to make shell critters. Or take those with natural holes and string them on one end of a piece of yarn. On the other end glue a fish, drawn, colored and cut from construction paper.
- Nuts are great for animals, baskets, and many other things.
- Pizza made of tan felt with red, yellow and green felt scraps glued on.
- Construction paper and typing paper can be folded and cut to make a mini book. Selected stickers can help give it a certain theme.
- Glow in the dark stickers on black contact paper or cardboard. Make a circle of cardboard and black paper and put star and planet glow in the dark stickers on it.
- Paint wooden cutouts and decorate with fabric paint--write troop number, name of event, -I love GS, etc. Some fabric paints glow in the dark.
- Small scraps of leather can make tiny saddles, using yarn and pipe cleaners for the stirrups.
- Wooden cut outs--attach eyes, paint, etc.
- Make friendship pins with beads on a safety pin.
- Felt pennants with activity name and date on them.
- Peanut trolls, with pin on back.
- Puzzle pins painted in hot colors, sealed with iridescent colors sprinkled on them.
- Fuzzy -Dice made from soft foam cubes with marker dots hung from a pin.

- Prismatic mylar, cut to make CDs, pasted onto cardboard.
- Octopus--pom pom with two wiggly eyes. Braid four pieces of yarn and attach to the bottom of the pom pom in the center of the yarn so there are eight arms.
- Magic wands--popsicle sticks, painted black with each end painted white.
- Fans folded from wallpaper border remnants, glue lace on edge and ribbon rosette at base.
- Felt kite, yarn for tail.
- Campfires made from cinnamon sticks and red, orange and yellow felt.
- Silk leaf with a rolled pipe cleaner in it to resemble a worm. Wrap a pipe cleaner around a thin paintbrush (Pencils work, but give fatter worms). Hot glue the worm to the leaf, add eyes and antenna if desired. Glue a pin to the other side.
- Native American--beads threaded on yarn, with a small feather tied to one end.
- Teepee--frame formed with two toothpicks. Triangle of black felt glued to it. Then tan and cream-colored felt was wrapped around to form the teepee (Flat with only two toothpicks). Glue down--brown yarn was tied at top to secure it. Decorate with fabric paint.
- Mini potpourri using lace ribbon and potpourri.
- Felt trefoils with troop number written in fabric paint.
- Pompom critters--Add eyes and feet and antenna if desired. Add beak and feathers for a bird, flippers for a seal, a trunk for an elephant.
- Mini baskets, filled with tiny pompoms to look like an Easter basket. Or put small flowers in it.

CEREMONIES

What is a Girl Scout Ceremony?

Girl Scouting is filled with special memories and special times. Ceremonies will heighten the significance of special times, allowing girls to share these moments with others in a memorable way. Ceremonies are an integral part of Girl Scouting. They help to reinforce values, pass on traditions, recognize accomplishments, strengthen friendships, and give life to the beliefs set down in the Promise and Law. Whatever the purpose or origin, ceremonies provide opportunities for girls to share their feelings and reflect on what they have accomplished individually or together. Like much of Girl Scouting, there are few hard and fast rules for planning and carrying out ceremonies; what really counts is that the occasion has special meaning for the participants.

Types of Girl Scout Ceremonies

Several kinds of ceremonies have become part of the Girl Scout tradition.

These include:

Investiture - to welcome new members into Girl Scouting

Rededication - members renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law

Court of Awards - Girls receive recognition for special accomplishments

Bridging - Girls celebrate passage from one level of scouting to the next

Patrol Leader Installation - signifies acceptance of responsibility to the patrol and the troop

Other types of ceremonies that sometimes take less planning, or may even happen spontaneously:

Flag Ceremony - to honor the Flag of our Country

Opening/Closing - the beginning or end of a meeting

Scouts Own - a quiet ceremony with a theme expressing feelings or ideas

Campfires - for fun, friendship, or to celebrate a happy experience

Girls may want to celebrate special Girl Scout days with a ceremony. These special times include:

Juliette Low's Birthday - October 31

Thinking Day - February 22nd

Girl Scout Birthday - March 12th

Girl Scout Week - the week including March 12th

Leader Appreciation Day - April 22

Girls may also want to celebrate other religious, cultural or national holidays. The possibilities are endless.

Planning Ceremonies

Girl Scouting operates on the principal that girls grow, learn and have fun by making decisions, doing and discovering for themselves. That is why it is important that the girls do as much of the planning for ceremonies as possible. Ceremonies are opportunities for the girls, not the adults, to express themselves. Girls should have a part in making their own memories. Planning should include the girls' ideas and input. As the girls get older, their responsibility for planning should expand. Keep in mind that different levels and/or groups will have different abilities. Be flexible, let the girls make mistakes and learn from them. It is your function to guide the group and provide an environment for creativity. Here are some questions to ask the girls and also some ways girls at each age level can be involved in ceremony planning:

What is the purpose? (recognition? celebration?)

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

Where will the ceremony take place?

What date will it be on?

How long will it last?

Who will attend?

Do we want to make or buy invitations?

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

What will be the theme?

What will we do for an opening?

How will we express the theme? (songs? skits? presentations?)

What will the sequence of the ceremony be?

Who will do each part?

Do we memorize or use 'cue cards'?

What equipment, props, etc. do we need?

Who will bring the equipment, etc.?

How will we set up the room/area?

What will we do for the closing?

Who will clean up?

Have we forgotten anything?

Here are some ways girls at each level can be involved in ceremony planning

Brownie

- Choose a favorite song to sing
- Decide who they want to invite and make invitations
- Set up before ceremony
- Serve refreshments
- Help clean up

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

Ceremony Planner

Purpose: _____

Theme: _____

Before Ceremony

Props

Who's Responsible

Where: _____

Guests: _____

Activities: * _____ * _____ * _____

Opening: * _____ * _____ * _____

Main: * _____ * _____ * _____

Closing: * _____ * _____ * _____

*fill in with names of girls who are responsible for doing these activities

Investiture and Rededication Ceremonies

General Information

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

Place the candles in a glass quiche/tart dish with the ruffled sides and then add a woody kind of potpourri in the bottom on the dish. The candles were arranged in a circle around the white taper in the middle. This was a nice effect - made it seem a little fancier than just putting the candles on a table. The candles don't burn that long so we never had a fire hazard and it was all contained inside a glass dish in case anything were to catch we could put it out quick.

Have everyone form a horseshoe with candles in the middle on a table - white candle is in a candle holder in the center and lit by the leader as the horseshoe forms.

Girls will use white candle to light the other candles

#1 Red Candle

The red candle is for the World of Well-Being. Which helps girls to understand themselves, while also being aware of what it takes to be physically fit.

#2 Orange Candle

The orange candle is for the World of Today and Tomorrow, which lets a girls look into the how and why of things and to solve problems

#3 Yellow Candle

The yellow candle is for the World of Out-of-Doors. Girls can learn to appreciate nature and take actions to protect and preserve our world.

#4 Blue Candle

The blue candle is for the World of People. This world helps girls appreciate their heritage and the differences and common themes of all cultures.

#5 Purple Candle

The purple candle is from the World of the Arts. This world can help develop a personal appreciation for the many art forms and things of beauty around us.

#6 Green Candle

From the light of the five worlds, may your Girl Scout world ever grow.

#7 Leader or girl

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

Close the horseshoe into a circle and do the friendship squeeze.

Traditional Candlelight Investiture/Rededication Ceremony

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

Props: 14 candles

3 for Promise

10 for Law

1 to light all other candles from

The troop stands in horseshoe formation around a table with ceremonial candles. Open end of the horseshoe should be towards the audience. The leader, or one of the girls, begins the ceremony by explaining the meaning of "investiture" and or rededication and the symbolism of the three candles for the Promise and the ten candles for the Law. The participating girls and/or adults begin to light the candles.

One candle is lit for each part of the Girl Scout Promise and the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law.

The number of participants will determine how many candles each girl lights. If you need more "parts", consider having one girl speak and one girl light the candle.

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

Part 2 - To serve God and my country

Part 3 - To help people at all times

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

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

Part 6 - be honest and fair

Part 7 - be friendly and helpful

Part 8 - be considerate and caring

Part 9 - be courageous and strong, and

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

Part 11 - respect myself and others

Part 12 - respect authority

Part 13 - use resources wisely

Part 14 - make the world a better place

Part 15 - be a sister to every Girl Scout

Leader: "At this time the girls of Troop # _____ will rededicate themselves to the service of Girl Scouting"

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

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

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

There are many variations of this Candlelight Ceremony. If your girls are too young to light candles, or if candles are not allowed where you meet, small flashlights covered with plastic wrap can be substituted.

Candle Ceremony 2

A table is set up with one large green candle in the center. Five candles are on either side of the green candle. (Use two each of red, orange, yellow, blue and purple.)

Introduction:

This green candle is a symbol of the Girl Scout movement which was started by our founder, Juliette Gordon Low and began in our country on March 12, 1912. Juliette Low's nickname was Daisy. By joining Girl Scouts of the USA you are following in her footsteps as you become a unique and caring influence in today and tomorrow's world. These candles represent the five Worlds of Interest which make up the Girl Scout program.

Girl Scout #1 (Recite while lighting the red candles)

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

Girl Scout #2 (Recite while lighting the orange candles)

The orange candles are for the World of Today and Tomorrow which lets a young woman look into the how and why of things, solve problems and recognize the ways in which her present interests can build future ones.

Girl Scout #3 (Recite while lighting the yellow candles)

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

Girl Scout #4 (Recite while lighting the blue candles)

The blue candles are for the World of People. This world can help a young woman to build pride in her own heritage, while appreciating the uniqueness of each culture and the common themes of all cultures.

Girl Scout #5 (Recite while lighting the purple candles)

The purple candles are for the World of the Arts. This world can help develop a personal appreciation for the many art forms.

ALL: From the light of the five worlds, may your Girl Scout years be ever bright

Brownie Investiture (Light Humor)

Three Brownies:

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

Leader enters with three or four Brownies and all repeat the Promise They will form a horseshoe on stage so that at the conclusion of the Law all can repeat the Promise and sing a short song.

NARRATOR:

In Girl Scouting we have one Law with ten parts.

I will do my best to be honest and fair

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

I will do my best to be friendly and helpful

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

I will do my best to be considerate and caring

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

I will do my best to be courageous and strong

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

I will do my best to be responsible for what I say and do

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

I will do my best to respect myself and others

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

I will do my best to respect authority

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

I will do my best to use resources wisely

(A Scout dressed VERY outlandishly such as purple socks, green skirt, red sweater, blue blouse, etc., with everything fitting very poorly.)

She says:

My mother sent me shopping, now wasn't that very nice I got all these lovely bargains at half their normal price

I will do my best to make the world a better place

(Some girls enter with pet rocks and potted plants. One shows others the new house she just made for her pet rock. Others talk to their plants, etc.)

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

(Two girls enter wearing outfits with the sleeves and skirts sewn together)

They then say (in unison)

Some people say sisters argue

I'm sure this you've heard

But the thing that describes us best

You'll find, inseparable's the word

Everyone repeats the Girl Scout Promise and sings "Girl Scouts Together" or "Taps" or appropriate song.

"How to grow a Girl Scout." (with flashlights if fire isn't allowed in the school where you meet) or flower rededication ceremony.

One girl hides in a box or behind a poster which is decorated to look like a flower pot.

One at a time, the girls walk up to the flower pot and add something. There are two versions of this. In the first one, they add something to the "pot" to represent each part of the law. In the second version (which we are using since we have more than 11 girls and they all want to do it), they add something and then say why it is relevant. For example, they put in a paint brush and then say it is for learning about art. After everyone has added something, they all step back in a circle and watch their Girl Scout "grow up" out of the pot, sort of like someone jumping out of a cake. The girl stands up and recites the GS promise while everyone else follows along.

Brownie Pond Investiture

Props Needed: Brownie Girl Scout "Pond" (can be constructed from a piece of cardboard covered with foil and border with greenery, or use a mirror and border with greenery, or use a real one!) Also need Brownie

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

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

If the new Brownies have been sent outside, the girls knock on the door
The leader with the troop asks: "Who comes to the Brownie woods?"

Brownies-to-be: "We do"

Leader: "What do you want?"

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

The leader may ask why, and the girls may give their own reasons (help them prepare them before the ceremony if you plan on asking). Then they enter and gather around the pond. At this point you may have a simple dramatization of the Brownie Story by the older Brownies or the leader may tell or read the story to the girls.

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

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

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

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

Girl: Myself!

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

Leader says:

Uncross your little fingers, down from off your toes

Then the magic goes away, everybody knows

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

(Sung to the tune of London Bridge)

Weave the magic in and out, in and out, in and out

Weave the magic in and out, for we are Brownies
We have tidied everything, everything, everything
We have tidied everything, for we are Brownies
Brownie's Gold Walk

Room setting: Room should resemble woods with a "golden" trail marking the way to the Brownie Woods. In the woods is a wise old owl (paper) in a tree. The trail may be made of construction paper, cardboard, or crepe paper. Be creative. Girls to be invested proceed down "path" accompanied by other members of the troop, girls from sister troop, or the leader may lead the girls. At each obstacle, girls tell about Brownie Scouting, earning their way to the Brownie Woods. The leader or girls may help with the answer.

