

GUIDELINES
FOR
PLANNING
GIRL SCOUT

CEREMONIES

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*Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, Inc.
is committed to the education, acceptance &
appreciation of its diverse membership and assures
that all have equal opportunities in the Girl Scout
Program.*

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.*

THE 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.*

GUIDELINES TO PLANNING A GIRL SCOUT CEREMONY

What is a Girl Scout Ceremony?

A Girl Scout ceremony is one method used by members to express the ideals of the movement. It is also a symbol of honor recognizing a special event or circumstance.

When are Girl Scout Ceremonies held?

Girl Scout ceremonies may be held at anytime of the day or night and may be formal or informal and may be held by a large or small group.

They are used to recognize accomplishments, special events or to signify the beginning or end of a meeting. They provide a means to express feelings, friendship, patriotism and service.

For whom are Girl Scout ceremonies?

Ceremonies are planned by the girl members with the guidance of adults. This is a time for the girls to express their ideas and feelings. They may invite guests or hold the ceremony for themselves.

How are ceremonies planned?

All people appreciate the beauty, inspiration and recognition that ceremonies share. For all ceremonies a troop/group may have, it is important that each participant know in advance what to expect. If the ceremony needs rehearsal, that should be included in the plans.

Girls participate in planning the ceremony by using the information in this packet. Sample ceremonies, for any purpose are available through the Council Service Center. When planning a ceremony, have the girls keep the following questions in mind:

- What is the purpose of the ceremony?
- Who will be invited?
- Where will it be held?
- What material might be used?
- How will we begin/open the ceremony?
- How will we close the ceremony?

HELPING GIRLS PLAN THEIR OWN CEREMONY

With a little help, Girl Scouts can learn to plan meaningful ceremonies. You may use the following questions to guide them in the planning process. Remember, the possibilities suggested here are meant to stimulate thought. The final decision about what goes on in the ceremony should rest with the girls.

What kind of ceremony do we want?

- A flag ceremony?
- An investiture?
- A potluck?

Where will it be held?

- Indoors or outdoors?
- On the side of a hill or a place with a view?
- In a park or on a high building?
- By the water or on a boat?

When will it be held?

- Early in the morning or at night?
- During troop meeting time?
- Any other time?

Who should be invited?

- Family -- including brothers and sisters?
- Another Girl Scout troop?
- Friends?
- Adults in Girl Scouting?
- Adults from the community?

What could be used in the ceremony?

- Girl Scout Promise and Law?
- A song, poem, dance, dramatization?
- Candles, lights, campfire?
- A flag, Girl Scout membership pins, World Association symbol?
- A mirror (for Brownie pool)?

How will we do it?

- Who will start the ceremony?
- Should we sit or stand?
- Should we speak together or individually?
- Do we need to learn something new?
- Do we need to rehearse?

Special dates for a ceremony:

February 22	Thinking Day
March 12	Girl Scout Birthday
April 22	Girl Scout Leaders' Day
October 31	Juliette Low's Birthday

Special events for ceremonies:

Investiture	Rededications	Court of Awards
Bridging	Fly-Up (Brownie Girl Scouts)	Girl Scout Meeting
World Pin Ceremony	Girl Scout's Own	

Symbols used in ceremonies:

Archway	The entering of a different atmosphere or phase
Bridge	A crossing over
Dove/Olive Branch	Peace
Eagle	Courage
Flag	The banner of Girl Scouting, troop, council, state or country
Friendship Stick	We are a sister to every Girl Scout
Friendship Knot	Made by a friend
Friendship Circle	The unbroken chain of friendship
Feather	Nature
Handshake	Hello, welcome
Lighted Candle	Symbol of individuality
Pebble	Nature
Planting a Tree	Conservation
Quiet Sign	Quiet
String	The human line that binds us all together
Signing your name	Your own identity
Swaying side by side	Everyone agreeing to the same thought
Trefoil	The three parts of the Girl Scout Promise
Wishing Well	Hopes and dreams

Girl Scout Candles

Candles in a ceremony signify the spirit of girl Scouting. The following is a list of candles with special significance:

Silver	The beginning of a new day
Yellow	Daisy Girl Scouts
Pink	All girls in Girl Scouts and Girl Guides
White	Purity
Gold	Trefoil Pin
Turquoise	Water
Brown	Earth
Green	Plantlife
Red	Fire (warmth and friendship)
Blue	Sky
Orange	Sunset

These colors are not limited to these interpretations.

An Overview of Special Girl Scout Ceremonies:

Bridging Ceremony: The ceremony for girls and adults when moving from one level to the next. The bridging process begins long before the actual ceremony takes place. Information about that process is in the level handbook and the leader' s guide.

Candlelight Ceremony: A candlelight ceremony reminds us of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. There are many variations of the candle ceremony which usually includes reciting the Promise and Law while the candles are being lit. This ceremony may be held separately or as part of another ceremony. Additional ideas may be found in some level handbooks and at the Council Service Center.

Court of Awards: This ceremony is held to recognize the achievements of Girl Scouts. It is at this ceremony that members receive the recognitions they have earned - badges, patches, membership stars and any other special awards or honors for girls and/or adults.