Girl Scout Member or Leader:
Come along and take my hand
We'll follow the path to Brownie Land
To find the woods, we'll walk the golden mile
But first, sing a song about a Brownie smile
(Girls sing "The Brownie Smile Song")
Obstacle may be a chair to climb over, etc.

Girl Scout member or leader:
Becoming a Brownie is a special thing
We do our business in a Brownie _____
(New girls answer "Ring")
Obstacle should resemble a door (strips hung from the ceiling will work)

Girl Scout member or leader:
This is the door to the Brownie woods
Knock, then answer the way you should.
(new girls "knock" on the door)
Leader: "Who comes to the Brownie woods?"
Brownies-to-be: "We do"
Leader: "What do you want?"
Brownies-to-be: "We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts"
Leader: Then enter the magic woods

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

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

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

All new girls give the leader the the Girl Scout Sign and handshake. The new Girl Scouts say the Girl Scout Promise together Leader pins the girls' Brownie pins on her upside down and says: Now your a special Brownie Scout With your first good deed, turn your pin about.

Flowers of Friendship Investiture/Rededication

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

Introduction:

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

Main Part of Ceremony:

Please join me in repeating the Girl Scout Promise (All girls recite).

And now we will dedicate ourselves to living the Girl Scout Law (as each part of the Law is read, the corresponding flower is placed in the basket)

I will do my best to be:

honest and fair,

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

friendly and helpful,

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

considerate and caring,

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

courageous and strong,

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

and responsible for what I say and do,

The gladiolus symbolizes strength of character, maturity, and responsibility. Binding it with straw, we show that we honor our word and keep our agreements.

and to respect myself and others,

The white Rose and white zinnia show that we hold ourselves worthy and good. Winter Greens symbolize the harmony we try to keep between ourselves and others.

respect authority,

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

use resources wisely,

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

make the world a better place,

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

and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

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

Closing: The sachet (or potpourri) symbolizes our dedication to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

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

Girl Scout Promise Interpretation

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

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

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

Girl Scout Law Interpretation Poems

1. A Girl Scout tries her best to be honest and fair (Fairness and honor shining bright, like a brilliant flame can split the night)
2. A Girl Scout tries her best to be friendly and helpful (A hand held closed has nothing to bring, but open and giving, is a wonderful thing.)
3. A Girl Scout tries her best to be considerate and caring (One kindness is small, but the magic it sends, turns into two, and the chain never ends.)
4. A Girl Scout tries her best to be courageous and strong (Courage and strength, what love lies here; Bright as a smile, soft as a tear)

5. A Girl Scout tries her best to be responsible for what she says and does (Smiles and laughter can make a burden light, and the sound of campfire singing brings a glory to the night.)
6. A Girl Scout tries her best to respect herself and others (Grant us wisdom to keep in our memory what the worker wrought in stone - All that we send into the lives of others, comes back into our own)
7. A Girl Scout tries her best to respect authority (To respect authority sometimes can be hard, but this is a need for you must follow that you may learn learn to lead.)
8. A Girl Scout tries her best to use resources wisely (So much is given each of us as we go on our way, we must learn to spend life wisely, lest we waste one precious day.)
9. A Girl Scout tries her best to make the world a better place (Love for all things is one of heaven's keys. For his care is given freely unto the least of these.)
10. A Girl Scout tries her best to be a sister to every Girl Scout (When hearts seek hearts and hand seek hands, oceans are bridged and love links lands.)

Girl Scout Promise and Law Interpretation
(Each girl can light a candle as she says one part)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You may also wish to add these parts:

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

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

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

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

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

Ending

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

Rededication

We have something we want to give each of you girls tonight - A bright, shiny new dime!

Now, a dime doesn't do much by itself. You have to put it with something in order for it to be useful.

Put 15 cents with it and you have enough for an emergency phone call.

Put 40 cents with it and you might have enough to buy a candy bar or a pack of gum.

You can save more dimes, put it all in the bank and let it make more money in interest.

You could take this dime home, throw it in a dresser drawer and not use it at all.

You could even lose it before you get home!

Now, I want you to tell me, how many pennies does it take to equal this one dime?

Right, it takes 10 pennies - 10 very equal and important parts. Well when you take the 10 parts of the Girl Scout Law and add it all together, it equals Girl Scouting!

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
use resources wisely
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout

because.. . . . WE ARE GIRL SCOUTS!!!

Now we have one more thing to give you - a tiny little box. The wrapping may be a bit wrinkled and the ribbon may not be quite perfect -but its what's INSIDE that counts!

Just like the dime, you have to put something with it to make it really worthwhile.

Now, you won't be receiving all of your gift at one time. We hope to give it to you over a period of many years, in small doses and as painlessly as possible!

We want to give you Girl Scouting!!!

With this gift we also give you our hopes that you will learn from it, grow with it, work with it, use it everyday, enjoy all of it and keep it with you for the rest of your life!

Now, New Girl Scouts and Old Girl Scouts alike, let us all join together in 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.

As we're sure you have already noticed the little gift that we just gave to you was wrapped in Gold paper and tied with Silver ribbons - This is to remind you of all of the Wonderful, Wonderful Friends you are going to make this year. As the Song goes, Make New Friends but keep the old.. .. One is Silver and the other is Gold!

And now as we share our ST Michael's Friendship Circle, we will pass the squeeze around the circle, and as we do, we will all think about all of our special Girl Scout Sisters right here at ST Michael's and around the world and all of the fun and excitement that awaits us this year!

A Symbolic Investiture/Rededication

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

All: Repeat the Girl Scout Promise

Narrator:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speaker: We quench the flame of our candles, but the flame of friendship still glows in our hearts. May we always be true and helpful friends to each other and to all mankind. (Leader pins each girl and gives the Girl Scout handshake)

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

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

Rededication Ceremony.

This ceremony is for older girls, who have been in scouting for a while and may be beginning to take their Girl Scout Promise and the Law for granted.

Girls begin this ceremony more as observers.

Setting: The room is dark, except for 13 lit candles.

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

"But what would the world be like if we each stopped serving God and our country?"
Leader blows out one candle.

"What would the world be like if we each stopped helping people in need?"
Leader blows out more one candle.

"What would the world be like if we each stopped living by the Girl Scout Law?"
Leader blows out one more candle.

"What would the world be like if we choose to be dishonest and self-serving?"
Leaders blows out one more candle.

Follow this pattern through the Law, until all candles are blown out and the room is dark. Pause

"If we choose this path, our world becomes very dark." Pause

"But I, _____ make a commitment today to serve God and my country"
Re-light first candle

"Who else wants to renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law?"

Allow the girls to re-light each candle while they say their part of the Promise and Law: "I _____ make a commitment to _____(be honest and fair etc.)"

Close with a favorite Girl Scout ceremony song:
On My Honor, Girl Scouts Together, When'ere You Make a Promise

Leader: And so the light grows brighter as it now fills this room and these hearts with the flame of accomplishment. Pin new leaders, having them each repeat the Promise, if desired.

Thinking Day Ceremonies

World Trefoil Pin Ceremony

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eighth Girl: The golden trefoil represents the sun shining in a blue sky which is over all the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of the world. And now let us all repeat our Girl Scout Promise, which is universal. Group repeats the Girl Scout Promise. Pins are given to girls by the leader and are pinned on each other by her "buddy" or the girl next to her. They give the Girl Scout handshake.

A Thinking Day Ceremony

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

T Thinking Day is celebrated February 22nd. This is the birthday of Lady and Lord Baden-Powell, who organized and did so much for scouting.

H He, Lord Baden-Powell, founded Boy Scouting in 1907. At a boy rally in 1909, girls appeared, who were most interested in the movement.
They wanted in too.

I In 1909, as a result of the Boy Scout rally, Lord Baden-Powell founded the Girl Guides of England, out of this grew our own Girl Scouts.

N Nothing went very smoothly at first, small companies were formed who did mostly Boy Scout drills and badges. In 1912 the girls had their own handbook.

K Knowing little about Girl Guiding, Princess Mary did have an interest and inspected companies on different occasions. She gave many gifts of money to help Girl Guides really get on their feet.

I International Council was founded in 1928. This helped bind the Guides closer together. In wars they have done quite a good many things. Their biggest aid was in hospitals and telegraph offices.

N No one can ever forget Juliette low, who founded our Girl Scouts here in America in 1912. She had lived in England and had received her interest there. She was a good friend of Lord and Lady Baden- Powell.

G Great was this organization started in Savannah, Georgia, Mrs. Low's main wish, at first, was to have an International Conference in the United States. In May, 1926, at Camp Macy, in New York, wenty-six different countries had this conference.

D Day by day this movement, started by Lord Baden-Powell , has increased, not only in size, but also in its activities. Even though girls from different countries do not wear the same color or style uniform, their interest and activities are very similar.

A And let us remember that the word "Friendship" means much to all, and "International Friendship" means even more.

Y You are a part of this, so let us all join hands in a friendship circle with wishes for all that is good for all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides the world over.

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

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

Another Thinking Day Ceremony

The Scouts stand in a circle or horseshoe with ten candles in the center, arranged in the form of a trefoil. As each girl representing a country steps forward to say one part of the Law, she lights one of the candles. Narrator: Today is Thinking Day, the joint birthday of our founders, the late Lord Baden-Powell, and his wife, our World Chief Guide. On this day Guides and Scouts everywhere gather to think of their Sister Guides throughout the world, and to send them greetings. In our international family we are bound together by the unseen chain of our three fold Promise and the Guide Law. Let us now bring in the Law in the words of other countries. This is the first law from Sweden.

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

Narrator: The second law from Finland

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

Narrator: The third law from Argentina.

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

Narrator: The fourth law from Norway.

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

Narrator: The fifth law from Australia.

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

Narrator: The sixth law from Austria.

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

Narrator: The seventh law from Haiti

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

Narrator: The eighth law from Belgium.

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

Narrator: The ninth law from Italy.

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

Narrator: The Tenth law from Luxembourg.

10th girl: A guide has self-respect.

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

Countries of the World Thinking Day Ceremony

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

Materials needed:

Eight small candles with holders

One large candle with drip catcher

LARGE cardboard cutout of the World Association trefoil in appropriate colors

To begin the ceremony, the cutout of the WAGGGS Pin is placed in the center of the floor. The troop members file in quietly and with dignity. If there are guests, the girls form a semi-circle around the trefoil facing the audience. Otherwise, they form a large circle around the trefoil. The girl at the top of the trefoil represents the Spirit of Friendship. She carries a the large candle with the drip catcher. It should be lit before the ceremony begins. Eight other girls representing Finland, Brazil, Italy, India, Ghana, Japan, Great Britian, and America, carry small, unlighted candles. These eight girls should be evenly distributed around the trefoil.

Spirit of Friendship: (taking several steps forward)

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

Troop (all together):

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

Friendship:

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

Finland:

(steps forward, walks to Friendship, lights her candle, returns to the left base of the trefoil where she places her candle in the holder and kneels beside it): Finland's my home, where sun at midnight shines on mountain snow; where work and service light us, like our sun. Friendship and peace are the aims of Girl Guides in our land. Our hope is that soon in all the world there shall be no more night.

Brazil: (Same action, except that candle is placed at right base of trefoil):Brazil's my country. Neath the Southern Cross the mountains plunge into a palm fringed sea. This wonderland, our home, teaches us Guides reverence for all creation, love our friends.

Italy: (Stepping forward) From Guides of Italy, I bring you greetings! While war still raged, we organized our troops

India: (stepping forward) And from the Asian continent I come, bearing good wishes from our Indian Guides

Friendship: Italy, India, light your flames, and ring our trefoil round with stars of trust.

(Italy and India light their candles from Friendship's and return, one to each side of the trefoil, places candles on opposite points and stands beside them.)

Ghana: (Goes to Friendship, lights candle, returns to trefoil, puts down candle and stands beside it) From yet another continent am I. Bringing you greetings from Ghana. At home, the trefoil makes us all as one, links us, regardless of our race or creed. So, to our sisterhood, honor and love.

Japan: (Similar action to Ghana's) Happy are we, in far Japan, because we are your sisters, too, and share the Law and Promise, and the fun of being Girl Guides. I light this candle for my friends at home.

Friendship:

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

Great Britain: (Similar action)

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

Friendship:

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

United States: (Similar action)

Over three million strong, we Girl Scouts of the United States seek understanding and true fellowship among ourselves at home. With our friends around, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides, we shall keep faith. Entire troop now sings "Make New Friends" as the countries pick up their candles and return to their places in the semi-circle. The Spirit of Friendship also returns to her original position. The troop leaves as it came, in silence.

Juliette Low World Friendship Fund Story

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

ACTIONS:

As the story is read:

On World, stand and spin once.

On Juliette Low, join hand with person on right and left.

On Scout or Scouting, big smile and Scout sign.

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

Once upon a time there was a lady whose name was Juliette Low. She became interested in Scouting through her friends, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, when she visited them in England. They started Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting there. Juliette Low thought Scouting was a wonderful idea. When she returned to America, she decided to start a Scout troop. So on March 12, 1912, in her home town, Savannah, Georgia, Juliette Low started the first Girl Scout troop in her part of the world.

After that she traveled all over our country, helping to start more Girl Scout troops. Juliette Low believed Girl Scouting was such a fine thing that she wanted to see Girl Scout troops all over the world. She knew that Girl Scouting would help girls to become friends and would help toward world peace and good will. After Juliette Low died in 1927, her friends decided that the greatest tribute that could be paid to such a charming lady would be to continue working towards the realization of her dream of world friendship. A memorial fund was started. It was called the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.

Each year all Girl Scouts in the United States are given the opportunity to bring money for this fund which helps Girl Scouting all over the world. When you Girl Scouts drop your money into your Juliette Low World Friendship Fund box, you can imagine the far places of the world to which this money will travel and the ways it will help Girl Scouts. Maybe your money will help buy a Girl Scout uniform for a girl in Belgium who can't afford one. Maybe your money will help send some older Girl Scouts from our country to Our Chalet, an International Camp in Switzerland, where Girl Scouts from all over the world get together to learn more about each other. Or maybe your money will be helping to start new Girl Scout troops in other countries. No one knows to what parts of the world this money may travel. No one knows the ways in which it will one day come back to us in new friends. But we all know that as we give our money to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, we are helping to spread Girl Scouting around the world.

Juliette Low Ceremony

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

Place: Indoors or Out-of-Doors

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

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

Order of Ceremony:

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

First Girl Scout:

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

(lights candle)

Second Girl Scout:

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

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

First Girl Scout:

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

Seven Daisies In A Week

(A fun skit for Girl Scout Week - Not just for Daisy Girl Scouts)

Cast: Seven speaking parts, extra girls for non-speaking parts

Props:

Make a large posterboard Daisy for each girl to hold. On each daisy, print the appropriate day of the week. (e.g. Sun-Daisy, Mon-Daisy, etc.) You could also print the poem for that day on the back of each daisy card.

Sun-Daisy

My name is Sun-Daisy and we're here to speak about Juliette Low and Girl Scout Week Just before the Civil War Juliette was born In Savannah, Georgia on October 31st

Mon-Daisy

Daisy was her nickname. Throughout her living days she loved games and writing and performing in play. When Daisy grew up she began the Girl Guides. Her first troop was in Scotland with seven girls by her side.

Tues-Daisy

Daisy sailed to America. March 12 was the day she started a troop called Girl Scouts U.S.A. Eighteen girls met with Daisy. They were very eager to start to make uniforms and badges. Each doing her part.

Wednes-Daisy

Daisy spoke of the Law for all Girl Scouts to learn. She also told of requirements for badges to earn. The troop went on hikes along nature trails watching birds of all kinds and recording details.

Thurs-Daisy

Sports were important to keep the girls fit. Basketball was the first game to become a big hit. Daisy told the girls of a camp under stars shining bright. Destination - Camp Lowlands the first Girl Scout campsite

Fri-Daisy

For the rest of her life Daisy spread the word 'round to millions of girls in town after town. Shortly after her death a World Friendship Fund began to honor this grand lady and her work through the land.

Satur-Daisy

Each year we partake in a friendship celebration with Scouts 'round the world. And with great dedication we'll remember Juliette Low of whom we will speak. We're proud to be Girl Scouts each day of the week

Bridging Ceremonies

General Information on Bridging

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

Here are a few reminders:

Advancing from Brownie Girl Scouts to Junior Girl Scouts is usually called "Flying Up".

These insignia are traditionally presented to girls as they fly-up/bridge:

Brownie Girl Scouts

Automatically earned:

Membership Star with green disc

Brownie Girl Scout Wings

Girl Scout Pin (optional)

Must be earned through bridging activities:

Rainbow

Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts

On Bridges:

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

A rustic bridge out-of-doors

An arch of colored paper

Stepping stones cut out of cardboard and labeled with the Five Worlds of Interest

Turn a card table upside down and string crepe paper between the legs

Anything else the girls can think up!

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

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

NEEDS:

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

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

Refreshments (optional)

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

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

Girl Scouts together, that is our song

Winding the old trail, rocky and long

Learning our motto, living our creed

Girl Scouts together in every good deed

Brownie Leader:

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

(The girls all stand)

Brownie Leader:

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

(as they come forward, pin on their wings).

Junior Leader:

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

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

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

Junior Leader:

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

Brownie Leader:

We will now all sing "Make New Friends"

Make new friends, but keep the old

One is silver and the other's gold

A circle is round, it has no end

That's how long I want to be your friend

Junior Leader:

Junior Girl Scouts you'll be for a few short years

Make the most of each day that goes by

Be cheerful and helpful and do a good turn

And greet each Girl Scout with a Hi!

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

Perform opening flag ceremony and sing "America, the Beautiful"

Welcome to Brownie Girl Scouts (for Daisies bridging to Brownies)

Brownie Leader says to Daisy Girl Scouts: "Come on girls and join our ring; here we plan most everything."

First and second grade Brownies go get Daisies and take them into circle. Daisies can be presented with their Bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts Patch, their Ending Certificate, and their membership pin, if desired.

Third grade Brownies Fly-up

Brownie Leader says to third graders:

"Now it's time to say good-bye; break the ring and out you fly."

Ring breaks to let girls and Leader out. She takes them to the bridge, repeats the following poem and gives them their Brownie Wings:

Brownies you are just about

To become a Junior Scout

In the troop you soon will find

Junior scouts are true and kind

So now I give you Brownie Wings

That you may fly to bigger things

Brownies cross the bridge, fourth and fifth grade Juniors meet them at the other end and each one takes a Brownie to the Junior horseshoe. When all are in place, they repeat the Girl Scout Promise together and the Brownies are presented with the Girl Scout pin. Sixth grade Juniors cross bridge to Cadette Scouts

Junior leader says:

"As we say 'Welcome to you'; we have to say a good-bye too

The time has come for some to cross; the Cadette's gain is our loss"

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

Ninth grade Cadettes cross bridge to Senior Scouts

Cadette leader says:

"Welcome to Cadette Scouting. As you join us to help make a well rounded troop ready to meet the challenges of Cadette Scouting, we too must say good-bye to some of our members as they progress on to Senior Scouting."

Cadette leader stands at end of bridge and gives the ninth grade Cadettes the Girl Scout handshake as they start across the bridge. The Senior Scouts will meet them at the other end.

Close ceremony by singing "Girl Scouts Together"

Court of Awards Ceremonies

General Information on Courts of Awards

What is a Court of Awards?

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

What's in a Court of Awards?

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

Things to Think About

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

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

You can have a court of awards anytime. We find that it works well to have one in Oct, Dec, Feb/Mar & May. I find it encourages the girls to hand them out frequently, especially for the new girls. In Oct we do it along with Investiture / Rededication. Usually only 1-2 Try Its, but something to put on those barren 1st year vests. Dec. we have an award ceremony before the holiday party (2-3 more Try-Its). Parents come only once for awards / party. Then depending on our schedule we have a ceremony either on

Thinking Day or during GS week with more awards. Finally, in May our SU has a group Fly Up, and we award the remaining Try Its to encourage participation by those not flying up.

Brownie Try-It Ceremony

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

Leader:

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

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

Tree of Knowledge

Prepare in advance a tree trunk with five branches. This can be a real tree, or a tree drawn on posterboard and hung on the wall. You will also need construction paper leaves with activities girls have done to earn awards written on them.

Perform flag ceremony and opening remarks or song.

This is the Tree of Knowledge. The tree trunk represents the World of Girl Scouting. Each branch represents one of the Five Worlds of Scouting. The leaves represent the knowledge and skills we acquire as we branch out and explore each of the five worlds.

At this time, girls can come forward and place on the tree leaves representing different activities they did to earn awards. Then each girl can receive her awards. These might be presented on real or construction paper branches.

Bouquets of Badges

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

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

The Spelling of Girl Scouting

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

G is for the Gracious way we all proclaim our birth
I points up the Ideas shared and those we'd like unearthed
R is for Respect we have for every race and creed
L is for our Loyalty to promises we heed

S is for Sincerity of deed and word and mind
C is for the Countless ways in which these are combined
O is Obligation that we owe to fellow man
U means that it's You who must be first to lend a hand
T is for the Teamwork which has evidenced our growth
I is for Integrity which backs the Girl Scout oath
N is for the Noble way we remember days of old
G is for the Grateful thanks for efforts toward our goal

Each of these is Girl Scouting
What work! What fun! What pride!
To recall with admiration
And seek with greater stride
Receiving all these badges
For all that we have done
Shows the pride we carry
What pride! What work! What fun!

More Ideas for Presenting Awards

Wrap recognitions in festive packages
Put recognitions on pipe cleaner stems in a flower pot
Put recognitions in a plastic egg for a springtime ceremony

Put recognitions from the World of the Out-Of-Doors

On leafy branches or pine boughs
In a bandana on a stick
On a natural wood plaque

Put recognitions from the World of People
On a paper doll chain
Attached to international flags

Put recognition's from the World of Well Being
On cardboard hearts
On tongue depressors

Put recognition's from the World of Today and Tomorrow
On paper airplanes
Attached to pencils or rulers

Put recognition's from the World of the Arts
Attached to paintbrushes or sheet music
In crayon boxes
Strung on balloons
With a photograph of something girls did

Scout's Own Ceremonies

What Is A Scout's Own?

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

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

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

What's in a Scout's Own?

A Scout's Own is usually planned around a theme. The theme can be anything the girls want, but usually it is about important or inspirational ideas, such as the meaning of the Promise, friendship, the

beauty of nature. Your troop might have a Scout's Own on a national holiday or one of Girl Scouting's special days. A smaller group usually plans a Scout's Own with the help of its leader. If you have a large troop, a patrol or small group of girls can be responsible for planning a Scout's Own.

These are some ways to express your theme:

Songs for everyone to sing

Shadow play scene

Music played by one or two girls

Poems or Quotations

Words a troop member writes for the Scout's Own

Choral reading

Stories and legends

Girl Scout Promise

Pledge of Allegiance

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

What Makes A Good Scouts Own?

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

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

Next the theme must take form. This does not imply elaborate preparation. It simply means careful planning by the girls themselves, with the aid of their leaders. They may decide to use one way, or a variety of ways to present the theme; dramatization, solo or choral singing, solo or choral reading, musical interludes, and background music. Participation by all is desirable, but not mandatory, although the major responsibility may be taken by a nucleus of girls, with everyone joining in the singing or responsive readings. Girls can be encouraged to share their personal thoughts by passing around a special item that each person holds while she speaks; a decorated stick, a special stone. An attitude of quietness will make it a more meaningful experience for all involved. But, it is the spirit of an "uplifting of hearts" that really makes this ceremony a Scouts Own. And when, the program over, Girl Scouts quietly disperse, it would be with a feeling of inspiration, of having glimpsed "the vision splendid" the poet Wadsworth knew the young could see.

How to Plan:

Choose a theme, such as one of the Laws, the Promise, our country, people, citizenship, nature (forests, rivers, mountains), special occasions (Thanksgiving, First Day of Spring), local history

Make a list of the different ways you can tell or show the theme

Choose one idea to open the Scout's Own

Organize order of program

Decide who is to lead parts

Decide who is to lead the girls to and from the Scout's Own

Decide how to end the Scout's Own

Where to have it:

At a meeting (opening, closing, spontaneously when all girls reflect on a shared experience)

At Camp (sunrise, campfire, sunset)

Quiet place on a trail

Anytime or anyplace, inside or outside, where Girl Scouts are gathered is the right place. Suggested time that a Scout's Own should last: Brownie Girl Scouts 10 minutes

Taking Hold of Hands (a story)

A country girl was on her way to school with her little neighbors. The school bell was ringing and they must climb the hill. It was winter and the path was icy; to slip backward was easier than to climb forward. Then this little maid turned to lead and encourage the group, calling cheerily, "Let's take hold of hands, it's easier taking hold of hands."

Our life is an adventure in comradeship which calls for the taking hold of hands. All growth in understanding involves sharing in the understanding which other people have won. We are highly privileged if we can join hands with them and share what they have learned through costly experience.

But we should remember always that we must give as well as receive. For, much as we need the experience of others, it is equally true that others need the experience which we have won and which we alone can give.

The Legend of the Sticks

(Need to have prepared beforehand a bunch of sticks (may be spray-painted silver or gold, enough for one for each girl, plus enough sayings about friendship for one for each girl)

Once, a group of friends were having an argument. They made so much commotion that Sally, the older sister of one of the girls, came over to see what was the matter. She listened quietly as each one accused the other. "She's not being fair", said one. "It's my turn", said another. "No, it's my turn", said another.

As Sally listened, she began to stoop down and pick up some sticks that were lying on the ground. Finally, the friends, grew quiet and were watching her. Sally then gathered all the sticks together in a bundle and tied them together with a string. She handed the bundle to each girl. "Can you break this bundle of sticks?", she asked. Each girl, in turn, tried to break the bundle, but not one of them could. Then Sally untied the bundle and separated the sticks. To each friend, she gave one stick. "Now", she said, "see if you can each break a single stick." Of course, the single sticks snapped in two with only the slightest effort.

"All of us are like these sticks", Sally said. "Each one of us, standing alone, is weak. Each one of us can be broken as easily as a single stick. Yet, all of us, working together, can be as strong as this whole bunch of sticks - so strong that nothing can break us."

(Each girl then comes forward and picks up one stick. After doing so, she reads a little saying about friendship and friends - some examples follow)

Let us keep the memories and friendship of today until we come together on another day
More precious than silver and gold are friends - both new and old
Friendship is one mind in two bodies
A friend is someone you can trust
The only way to have a friend is to be one

(Girls then return to their places with their sticks. The leader then goes around and picks up each girl's stick placing them into a bundle and tying them securely. "Now we are again one strong troop working together")

Scout's Own Theme: "Girl Scouts"
All: Sing "Girl Scouts Together"

Girl 1: G is for Girl - that's why we are here
 I is for Interest - without that we wouldn't care
 R is for Ready - to start to take our place in the world
 L s for Living - the Girl Scout way

Girl 2: S is for Seeking - to learn, to explore
 C is for Country - we'll try to do our share and more
 O is for Obligation - to live up to the Promise we've made
 U is for Unity - together, one for all
 T is for Trust - without that, we'd all fall

All: I am a Girl Scout

Girl 3: I have a Promise. It has three parts. Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world are sisters and friends in this Promise.

All: Repeat the Girl Scout Promise

Girl 4: I have a Law. This is the code by which I try to live. This law should be used daily in every Girl Scout's life -- in all she does in work and play.

All: Repeat the Girl Scout Law
Sing "Whene'er You Make A Promise" (Sing Together, pg. 25)

All: "I am a Girl Scout"

Girl 5: I have a motto - "Be Prepared". This means that I can be depended upon , whenever I am needed. This is my duty -- to be ready when called upon.

All: I am a Girl Scout

Girl 6: I have a slogan "Do a good turn daily". I will try to help other people.

All: I am a Girl Scout

Girl 7: I have a sign. This I give whenever I repeat my Promise. It is important to stand erect to show my pride in belonging. This reminds me to think straight and to realize my duty as a citizen. I give the Girl Scout sign to other Girl Scouts and Girl Guides because it is the sign of friendship. The three fingers stand for the three parts of the Promise.

All: I am a Girl Scout

Girl 8: I have a uniform and am proud to wear it. It must be neat at all times. When in uniform, I try harder than usual to obey the Girl Scout Law.

All: Sing "On My Honor"

Scout's Own

Theme: "Promise and Law"

Entire group recites the promise

Each girl tells what the Promise means to her

Divide girls into pairs or equal groups, one for each part of the Law. Each group tells what their phrase of the Law means to them.

Song: "Girl Scouts Together"

Reading:

(Have cards with letters on front and "reading" on back for girls to hold)

What the Promise and Law mean to a Girl Scout:

- P stands for Partnership with God and our fellow man
- R means Responsibility, which when accepted, makes us a better person
- O is Opportunities, many opportunities that come to us through Girl Scouting
- M is for Moments that we'll treasure always
- I stands for Individuality, the mark of a strong person
- S symbolizes Service, the keynote of Girl Scouting
- E might be Experiences, little things and big ones, too. Maybe that (fill in here with two special troop experiences that happened during the year).

- L stands for Laughter, an effective medicine for all aches and pains, emotional and physical
- A symbolizes Adventure, the kind of thing that can change an ordinary day into a momentous one
- W means Work, good and simple, without it we could not live - merely exist

All: And remember always, a smile is the trademark of a Girl Scout

Song: "Green Trees" and "Taps"

Scout's Own

Theme: "Founder's Day"

All: Juliette Low once said:

1st Solo: Did you ever think how wonderful it is that with every new spring, sap rises in trees? No one knows whence it comes, but it flows from root to branch and makes a dead, bare tree blossom with green leaves.....

And so it is with Girl Scouting: it rises within you and inspires you to put forth your best. In every path of life, you have a chance to show what a Girl Scout can do.

All: Juliette Gordon Low knew that time flies swiftly. Today is soon tomorrow, and all of our tomorrows lie in the hands of youth. Her gift to youth was Girl Scouting, and her dream, a tree of fellowship grown from a tiny seed.

Light Voices: She knew the seed would ripen

Dark Voices: The tree grew...

2nd Solo: Nourished by faith...

3rd Solo: Watered by service...

4th Solo: Tended by love.

5th Solo: "I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and for all America, and all the world."

Light Voices: She said, in the phone call that made history.

All: Yes, we started it that night. She brought the seed from England, and we helped her plant that seed in the rich soil of Georgia, we twelve.

6th Solo: On my honor, I will try,

2 Voices: Each said

4 Voices: Soon, there were scores of us

6 Voices: Hundreds

8 Voices: Then thousands

All: Now, we are three million strong, each living the Promise.

7th Solo: Let us all repeat it together

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

Light Voices: Duty, Service, Loyalty ... there were ten challenges

Dark Voices: These the roots our founder planted many years ago

8th Solo: The tree grew strong and flourished

Dark Voices: It's branches - delight in the out-of-doors, joy in the arts

Light Voices: It's leaves - fun, friendship, new things to do

All: Juliette Low knew what girls wanted. She said:

9th Solo: "If it isn't right, the girls won't take it, and it won't last."

All: Three million voices answer: "It is right. It will last. Thanks to your inspiration, Juliette Gordon Low."

"The Book of Trees" Scout's Own

Reader:

Those of us who are here tonight are fortunate enough to have come in contact with the organization which believes in making a "friend in need, a friend indeed." Let us all imagine that we are in a great forest. The clearing through which all Girl Scouts must enter is our ethical code. All who enter must make the Girl Scout Promise. But once inside, we find many paths - all leading to a way of life on which we can build a wholesome future. In Girl Scouting, we are able to help all our girls take this trail.

Girl 1:

Reading from the Book of Trees:

Girl 2:

I am the Oak Tree - As sturdy and long-lived as I, so is a Girl Scout's honor.

Girl 3:

I am the Holly Tree - Constantly green and holding tight to my leaves as a Girl Scout is ever loyal.

Girl 4:

I am a Birch Tree - With my bark and my wood, I am useful and help others as every Girl Scout does.

Girl 5:

I am a Linden Tree - My heart shaped leaves are like the hearts of Girl Scouts who are friends to all and sisters to each other.

Girl 6:

I am the Aspen Tree - My leaves softly whisper "Courtesey is Thoughtfulness" as every Girl Scout knows.

Girl 7:

I am the Elm Tree - Sheltering the little folk of the woods in my gracious branches and roots, I am a friend to all animals, just as every Girl Scout.

Girl 8:

I am the Poplar Tree - Tall and straight as a soldier who obeys orders, so does every Girl Scout.

Girl 9:

I am the Maple Tree - Brightening the spring, my leaves gay in the fall, I am as cheerful as a Girl Scout.

Girl 10:

I am a Hickory Tree - Tough of wood, I keep my nuts stored in strong, tight cases, just as a Girl Scout is thrifty.

Girl 11:

I am the Dogwood Tree - In the spring, I stand clean and beautiful in the face, as does a Girl Scout, clean in thought, word and deed, so stands in beauty.

All:

(The Conservation Pledge) I give my pledge as an American to save and fatihfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country - it's soil and minerals, it's forests, waters and wildlife.

All:

Sing "This Land is Your Land"

Other Ceremonies and Ideas

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

Waggs pin ceremony

World Association Pin Ceremony

All Girl Scouts, including Brownie Girl Scouts, wear the World Association Pin. This may be presented at the time of Investiture or you may postpone it until the troop has had some International Friendship activities.

Many girls wear the World Association Pin without knowing the true significance of it. February, being the international month in Girl Scouting, would be the ideal time to have the girls learn about it as well as give it to those girls who do not already wear it. The following ceremony is impressive and makes an ideal part of the troop activities during a February meeting. However, let's not limit international friendship to just one day, let's practice it every day.

You will need:

1. A rectangular piece of blue felt, approximately 21" x 28"
2. Yellow felt trefoil and flaming root base.
3. Blue felt compass needle and two stars.
4. Two sets of index cards, one set with questions and the other set with answers.

Give cards to girls participating before going into formation.

Make an enlarged felt World Association pin for a board or tabletop ahead of time. You will add the pieces one at a time as you explain what each symbol represents.

THE WORLD FLAG

A Ceremony of Explanation (for Brownie Girl Scouts, but may be used by other levels)

1. What is the World Flag?

The World Flag is the flag of every Girl Scout where there are troops, all around the world.

2. Why is the World Flag blue? (Putting up the blue ground)

Blue is a beautiful color. It is the color of lakes and oceans we like to swim in. It is the color of the sky which is all around the world.

3. Why do we have a trefoil on the World Flag? (Putting the golden trefoil in the center of the blue.)

The trefoil stands for the three parts of the Girl Scout promise. Every Girl Scout pin in the world has a trefoil on it somewhere.

4. There are two stars on the World Flag. What does one stand for? (Putting one blue star on the trefoil's left leaf.)

One star stands for the Promise every Girl Scout tries to obey.

5. What does the other star stand for?

The other star stands for the Laws which Girl Scouts obey.

6. What does the pointer mean on the World Flag? (Putting the compass needle between the two stars.)

The pointer, like a compass needle, points the right way to go. It points to the heavens and stands for our faith in God.

7. Why does the trefoil have roots? (Putting the golden flame at the base of the trefoil.)

The roots are the roots of friendship that hold us together as Girl Scouts. These are called "burning roots" because we are burning with the desire to be friends with each other all over the world.

Nickname Ceremony

With girls/adults all quietly assembled in a horseshoe, state that it is now time to begin the "Nickname" ceremony, and read the following poem:

I knew a little mystery girl,
she was a friend of mine.
We knew each other from grade school,
it's been a long, long time.

She had lots of pins and badges,
You see, she'd been everywhere;
They were on her sash and uniform,
But one thing wasn't there.

This thing is like a special gift
That is given by someone special you know.
You can't see it, touch it, taste or feel it,
But you'll have it forever more!

I asked her if she had one.
She replied, "Can I buy it? What is that?"
I told her if she had one

She'd say YES right off the bat!

So my friend doesn't have this special thing
That you will get today.
When she found out she couldn't buy one,
She just hung her head and walked away.

When you receive your special gift today,
Please hold it near and dear to your heart,
And remember how you got it,
No matter if we're near or far apart.

Each one was chosen carefully
To fit you especially in and out!
Because you are one great bunch of girls to have,
That would make any leader shout!

Now I have you wondering,
Just what is she talking about?
Well, here goes, let's give the first one,
To a super duper Girl Scout!

(at this time, go stand in front of the first girl who is receiving a
"nickname", and hold your right or left hand over her head and slowly
let the glitter fall to her shoulders/head and say the following:)

**By the power invested in me as leader of Troop _____, I
hereby bestow the following name to (say girl's name).
On this day, (say the date), and forever more, you will now be
known as "(say the nickname)".**
(now pin the name tag on the girl's shirt).

Go to the next girl/adult receiving a nickname and report this
portion** all over again.
You may end the ceremony as you like. We sang "Make New Friends".

Building the Girl Scout Pin (Traditional)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Girl 9: However, the arrows show preparedness to fight for our ideals. As Girl Scouts, we prepare ourselves to cope with every situation and emergency.

Girl 10: On the scroll are the words "E Pluribus Unum," meaning one from many. There are many states but one nation. In the United States we have three million in Girl Scouting. Each one is an individual personality, each one has her own place, but we are working in one organization toward one goal according to the ideals that we have in common.

Girl 11: The G.S. on the pin stands for Girl Scout. It means many different things to many different people. All of us have to decide what it means to us - new friends we have made, things we have

learned, understandings about people we have gained, experiences we could have not have had except as a Girl Scout. The list is almost as endless as the number of people in the organization.

Girl 12: There is a destiny that makes us brothers
None goes his way alone

All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own

Girl 13: Three candles lighted here represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. Ten candles lighted here represent the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law. All rise and join us in singing "Girl Scouts Together".

Building the Girl Scout Pin (Contemporary)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Girl 6: Our pin retains the original trefoil. However, Girl Scouting is changing and we want the public to see what we are today, so we present a new symbol, a new face for Girl Scouting.

All: We are contemporary

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

All: We are pluralistic

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

All: We are independent

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

Girl 12: There is a destiny that makes us brothers

None goes his way alone

All that we send into the lives of others

Comes back into our own

The Brownie Story (a poem)

For those who've come, I'm here to share

The Brownie Story with girls who care

For once, a long time ago

When fairies and elves in England did grow

Two little girls as normal as you

Lived with their father and grandmother, too!

Their father, a tailor, worked hard all day

And Granny, very busy, had no time to play

The girls loved to play and dance and sing

They could make a game out of any old thing

Then one day the father, a wise old man

Told of the magic of Brownie Land

He told them of the Brownies who work and dust

And clean for their families without making a fuss

Granny told them to look for a magical place

Where the wise old owl might show them the face

Of a Brownie who was willing to clean and sew

And dance and sing, 'cause Brownies love that, you know!

Our two found the owl with the answers to share

With all the little girls waiting way out there
Said he "Go to the Magical Browine Ring,
Join all the Brownies in everything."
"Deep in the woods when the moon is out
Go to the pond - turn yourself about
You'll find magic that starts with a rhyme"
And this magic circles the world in time
"Twist me and turn me
And show me the elf
I looked in the water
And saw myself"
Now all of us know of the magic Brownie woods
Where each little girl helps as she should
Where trees and flowers and the rain and the sun
Are friends of children who join Scouting fun

A Girl Scout's Prayer

Lord, help us to be good Girl Scouts
Ones whom the world can trust,
Help us respect our neighbor's rights
And never be unjust.
Help us as Americans
To be worthy of the flag we bear.
Then help us as real Girl Scouts
To be proud of the uniform we wear.
Help us to be clean, Dear Lord,
In thought, word, and deed
And help us to follow the law
That is in the Girl Scout creed.
Teach us to love our fellow man
And then to serve him, too
Help our actions to count, Dear Lord,
In everything we do.
Give us strength to carry on
And do our part each day,
Make a place in this world for us
And help us fill it, I pray.
Make us what we ought to be
And in Thy footsteps fall,
Help us to live for others
O great Scout Master of us all.

Investiture Ceremony Poem

These golden trefoils in my hand

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

Around the Campfire

Come place a log around the fire
A sign of Friendship true
Then you may sit and talk with me
And I shall talk to you
The years have flown since last we sat
Beside a campfire bright
But I have longed to talk to you
As we shall talk tonight
I have not traveled far in miles
But with my questing eyes
I've found unbounded beauty waits
Beneath these spacious skies
I've learned to see with open mind
The grandeur near at hand
And all that nature gives to us
I've tried to understand
I do not long for distant shores
But just to have the time
To roam about these mountain woods
And make them really mine

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

Blessed are the Girl Scouts
Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are taught to see beauty in all things around them...
For their world will be a place of grace and wonder.
Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are led with patience and understanding...
For they will learn the strength of endurance and gift of tolerance.
Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are provided a home where family members dwell in harmony and
close communion...
For they shall become the peacemakers of the world.
Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are taught the value and power of truth...
For they shall search for knowledge and use it with wisdom and discernment.
Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are guided by those with faith in a loving God...
For they will find Him early and will walk with Him through life.
Blessed are the Girl Scouts who are loved and know that they are loved...
For they shall sow seeds of love in the world and reap joy for themselves and others.

Angel in Green

Having left mortal earth I passed through Heaven's gate
And while anxiously awaiting the outcome of my fate
I walked amongst the angels all robed in purest white
Whereupon I saw one figure that cast a greenish light.
She sat upon a misty cloud, a harp held to her breast,
In a flowing, blowing gown of green, unlike all the rest;
I asked what great deed she'd done to earn the special hue
That gave her color where others had none, or maybe just a few.
She said, "On earth I sought no fame, fortune was not my goal
I shunned the power of politics and worked without a toll;
I spent time with children, helping them to grow
For as you reap in life, so must you learn to sow."
"You see," she said, "the dividend while growing up I'd share
I repaid where many others were too self involved to care;
Girl Scouting was my choice of roads to follow in my quest
For among the girls I found a love deeper than the rest."
"A teacher was I, my work was hard, I had no diploma or pay
But where family and institutions failed I helped them find the way;
The lessons I taught were obscure and difficult to see
For they didn't have names like spelling or math or geometry."
"They were lessons in life delivered through guided experience
And they taught such things as character, spirit, and confidence;

Though on earth my life was blessed, it's even more so today
For when I look down I see my work as my girls show others the way."
"On earth Girl Scouting taught me to leave things better than before
And the same applies to that mortal place where life never was a bore
Now having lived by that Girl Scout rule in every earthly endeavor
I have become an Angel in Green and shall be a Girl Scout forever."

FLAG CEREMONIES

The Red, White and Blue
What does our flag mean to you?
Does it mean just colors - red, white and blue?
Just a piece of cloth that proudly waves
From buildings tall and soldier's graves?
Or does it mean people like you and me
Who love this land of liberty?
People whose skins may be brown or white
But bravely work for freedom and right?
Can you see in it's folds mountains and hills
Wide flowing rivers and picturesque hills?
Fields that are golden with ripening grain
And cowboys roaming across the plain?
Cities with skyscrapers stately and tall
And towns and villages large and small?
Farms that supply our tables with food
And orchards and forests that yield fruit and wood?
These are the things in our flag that I see
Symbol of a nation that loves liberty
So to our flag let us pledge to be true
God bless you and keep you, dear Red, White and Blue

The American's Creed

I believe in
The United States of America as a
Government of the people, by the people, for the people
Whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed
A democracy in a republic
A sovereign Nation of many sovereign States
A perfect Union, one and inseperable
Established upon those principals of freedom, equality, and justice
And humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes
I therefore believe it is my duty to my country
To love it; To support its Constitution

To obey its laws; To respect its flag; and
To defend it against all enemies.

Flashlight Flag Ceremony

Narrator (one, or more if your troop is large)

Four Flashlight Bearers (candles may be substituted)

Flag Bearer and Color Guard(s)

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

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

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

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

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

All join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Flag Etiquette

Standards of Respect

The Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used. They are:

The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.

The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speakers desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.

The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.

The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.

The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.

The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

Note: Most American Legion Posts regularly conduct a dignified flag burning ceremony, often on Flag Day, June 14th. Contact your local American Legion Hall and inquire about the availability of this service.

Displaying the Flag Outdoors

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.

When it is displayed from the same flagpole with another flag - of a state, community, society or Scout unit - the flag of the United States must always be at the top except that the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for Navy personnel when conducted by a Naval chaplain on a ship at sea.

When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag's union should be farthest from the building.

When flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate flag poles which are of the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor - to its own right.

..The other flags may be smaller but none may be larger.

..No other flag ever should be placed above it.

..The flag of the United States is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered.

When flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation.

Raising and Lowering the Flag

The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. Ordinarily it should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset. It should be illuminated if displayed at night. The flag of the United States of America is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered. The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is the longest.

Displaying the Flag Indoors

When on display, the flag is accorded the place of honor, always positioned to its own right. Place it to the right of the speaker or staging area or sanctuary. Other flags should be to the left.

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

When one flag is used with the flag of the United States of America and the staffs are crossed, the flag of the United States is placed on its own right with its staff in front of the other flag.

When displaying the flag against a wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union (stars) should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.

Parading and Saluting the Flag

When carried in a procession, the flag should be to the right of the marchers. When other flags are carried, the flag of the United States may be centered in front of the others or carried to their right. When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute.

The Salute

To salute, all persons come to attention. Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute. Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart and men with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over the heart. Members of organizations in formation salute upon command of the person in charge.

The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

The pledge of allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting. When the national anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note and hold the salute through the last note. The salute is directed to the flag, if displayed, otherwise to the music.

The Flag in Mourning

To place the flag at half staff, hoist it to the peak for an instant and lower it to a position half way between the top and bottom of the staff. The flag is to be raised again to the peak for a moment before it is lowered. On Memorial Day the flag is displayed at half staff until noon and at full staff from noon to sunset.

The flag is to be flown at half staff in mourning for designated, principal government leaders and upon presidential or gubernatorial order.

When used to cover a casket, the flag should be placed with the union at the head and over the left shoulder. It should not be lowered into the grave.

Flag Folding

As an Army and Navy custom, the flag is lowered daily at the last note of retreat. Special care should be taken that no part of the flag touches the ground. The Flag is then carefully folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat, emblematic of the hats worn by colonial soldiers during the war for Independence. In the folding, the red and white stripes are finally wrapped into the blue, as the light of day vanishes into the darkness of night.

This custom of special folding is reserved for the United States Flag alone.

How to Fold the Flag

Step 1

To properly fold the Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person so that its surface is parallel to the ground.

Step 2

Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise over the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.

Step 3

Fold the flag again lengthwise with the blue field on the outside.

Step 4

Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.

Step 5

Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.

Step 6

The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.

Step 7

When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible.

Flag Folding Ceremony

The flag folding ceremony described by the Uniformed Services is a dramatic and uplifting way to honor the flag on special days, like Memorial Day or Veterans Day, and is sometimes used at retirement ceremonies.

Here is a typical sequence of the reading:

(Begin reading as Honor Guard or Flag Detail is coming forward).

The flag folding ceremony represents the same religious principles on which our country was originally founded. The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars representing the states our veterans served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted when draped as a pall on a casket of a veteran who has served our country in uniform.

In the Armed Forces of the United States, at the ceremony of retreat the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out and, at the ceremony of reveille, run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

(Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to unravel and fold the flag into a quarter fold--resume reading when Honor Guard is standing ready.)

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on mother's day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we Trust."

(Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to inspect the flag--after the inspection, resume reading.)

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

(The Flag Folding Ceremony above is from the US Air Force Academy)

Basic Flag Ceremonies

Opening Flag Ceremony (Outdoors: Colors)

"Would you all please stand for the presentation of the flag"

If you have an "audience", such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.

"Girl Scouts (or Horseshoe) Attention"

This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.

"Color Guard Attention"

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

"Color Guard Advance"

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

"Color Guard, Post the Colors"

(indoors) The Color Guard places the flags in the stands, the American Flag last.

(outdoors) The Flag Bearer attaches the flag to the rope and quickly hoists the flag, the American flag is raised first.

"Color Guard, Honor your Colors"

The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to "Attention" The Pledge of Allegiance, songs, poems, Girl Scout Promise, are done now.

"Would you all please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance"

"Color Guard Dismissed"

The Color Guard walks to the back of the room, or away from the flag pole.

Closing Flag Ceremony (Outdoors: Retreat)

"Would you all please stand for the retrieval of the flag"

If you have an "audience", such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.

"Girl Scouts (or Horseshoe) Attention"

This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.

"Color Guard Attention"

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

"Color Guard Approach"

(indoors) - The Color Guard walks toward the front of the room and stands in front of the flag stands.(outdoors) The Color Guard walks to the flagpole Singing Taps, poems, other songs, are done now, if desired.

"Would you all please join me in the singing of Taps"

"Color Guard, Honor your Colors"

The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to "Attention"

"Color Guard, Retrieve the Colors"

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

"Color Guard Dismissed"

The Color Guard carries the flag to the back of the room, or carries the folded flag to an appropriate place.

REMINDER: Other than saluting the flag immediately after posting , or before retrieving, the Color Guard remains at attention. They do not take place in any singing or speaking. In a troop setting, you may just wish to say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise while the flags remain in the stands. This is perfectly acceptable.

I Pledge Allegiance

You cannot teach proper citizenship without proper respect for our U.S.Flag and our American heritage. Unless you give it some thought, the Pledge of Allegiance can become boring, disrespectful, and slovenly to American citizens. As examples of what you can do to make the flag salute more meaningful, consider using the following flag salute introductions:

Because we are thankful and appreciative on such leaders as [name famous US president(s), now deceased] let us us salute the flag and at the same time remember the great Presidents of our great land.

As we salute the flag today, let's remember George Washington, the father of our country, and the heritage of America.

To show our pride and appreciation of America's role in world leadership, let us now salute our country's flag.

For the opportunities our country offers to the youth of America [through Scouting], let us now salute our flag, the emblem of our nation.

For those who died that this nation might live, let us now salute our flag.

We, the people ...that's what our flag stands for. Let us now salute our flag.

To secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity is a challenge to all of us. Let us salute our flag.

In the folds of our flag are enshrined every ideal, hope, and opportunity made possible because someone has lived. Let us salute the flag.

The 31 words of the Pledge of Allegiance are among the best known in America. Let us say them now with meaning as we salute our flag.

Our state is represented by one of the 50 stars on the U.S.Flag. Let us now pledge allegiance to our flag as individuals and together for our state.

The flag of the United States of America is the emblem of our nation, the leader of the free world. Let us now salute our flag.

In peace and war our flag flies proudly, because Americans are not forgetful of others. Join me in saluting our flag.

When you look at the flag, you can see the Constitution and the courts, the statutes and statute-makers, a soldier, a street-cleaner, a lawyer, or a clerk. Think about what YOU see as we salute the flag today.

Join me in saluting the flag of our country, the emblem of truth and justice.

It's Just a Piece of Cloth

It's just a piece of cloth, that's all it is.
Just a piece of cloth.
But when a little breeze comes along, it stirs and comes to life.
And flutters and snaps in the wind, all red and white and blue ...
Then you realize that no other piece of cloth could be like it.
It has your whole life wrapped up in it ...
The meals you eat, the time you spend with your family,
The kind of things boys and girls learn at school,
The strange and wonderful thoughts you get in church.

Those stars on it ...
They make you feel just as free as the stars
in the wide, wide, deep night.
And the stripes ...
they are the bars of blood
To any dictator who would try to change this way of life.

Just a piece of cloth, that's all it is
Until you put your soul into it and give it meaning;
Then it is the symbol of liberty and decency
and fair dealing for everyone.

It is just a piece of cloth
Until we breathe life into it,
Until we make it stand for everything we believe in
And refuse to live without it.

Red Skelton and the Meaning the Pledge of Allegiance

From the Red Skelton Hour, January 14, 1969:

I remember this one teacher. To me, he was the greatest teacher, a real sage of my time. He had such wisdom. We were all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and he walked over. Mr. Lasswell was his name... He said:

"I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems to me as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word:

I--- Me, an individual, a committee of one

PLEDGE--- Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

ALLEGIANCE--- My love and devotion

TO THE FLAG--- Our Standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts 'freedom is everybody's job'.

OF THE UNITED--- That means that we have all come together

STATES--- Individual communities that have united into 50 great states, communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country

OF AMERICA, AND TO THE REPUBLIC--- A state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people

FOR WHICH IT STANDS. ONE NATION UNDER GOD--- Meaning so blessed by God

INDIVISIBLE--- Incapable of being divided

WITH LIBERTY--- Which is freedom and the right to live one's own life without threats or fear of some sort of retaliation.

AND JUSTICE--- The principal or quality of dealing fairly with others.

FOR ALL--- Which means "It's as much your country as it is mine"

Hello, Remember Me?

Some call me Old Glory, others call me the stars and stripes. I have also been referred to as the Star Spangled Banner. But, whatever they call me, I am your flag--the flag of the United States of America. There has been something that has been bothering me, so I thought that I might talk it over with you today.

I remember some time ago, (I think it was a Memorial Day, or was it Veterans Day?) that people were lined up on both sides of the street for the parade. A High School band was behind me--naturally, I was leading the parade. When your Daddy saw me coming along waving in the breeze, he immediately removed his hat and placed it so that his right hand was directly over his heart.

And you--I remember you.

Standing there as straight as a soldier, you didn't have any hat, but you were giving me the right salute. Remember, they taught you in school to place your hand over your heart--.

And little brother, not to be outdone, was saluting the same as you. There were some soldiers home on leave and they were standing at attention giving the military salute. Oh, I was very proud as I came down your street that day.

Now, I may sound as if I am a little conceited. Well, I am!

I have a right to be; because I represent you, the people of the United States of America.

But, what has happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I have a couple more stars added since your father was a boy. A lot more stars added since the beginning of this country, and a lot more blood shed since that patriotic day so long ago.

But now, I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street some people just stand there with their hand in their pocket and give me a small glance and then look away. I see children running around and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am.

Is it a sin to be patriotic any more? Have some people forgotten what I stand for? Have they forgotten all the battle fields where men have fought and died to keep this nation free? When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Take a good look at the Memorial Rolls some time. Look at the names of those who never came back. Some of them were friends or relatives of yours. That's whom you are saluting. Not me.

Well, it won't be long until another one like me will be coming down your street again.

So, when you see it, stand straight, place your hand over your heart and you'll see it waving back--that's my salute to you. And then I'll know that you remember who I am.

OTHER FLAG CEREMONIES

Daisy Girl Scout Flag Ceremony

Daisy Girl Scouts can plan and participate in any variety of ceremonies. The key to the success of the ceremony is simplicity -"Keep it simple!" Include the Girl Scout Promise or special Daisy Girl Scout songs. You might even make up some of your own.

Start your meeting with a simple flag ceremony. Girls can take turns holding a small American flag. Keep a chart as to who holds it (putting stickers after the names of the girls who have done it is fun!) You might also have a Flag Ceremony Leader who starts the Pledge and the songs.

Formation: Stand in a Daisy Circle

The Daisy holding the American Flag takes one step forward.

Flag Ceremony Leader (or Caller), announces and starts the Pledge of Allegiance.

"Daisy Girl Scouts, say the Pledge of Allegiance."

sing a Daisy or patriotic song (whatever they know!), or say the Girl Scout Promise.

I Am a Daisy

(written by Lynne DeMeo, Carver Service Unit Administrator, Plymouth Bay Girl Scout Council, and sung to the tune of "On My Honor")

I am a Daisy standing tall,

(Stand on tip toes)

I am Daisy friend to all,

(Wave with right hand)

I am a Daisy helping every day,

(Bring palms up from left to right)

and living all my life in the Girl Scout way.

(Girl Scout sign)

Daisy holding the American Flag steps back into the circle to end the ceremony.

Indoor Flag Ceremony

Girl/audience in horseshoe formation or facing front of room. Color Guard at door to room. Caller in front of room, either at end of horseshoe or facing audience.

CALLER: "COLOR GUARD, ATTENTION." (Stand straight, ready to advance, bearer even with or slightly in front of guards.)

CALLER: "GIRL SCOUTS, ATTENTION." (Stand straight, no talking.)

"COLOR GUARD, ADVANCE." (Guard comes to front of room or to open end of horseshoe, facing flag stand, if there is one, or audience if there is no stand.)

CALLER: "GIRL SCOUT, THE FLAG OF YOUR COUNTRY. PLEDGE

ALLEGIANCE." (The caller leads the group in the pledge. The Color Guard stands silently, as their job is to guard the flag. The ceremony may also include the Girl Scout Promise and/or an appropriate song at this time.)

CALLER: "COLOR GUARD, POST THE COLORS." (Flag bearer steps forward and places the flag in stand. IF more than one flag, the American flag is placed in stand last. If bearer has trouble, guard helps her. * If there is no stand, the caller say, "COLOR GUARD, PRESENT THE COLORS." Flag bearer takes on step toward the audience. The Pledge of Allegiance is said at this point if the flags are not posted.)

CALLER: "COLOR GUARD DISMISSED." (The color Guard leaves flag in stand if there is one, saluting in unison when the flag has been placed in the stand. They then leave the horseshoe formation. If there is no stand, they return the flag to where it is stored.)

CALLER: "GIRL SCOUTS, DISMISSED."

Order of Ceremony to Retire Flag

The CALLER gives the same commands, except. . . instead of COLOR GUARD, POST THE COLORS, the CALLER would say: COLOR GUARD, RETIRE THE COLORS.

The Color Guard would remove the flags from the room or from view of the group, lifting the United States flag first.

Two-Flag Ceremony Marching up to a Stage or Platform

Formation coming down the aisle, the American Flag is on the right, the World or Troop Flag is on the left. As the guards are coming up the aisle, they are following their bearers.

Procedure In front of the stage, the American Flag bearer with guard following goes to the right and up the steps, crossing to the opposite side of the stage. When crossing the stage, the American Flag passes in front of the World or Troop Flag. Commands are basically the same except that when the colors are posted, the American Flag is posted in the stand at the audience left, the World or Troop flag is posted in the audience right.

When the Color Guard is dismissed, the American Flag bearer and guard leave by steps to the audience left: the World or Troop Flag bearer leave by step to the audience right.

Three-Flag Ceremony

Formation Same as two-flag ceremony. American Flag on the right, World Flag in the middle and Troop Flag on the left.

Procedure Commands: The commands are the same as in the two-flag ceremony. The flags are picked up in this order: first, the American Flag; second, the World Flag; third, the Troop Flag. They are then replaced in the reverse order.

Flag Recipe

Ingredients:

1 large pot

1 American flag folded in pot

1 cup each red, white, blue poker chips or something acceptable

gold and silver stars

1 stir stick

6 girls

Girls from semi circle around pot.

First Girl: We are going to fix for you a treat that is really grand, and make for you a recipe-the greatest in the land.

Second Girl: In first we will put a heaping cup or red for courage true.

Third Girl: And then we will add for loyalty a dash of heavenly blue.

Fourth Girl: For purity, we will now sift in a layer of snowy white.

Fifth Girl: We will sprinkle in a pinch of stars to make it come out right.

Sixth Girl: We will stir and stir and then you will see what we have made is (here all six girls say "OLD GLORY", as two of them reach in and take from the bottom of pot and hold it above the pot for the pledge.)

All Girls: Our flag is the most beautiful flag in the world, let us always be loyal to it. Please join us in the pledge.

Outdoor Flag Ceremony

The purpose of the ceremony is to honor the flag. A short simple ceremony is usually best. Silence makes is more effective. There are many "right" ways to conduct a flag ceremony. this is one of the ways you can do it.

Color Guard: the color guard is a guard of honor for the flag, It is made up of a color bearer and color guard. The color bearer is the person who carries the flag. She may wear a red sash over her right shoulder tied at the left waist in a square knot. The color guards guard the flag and help the bearer when ever necessary.. Their sashes go around the waist and tie in a square knot on the left side.

Formation: Horseshoe, circle or other formation decided on by the group conducting the ceremony.

Raising: At the command, "Color Guard Advance," the bearer and guards move forward to the pole. The bearer leads with the guards following in pairs. At the command "Post the Colors," the bearer hands flag to color guards who unfold it while bearer prepares ropes. Bearer fastens ropes and pulls flag to the top of the pole. All step back into original formation, Salute smartly, and stand at attention through the remainder of the ceremony without signing or speaking. At command, "Color Guard Dismissed, " group turns and leaves.

Salute: Everyone except the color guard salutes when the first hook is fastened to the flag. The flay salute is held until the flag reaches the top of the pole. At the retreat, the salute begins when the flag starts down the pole and is held until the first person touches the flag.

Lowering: Color bearer and guards march to pole, salute and stand at attention during the ceremony. At the command " Retreat Colors, ' the bearer brings down the flag. The guards fold the flag while the bearer adjusts the ropes. When the flag is folded it is handed to the bearer. The command " Color Guard Dismissed," the group turns and leaves.

Ceremony: The ceremony takes place after the flag has been raised, and or before it is lowered. the ceremony itself varies, but often consists of the Pledge of Allegiance, Patriotic poetry and songs.

Folding The flag is folded lengthwise in half; then again lengthwise in half. The blue field is folded to the outside. Begin folding the flag in a triangle at the stripe end.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

(Note: By sure the girls are at an appropriate age to understand the meaning of the flag burning before having them participate in this ceremony. You may want to discuss with girls prior to having them participate for the first time.)

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

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

1. Lower the flag from the pole (or remove it from the staff) and carry it to the fire site.
2. Place the stars (as the audience sees them) in the upper left hand corner. This is an appropriate reading to start the ceremony:

"Remember as you look at the Flag, it is the symbol of our nation, it is red because of human sacrifice; blue because of the true blue loyalty of its defenders; and white symbolizes liberty - our land of the free. The stars are symbols of the united efforts and hope in the hearts of the many people striving to keep America great."

3. Cut the field of blue from the stripes - have someone hold onto this piece.

4. Next, cut each stripe from the "whole" and lay each piece, one at a time, across the flames. These are some ideas for appropriate readings for each stripe:

First Stripe - "The thirteen stripes stand for the thirteen original colonies which are: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island."

Second Stripe - "The white stands for purity"

Third Stripe - "The red stands for courage"

Fourth Stripe - "Give me liberty or give me death"

Fifth Stripe - "One if by land, two if by sea"

Sixth Stripe - "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution on the United States of America."

Seventh Stripe - "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal. They are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Eighth Stripe - "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Ninth Stripe - "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or press."

Tenth Stripe - "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Eleventh Stripe - "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state because they are female."

Twelfth Stripe - "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

Thirteenth Stripe - "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." 5. After all the stripes have been burned, the field of blue is laid on the fire - all are silent until the entire piece burns to ash.

6. Out of respect, nothing should ever be added to the ceremonial fire after the Flag has been retired.

7. The ceremony ends with everyone departing in silence.

8. After the ashes have cooled, they should be buried.

Please remember, this is a very solemn ceremony and should be done with the utmost respect and reverence for the flag to be retired. It might also be noted that you need to explain this ceremony thoroughly to the girls so that they don't go home and tell their parents that they "burned a flag at Girl Scouts".

I am Old Glory!---A Reading for Retiring Worn Out Flags

I am a symbol of your country, of the principles for which you stand. Men and women have defended me with their blood and their lives because I stand for all that is good in your country. I have become the emblem of your unity, your power, your thoughts and purpose as a nation. I have become a symbol of a growing, changing nation. I am the banner of glory from the past, and like your country, I have a great future. I have no other character than that which you give me from generation to generation. The choice is yours.

I have flown in majestic silence above the hosts that execute those choices, whether in peace or war. And even through silence I have spoken to you--- voices from the past of those men and women who went before you, and from those records they've written about me. Those same records describe the character of those who eternalized my colors. My blue field is a symbol of their faith and glory. My red stripes denote their sacrifice and bravery - even the loss of their life-giving blood. My white denotes their purity of heart and mind.

But tonight, my colors reflect my years - for I am faded, tattered and worn. Rather than reflect misunderstanding upon those characteristics and colors for which I have flown, I must be retired so that fresh colors might be raised. The only proper retirement of my emblems is to return to the earth through fire, for fire symbolically denotes the presence of God.

For more than ten score years I have been the banner of hope and continue to be an enduring banner of the United States of America. Freedom for generations after generation of Americans. Men have followed me into battle with unwavering courage. You have looked on me as a symbol on national unity. You have prayed that you and your fellow citizens might continue to enjoy life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. So long as you love liberty more than life itself, so long as truth, justice and charity for all remain rooted deeply in human hearts, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America.

But tonight, I bid you adieu.

Alternative (longer) Version:

I am old glory; for more the 9 score years I have been the banner of hope and freedom for generation after generation of Americans. Born amid the first flames of America's fight for freedom, I am the symbol of a country that has grown from a little group of 13 colonies to a united nation of 50 sovereign

states. Planted firmly on the high pinnacle of American Faith, my gently fluttering folds have proved an inspiration to untold millions. Men have followed me into battle with unwavering courage. They have looked upon me as a symbol of national unity. They have prayed that they and their fellow citizens might continue to enjoy the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, which have been granted to every American as the heritage of free men. So long as men love liberty more than life itself, so long as they treasure the priceless priveleges bought with the blood of our forefathers; so long as the principles of truth, justice and charity for all remain deeply rooted in human hearts, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America.

Remember as you look at your Flag, which is the symbol of our nation, that it is red because of human sacrifice. It is blue because of the true blue loyalty of its defenders. It is white to symbolize liberty - our land of the free. The stars are symbols of the united efforts and hope in the hearts of many people striving for a greater nobler America.

[At the beginning of the ceremony the speaker should say who the flag grommets will be given to. They are a form of good luck and can be carried or worn by the person who receives one.]

[Lower the colors or unfold the flag.]

Our flag has been used so much, that it is no longer a fitting emblem to display, so we are respectfully burning it.

FIRST STRIPE: The 13 stripes stand for the original 31 colonies which are; Massachusetts, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, and New Jersey.

SECOND STRIPE: The white stands for purity

THIRD STRIPE: The red stands for courage

FOURTH STRIPE: "Give me liberty or give me death"

FIFTH STRIPE: "One if by land, two if the sea"

SIXTH STRIPE: We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide fir the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America.

SEVENTH STRIPE: We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal. They are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

EIGHTH STRIPE; Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof

NINTH STRIPE; Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or press.

TENTH STRIPE; "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth to this continent a new nation."

ELEVENTH STRIPE; The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

TWELFTH STRIPE; "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

THIRTEENTH STRIPE; "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Each state is being represented by a star on a field of blue, which signifies a new constellation being formed.

"As we place it in the fire, let it burn brightly and remind us how truly our flag represents our country."

[Nothing should ever be added to the ceremonial fire after the Flag has been burned (out of respect).]

[The next morning the girls that actually burned the flag and their leader will gather the ashes to be burned.]

[This could be included as the last step in the ceremony if they wanted all of those in attendance to participate.]

[If the ashes are entirely out, they can be carried to the burial site in a box, if the ashes are still hot, a bucket could be used, then place by shovels-full into the hole.]

A hole is dug, the dirt placed carefully beside it and the ashes are placed into the hole by handfuls. Fill the hole back up with dirt, a marker can be placed.]

Flag Burning Ceremony
Caller Color Guard, Advance

Color Guard Advance

Caller (When Color Guard is in place) The flag of the United States of America is a living symbol of all we hold dear in our great nation whose citizens believe in Liberty, Mutual respect and Justice. the flag stands for the government of our country. It is the emblem of our freedom and of the sovereign rights of the individual. It symbolized our respect for our nation's past and our unswerving faith in it's future.

Color Guard retires color (from flag pole)

Flag is carried taunt horizontally, with stars at Flag Bearers left shoulder, led to alter by Flag Bearer. (While girls are bringing flag to alter, group sings: "America the Beautiful").

Reader When the Flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should not be cast aside or used in any way that might be viewed as disrespectful to the national colors, but should be buried or destroyed by fire.

Color Guards hold flag horizontally to the ground and taut, while Flag Bearer cuts out the blue field of stars. When this is done the right guards fold the strips with respect and the left Guards fold the stars. Flag Bearer is then handed the stripes and she places them on the burning fire; when it has burned sufficiently she places the stars in the fire.

Caller Join me in singing "God Bless America"

Flag bearer is then handed the new flag and she, with the Color Guard, advance to the flag pole and raise the new flag. While flag is being raised girl reads:

Reader I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of colors, a symbol of yourself, the picture suggestion of that big thing which makes this nation. My stars and my stripes are your dreams and your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage, firm with faith, because you have made them so out of your heart.

All When the flag is in place, Guards and Bearer return to the group and everyone repeats after the reader the "American Creed":

"I believe in the United States of America. As a Government of the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived form the consent of the governed: a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states. a Perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrifice their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my county to love it, to support it's Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

Caller Color Guard dismissed; Girl Scouts dismissed.

This flag compilation was produced using information provided by members of the WAGGGS-L list, internet sites, including Leader's Landing (www.geocities.com/Heartland/Pointe/9385/index.htm)

Leader Training Available

This will vary by Council. Requirements are for Leaders from Great Trail Council Girl Scout Council, Canton Ohio,

Girl Scout Leader Orientation

Required prior to Leader Training

Girl Scout Leader Training	Required within 6 months of registration
Age Level Training	Required when the Girls Bridge to a New Level
First Aid / CPR	Required for Troop Meetings
Basic Troop Camping	Required for Outdoor Camping
Advanced Troop Camping	

Other Workshops such as Song Leader, Crafts for Cents and True Colors are also offered throughout the year.

TEACHING CRAFTS

When you are making a craft with your troop, have you ever picked a craft that frustrated everyone or have you discovered that you left the glue at home!? It's happened to all of us. Here are some hints to make teaching a craft easier on everyone;

Make A Sample...

Ask yourself, is this something my girls can do? Learning a new craft can be rewarding, it can be challenging, but it should not be frustrating.

Have All The Necessary Supplies...

including newspaper, rinse jars, etc. It is very helpful to make a list as you are making the sample. Also have enough helps so that all the girls will get assistance.

Demonstrate one step at a time...

Explain any "tricky" parts thoroughly. Don't give more directions at a time then they can remember.

Allow enough time...

for all the girls to finish. Be patient! You will probably have to repeat some of the instructions, maybe more than once!

Praise...

all the work the girls have done, then, if necessary, show them what needs to be fixed or touched up. Offer help if needed but don't do it for them. Each girl should feel as though she made her own.

The most important things to remember...

when teaching a craft are to have fun and to give girls a sense of accomplishment.

A WELL ROUNDED GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM INCLUDES:

MEMBERSHIP

1. Try to register troop by September 30th. (New troops or troops with new leadership must register within one month of their first meeting.)
2. Try to increase troop size by a minimum of 2 girls.
3. Try to have 75% of girls re-registered GS.

4. (At the end of this meeting year...) Participate in the Early Bird campaign by re-registering at least 50 % of girls.

LEADERSHIP

---long section, basically just covers all the required training and reports--as well as suggestions for enrichment training.

1. Orientation within 1 month of Registration
2. New Leader Training within 6 months
3. First Aid training prior to meeting with the troop

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1. 80% of families in troop made a financial contribution to the Annual Giving Campaign. (In our area, this does not necessarily involve a lot of money. Our service unit goal merely suggested an average of \$3 per family.)
2. Participate in Fall Product Sales (we sell the magazines and nuts) and Cookie Sales.
3. Submit end of the year financial reports in a timely manner.

GIRL SCOUTING IN THE COMMUNITY

1. Make a display about GS and place it in a public place (library, store window, school, church)

OR

Participate in an activity planned by your community (parade, festival, school or church function).

2. Plan and carry out one Service Project in your community.

PROGRAM

1. Complete a Try-It Patch in each of the Five Worlds of Interest.
2. Troop has completed an Issues for Girls patch or one activity from three different Issues for Girls programs.
3. Participate in at least one Service Unit sponsored event and one Council sponsored event.
4. Your troop celebrated 2 or more the following GS holidays
Juliette Low's Birthday
Thinking Day

Girl Scout Birthday/Week
Be Your Best Day
Girl Scout Sunday / Sabbath

5. Include at least 3 types of ceremonies in the year's activities.
Investiture or rededication
Thinking Day
Candlelight Ceremony
Bridging/Fly-up
Scout's Own
Flag Ceremony
Court of Awards
6. Troop has participated in an environmental activity, day outing in the out-of-doors or camping program.
7. Family members were involved in at least 2 troop ceremonies or activities.
8. Visit an ethnic exhibit, cultural festival or a program at a museum or program center.
OR Attend Thinking Day Activities
9. Plan and carry out a sister troop activity.

GAMES

Dragon's Tail Tag

Have the girls line up in a single line with their hands on the hips of the girl in front of them - and instruct them to HOLD ON! The girl at the end get a "tail" tucked into her belt. Use a scarf, or a lightweight towel or a handkerchief (etc.) The object of the game is for the person in the front of the line to catch the "tail" of the dragon - while the dragon tries to get away! Once caught, the person in front moves to the back and the game continues.

Human Knot

Have the girls stand in a circle with their arms up above their heads. Then they each have to reach into the circle and hold two other hands. On the count of 1-2-3 GO they then have to unwind the hand mess into a circle WITHOUT LETTING GO OF ANYONE'S HANDS! If you have a large troop divide up your girls into groups of about 10 or less. And if you have very tall girls and very short girls you can divide them up by height (if possible).

Trick Questions

Try to have the girls answer questions quickly and "incorrectly". Give them questions that are so obvious it is hard to answer them wrong. For instance: How many hands do you have? How old are

you? What is your name? What day is this? What year is this? What is your mom/brother/dad's name?
Etc.

Do This/Do That

This is a version of "Simon Sez". The leader performs certain movements preceded by saying either "do this" or "do that". The girls are to obey ONLY those commands preceded by the words "do this". Players making a mistake must take one step back. After a few minutes the winner is the one nearest the starting line.

Earth, Air, Fire and Water

The leader points to one of the girls and says "Earth" "Air" "Fire" or "Water" and then counts to ten as fast as she can! If she says "Earth" the girl must name an animal before the leader gets to ten, if she calls "Air" the girl must name a bird, if she calls "Water" she must name a fish, if she calls "Fire" the girl must remain absolutely silent!

Crazy Mixed-Up Hands

Have the girls slap their knees twice, clap hands twice and grab their left ear with their right hand and their nose with their left hand. When the leader signals, they all slap again, clap again and reverse the hands that hold their nose and ear. Keep repeating, getting faster and faster until everyone is mixed up.

Circle Ball Tag

Choose someone to be "it" and give her a ball. Everyone else is in a circle around her. "It" starts the game by passing the ball to a player in the circle who throws it to anyone else in the circle. The object of the game is for "it" to either catch or touch the ball while it is being passed around the circle. When "it" intercepts the ball, the player who touched it last becomes "it".

Touch Relay Race

Divide the girls up into two teams and line them up across the center of the playing space facing each other (about 6 to 8 feet apart). The object of the game is for the leader to name an object close at hand which all players must run and touch and then return to their original places. For example: The leader calls, "touch (then pauses), a tree". All players must find a tree, touch it, and return to their original places. The team wins whose members are first back in line.

Crocodile

Two teams line up on opposite sides of a large open area (this is the "river"). The crocodile is "it" and she is in the middle of the river. She then calls to a player on one side to cross the river. This player calls or points to one on the opposite side and they both try to cross "the river" and change places without being tagged by the crocodile. If one is caught she becomes the new crocodile.

Sharp Ears

Have the girls make a circle with one blind-folded person in the center. The leader then points to someone in the circle who must peak softly the name of the girl in the center (she gets to say it up to three times). If the girl in the center can guess who is calling her they change places, if not try another girl.

Opposites

Everyone sits in a circle with "it" in the center. "It" points, for example, to her EYE and says "This is my MOUTH". After doing this she quickly points to one of the people in the circle and counts to ten. Before reaching ten the girl pointed to must do the opposite (point to her mouth and say "this is my eyes"). If she succeeds before "it" reaches ten, then "it" remains in the center and tries something else. If she fails, the girl pointed to becomes "it".

Are You More Like....??

Designate 2 different ends of the room. Group the whole troop (leaders included) in the center. Point to one end and ask "Are you more like a _____ -- point to the other end and ask "or are you more like a _____?" After the girls have made a choice as to which they feel they are more like they are to move to the appropriate end of the room. Call on them and ask individual girls why they made their choice the way they did. Repeat until it gets tiring. Example:

Are you more like candy or an apple?

Are you more like a book or a movie?

Are you more like a fish or a monkey?

Are you more like a wave or a beach?

Are you more like a car or a train?

Are you more like a mouse or a lion?

Going On Safari

Have the girls sit in a circle. The first girl says her name and mentions one object she is going to take with her on safari. The first letter of the object is the same as the first letter of the girl's name. For example: "my name is Ally and I'm taking a stove". The next girl repeats the first girl and adds her own and so on around the circle.

The String Game

Equipment: Yarn of different colors

Take the different colored yarns and cut them to lengths varying from 6" to 1 yard. Attach them so that you have 1 long string of different sizes and colors tied together. The girls sit in a circle and pass the yarn through their fingers while telling the group her name and something about herself. Each girl talks until the yarn she is pulling through her fingers stops and there is a knot. When the knot pulls through her fingers, she must stop EVEN IF SHE IS IN MID-SENTENCE. Continue to pass the ball of yarn until you reach the end and it is all unwound.

Indian String Web

Equipment:

Ball of yarn

Balloons

This is a game that Indian children would play using scraps of thong tied together and hollow gourds. Have the girls sit in a circle. One girl tosses the ball of yarn across to another girl - but holds on to the

string. Keep tossing the ball while each girl adds to the web by holding on to the string. When you get a pretty filled up "web" stop and toss a balloon onto the web. Have the girls try to keep it in the air.

Bubble Gum Hike

Equipment:

Bubble Gum

Paper Plates

Pick a theme for a hike: eg, trees, rocks, bugs - anything you would find outdoors that relates to whatever you are studying. Give each girl two or three pieces of gum to chew. Take them on a hike (around the neighborhood or around the campsite). While they are hiking they can pick up interesting "stuff" - leaves, rocks, bark, etc. - whatever you choose for the theme of your hike. When they find something to pick up they attach it to their paper plate with a wad of chewed gum! When you get back to the meeting place, compare "stuff" and discuss their discoveries.

Handbook Scavenger Hunt

Prepare a list of things for teams to find in the handbook. The list might contain such things as:

On what page is the Girl Scout Law?

What was Juliette Low's Nickname?

Who was Lord Baden Powell and what does he have to do with Girl Scouts?

How old or what grade do you have to be in to be a Brownies, Junior, Cadette or Senior?

Have several lists and/or books depending on age level. If you have first year Brownies you might want to limit your list to finding pictures. Give the girls a time limit and the team with the most items at the end of the meeting gets to pick a song for all to sing.

Jump Rope Chant

Brownie, Brownie,

What do you say?

How many (good deeds or smiles) can you give away? (count.)

GIRL SCOUT / WAGGGS WEBSITES

Gather even more ideas off the web. Listed below are my favorite sites

<http://www.girlsscouts.org>

Official Girl Scout Site

<http://www.scoutingweb.com>

Girl Scout Links

<http://www.makingfriends.com/>

Crafts

<http://www.notascout.net>

Songs and Ceremonies

PARENTS FOLDER

Parent Handbook

Troop #

Leader: _____ Phone #: _____

Ass't Leader: _____ Phone #: _____

The Girl Scout Promise:

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.

Girl Scout Law:

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,

use resources wisely,

make the world a better place,

And be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Philosophy and purpose of the Girl Scout movement

* Promise and Law

* Program emphases

* Worldwide organization ("WAGGGS")

Parents' responsibility to the troop

- * To make every effort to be punctual to meetings and outings
- * To help their daughter fulfill troop responsibilities (dues, turning in permission slips on time, etc.)
- * To be supportive of their daughter in her Girl Scout endeavors (help them to complete activities missed, etc.)
- * The meeting will start at and end
- * If girl is going to miss a meeting, except in the case of illness, we would like notice ahead of time

Financing the Troop

- * National membership dues
- * This amount is set by GSUSA and is currently \$7.00 per year (1998)
- * This amount covers accident insurance at Girl Scout activities
- * Troop Dues
- * Troops set their own troop dues depending on the economics of the group and the anticipated activities.
- * Council will provide financial aid for individual girls who may be unable to pay troop dues.
- * For Daisies, money is collected from adults by adults whereas at the other levels, the girl can become involved in the dues collection process.
- * Product Programs available
- * Fall products Nuts and Magazines Subscriptions are sold. Troops receive \$1.00 for each subscription sold and 10% of the price of the nuts.
- * Cookies Orders usually starts in January.
- * Daisy Girl Scouts do not participate in Product Programs
- * Product Programs are voluntary

Where Does the Money Go???

Try-its	6@	.75	\$4.50
Patches	5@	\$1.00	\$5.00
Year Pin	1@	.65	.65
WAGGS Pin	1@	\$1.25	\$1.25
Crafts	1 per meeting	\$1.00	\$8.00
Neighborhood dues			\$2.00

		Total	\$21.40

Equipment & Uniforms

- * Uniforms
- * Not required although encouraged
- * May be purchased through JC Penny's catalog.
- * Girls should have at least a vest or sash on which to put her recognitions. Vests are more comfortable.

- * Handbooks and Badgebooks
- * Not required although helpful
- * Brownies have a handbook but most wait until the Girls can read

Safety-Wise

- * Safety wise is our "Safety Bible" and that we must adhere to its contents
- * The required ratio of adults to girls at both meetings and outings are Brownie Girl Scouts: 2 adults minimum for every 20 scouts with 1 additional adult for each additional group of 8.

Permission slips required for all outings (have blank forms available for parents prior to the event)

Transportation policy

- * Drivers must be of the appropriate age (check with your Council)
- * Drivers must have a valid Driver's License
- * Vehicles must have liability insurance
- * A seat belt must be provided for every girl

Girl Scout Dictionary

Age Level: There are 5 age levels in Girl Scouting: Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, and Senior

Baden-Powell: Lord Baden-Powell was the founder of the Boy Scout movement, Lady

Baden-Powell was the founder of the Girl Guide movement.

Bridging: The process of moving from one age level of Girl Scouting to another

Brownie Ring: Form of Government commonly used in a Brownie Troop. (See Leaders Handbook)

Buddy System: A safety system where two girls stay together and watch out for each other. Start using this at meeting when girls leave to use the restrooms. Make it a habit early on in your year.

Court of Awards: A ceremony to present earned recognitions at any level.

Daisy Circle: Form of Government commonly used by a Daisy Troop (See Daisy Leaders Handbook)

Founder's Day: October 31, the birthday of Juliette Low

Girl Scout Birthday: March 12th, the date of the first Girl Scout meeting in the USA in 1912

Girl Scout Handshake: Execute the Girl Scout Sign with the right hand and shake hands with the left

Girl Scout Motto: Be Prepared

Girl Scout Sign: Three middle fingers of right hand raised shoulder high with thumb over little finger, given when saying the Promise or when doing a Girl Scout Handshake.

Girl Scout Slogan: Do a good turn daily.

Girl Scouts' Own: An inspirational ceremony with a theme planned by and for Girl Scouts.

Gold Award: The highest award a Girl Scout may earn (this is done as a Senior)

GSUSA: Girl Scouts of the United States of America

Fly-Up: The ceremony in which a Brownie becomes a Junior Girl Scout.

Investiture: A special ceremony to welcome a girl Scout where she receives her pin and officially makes her Promise for the first time.

JLWFF: Juliette Low world Friendship Fund, a voluntary fund that benefits guiding throughout the world.

Juliette "Daisy" Low: Founder of Girl Scouting in the U.S.A.

Kaper Chart: A chart showing all jobs available and who is responsible for each job generally on a rotating basis.

Quiet Sign: Right hand raised above head - it means stop talking

Rededication: A ceremony when Girl Scouts reaffirm their belief in the Promise and Law.

Safety-Wise: The publication put out by GSUSA detailing safety practices that should be adhered to.

Silver Award : The highest award that a Cadette Girl Scout may earn

Sit Upon: A cushion to sit on outside generally made by Girl Scouts.

Thinking Day: February 22; the birthplace of Lord and lady Baden-Powell, designed as a day to think about scouts and guides worldwide.

Trefoil: The international symbol of Girl Scouting. Our pins are in the shape of a trefoil.

Troop Committee: Adults who assist the troop in some way either at the meetings or by taking on jobs such as Telephone Chair, etc.

WAGGGS : World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the worldwide organization to which Girl Scouts belong.

Wider Opportunity: Any opportunity outside the regular meeting place, although Wider Ops generally refer to opportunities advertised through GSUSA

World Association Pin: A pin worn by members of WAGGGS. All Girl Scouts are member of WAGGGS. However try to take the time to explain to the Girls what WAGGGS is before giving out the pin. Thinking Day is a good time to learn about WAGGGS.

*******SAMPLE CALENDAR*******

September 15:	Jackson Bog Park 2:00-3:00	Welcome back
October 10:	Meeting in cafeteria 2:30-4:00	Girl Scout Ways
October 28:	Enchanted Lycopodia Meet in Parking Lot at 4:00pm Return to school at 5:00pm	
November 10:	Meeting in cafeteria 2:30-4:00	Fall Products / Safety
December 5:	Meet in cafeteria 9:00-11:00	Breakfast with Santa
December 12:	Meeting in cafeteria 2:30-4:00	Music Try-It
January 5:	Meeting in cafeteria 2:30-4:00	Cookie Sales Info
January 25	Meet in cafeteria 5:00pm	Winter Carnival
February 12:	Meeting in cafeteria 2:30-4:00	Make Troop Flag Colors & Shapes
February 18:	No School Meet in Parking lot 8:30am return 4:00pm	Sea World Lunch at McDonald's
February 22	Thinking Day OLOP school	Celebrate Girl Scouts
March 5:	Meet in cafeteria 8:30	Girls Scout Sunday
March 15:	Meeting in cafeteria 2:30-4:00	Colors & Shapes
April 3:	Meeting in cafeteria 2:30-4:00	Service Project
April 12:	Meeting in cafeteria 2:30-4:00	Finish above Try-Its

May	8:	Spring Campout Meet in Parking lot at 8:30am	Outdoor Fun Relay Great Trail Day Trip Return 8:00pm
May	12:	Meeting in cafeteria 2:30-4:00	Senses
June		Day Camp 38th Street or Lycopodia	

GIRLS FOLDERS

1. Roster. (Wait a few weeks. Girl are likely to be added.)
2. Song book.
3. Troop Policies. Include description of kapers. See below
4. Attendance chart. I figured out how many meetings there were, made a small circle (stepping stone) with the date of each meeting in a circle. The stones were arranged in order, so that the girls could see how them moving along the path. I bought a big packet of small round circles stickers, about \$5 for a zillion. Each week, the "hostess aide" (rotating kaper) got to select the "sticker of the week" and give it to girls as they came in. Girls rarely forget their folder since they wanted the stickers.

Make sure to mark the girls name on each folder and any attachments. Seemed like we collected 1 or 2 every week.

Color Code Handouts. Use fluorescent colors for permission slips if possible.

KAPERS

About kapers:

1. Hostess. As the girls walk in, the hostess takes attendance, distributes newsletters/permission slips, and collects money. Having a parent help the hostess, particularly when there's a lot of paperwork flowing, is very important.
2. Hostess Aide. Sits next to the hostess and distributes attendance stickers as girls walk in. Selects a "fun song" between business and activity. At the beginning of the year, I assign this to the younger (non-reading) girls.
3. Flag Bearer. Holds flag.
4. Color Guards (2). Stands by Flag Bearer.
5. Caller. Announces flag ceremony. (Script given, so again, pick a reader.) Selects a patriotic song for the flag ceremony.
6. Helpers (2.) Helps set up, clean up. Distributes crafts materials.

I know that this is a lot of kapers, but the good news is that the girls get to do something just about every other week. Usually, if one girl is absent, I let the helpers assigned for that day perform those duties as well.

SIGNUP SHEETS

Troop Helpers

Snack Coordinator _____

Seeking a person to take the list and is responsible to call the parent 2 days ahead to remind her of snack duty.

Carpool Driver _____

Seeking Mom who can drive a group of girls from school to activity. For only \$10.00 you too can register with Girl Scouts and be covered by their insurance!

Cheapest policy ever!

Carpool Organizer _____

Seeking an organized person to set up a carpool and give everyone a copy of the set-up. Can handle carpool emergencies i.e. if someone can't drive they call HER and she locates a replacement.

Carpool Alternate _____

Looking for a busy Mom that is available to drive in an pinch

Fall Product Mom _____

Opportunity to shine! Go to the product meeting and gets the girls and parents set up for selling.

Cookie Mom(s) _____

Seeking a counter-part of the Fall Products Mom. Goes to the Cookie Meeting and gets the girls and parents set up for selling

"E.T." "Phone Home!" _____

ET's are a link to parents if there is a change or addition - whatever. I place a call to them with information -they take half the phone list and call the parents.

Day Camp Moms: _____

Fun Days Summer otherwise known as Day Camp needs Mom's to help at least one day out of five. If you love the outdoors but not sleeping on the ground this one is for you!!!

OPTIONAL- Buyer _____

Seeking a person loves to shop, and knows a bargain when she sees one! she is able to run to council for things.

First Aid Kit Donations

Band-Aids _____

Adhesive Tape _____

Gauze Pads _____

Gauze Roll: _____

Anti-Bacterial Antiseptic: _____

Soap: _____

Red Wash Cloth: _____

Calamine Lotion: _____

Tweezers: _____

Scissors: _____

Rubber Gloves: _____

Thank You !!!