Flag Ceremonies: Flag ceremonies are held to honor the symbol of our country. The flag ceremony may be held independently or as part of another ceremony. There are many varieties: indoor or outdoor ceremonies, folding the flag, non-traditional ceremonies and proper disposal of the flag, to name just a few. The ceremony may involve any number of participants, usually with a minimum of 3: the Color Bearer (carries the American Flag), the Color Guard (protects the American Flag) and the Caller (calls the ceremony commands to the Color Bearer and Color Guard). Detailed information on Flag Ceremonies is in some level handbooks, the *Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting* book or the *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting* book.

Fly-Up Ceremony: The very special ceremony where Brownie Girl Scouts receive their "wings" and become Junior Girl Scouts.

Girl Scouts' Own: The main focus of a Girl Scouts' Own is based on a theme selected by the members of the group developing the ceremony. There are no specific guidelines for this ceremony, except:

- *It is a ceremony of sharing, reflection and inspiration.
- *It is usually a private ceremony and personal experience for the Girl Scouts involved.
- *Each member has an opportunity to participate.

Investiture Ceremony: New members are welcomed into Girl Scouting.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies: The opening and closing ceremonies for meetings should be simple and short; i.e., have a flag ceremony, read a poem, sing a favorite song, play a short game or say the Girl Scout Promise. The purpose of these ceremonies is to officially (if not formally) signify the beginning or ending of the meeting. this will add structure to a meeting, which is particularly important for Daisy, Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts.

Rededication Ceremony: Members "rededicate themselves to the purpose and philosophy of the Girl Scout movement". This ceremony may be held at any time, most commonly as part of an Investiture Ceremony.

The information in these guidelines is an overview of Girl Scout ceremonies. Girls and adults are encouraged to use their own ideas and creativity when planning and designing ceremonies. However, for other ideas or to get started, the guide book *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting* published by GSUSA is available for sale to leaders. You may also want to speak with your Service Team and other experienced leadership in your Community.

A SIMPLE FLAG CEREMONY FOR GIRL SCOUT MEETINGS

The Flag Ceremony is a tribute to the flag we honor. The ceremony should be well-planned, performed smoothly and with dignity. Practice the ceremony so it will be conducted with pride and confidence.

Participants:

- *Caller: The individual in charge of the ceremony. The Caller gives the commands.
- *Color Bearer: The individual(s) that holds the flag(s).
- *Color Guard: The individual(s) who guard the flag(s). The Color Guard may walk on either side of, or behind, the Color Bearer.

PLEASE NOTE: When only the American Flag is to be used, there are three members of the Color Guard: the Color Bearer and 2 Color Guards. If an additional flag is added, another Color Bearer is needed. For larger events, plan to have 2 guards for each bearer.

Order of Ceremony:

Posting the Colors: The Caller gives the following commands:

1. "GIRL SCOUTS, ATTENTION" (The audience stands with hands at sides).
2. "COLOR GUARD, ATTENTION" (The Color Guard(s) and Color Bearer(s) stand at attention)
3. "COLOR GUARD, ADVANCE" (The Color Guard(s) and Color Bearer(s) move forward.)
4. "GIRL SCOUTS, THE FLAG OF YOUR COUNTRY, PLEASE SAY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE" (The Color Guard(s) and Color Bearer(s) stand silently at attention while audience recites pledge.)
5. "LET US SING....." (At this point, a song may be sung-patriotic or otherwise-and/or a reading may be done).
6. "LET US NOW SAY THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE" (Color Guard(s) and Color Bearer(s) stand silently at attention.)
7. "COLOR GUARD, POST THE COLORS" (The Color Bearer(s) places the flag(s) in the stand(s). The American Flag is posted last, to its own right when facing the audience.)
8. "COLOR GUARD, HONOR YOUR COLORS" (The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guard(s) step back and salute the flag by placing their hands over their hearts.)
9. "COLOR GUARD, DISMISSED" (The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guard(s) return the way they entered.)

Retiring the Colors:

Commands 1, 2 and 3 remain the same. Commands 4, 5 and 6 are not part of retiring the flag.

Command: "COLOR GUARD, RETIRE THE COLORS" (The Color Guard(s) removes the flag(s) from view. THE AMERICAN FLAG IS LIFTED FIRST!

FORMATION

HORSESHOE: The open end of the horseshoe is for the Color Guard. The Color Bearer(s) and Color Guard(s) enter with the flag and face the horseshoe. REMINDER: The American Flag is to its own right.

DAISY GIRL SCOUT INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Families should be sent an invitation two weeks before the ceremony. Evening ceremonies are suggested to give working parents an opportunity to attend. Try to give each girl a kaper such as: 2-4 girls in flag ceremony; greet guests at door; hand out programs, and usher guests to seats.

Two girls carry yellow DAISY center to middle of stage area - one on each side - six feet or more from center. Leader on left could use small table for a bowl of daisies, Daisy Girl Scout pins (which need to be removed from card before investiture) and certificates. Two girls can carry DAISY PETALS and place by Leader on the right of center stage.

Leader or Troop Committee chairperson welcomes families, introduces Leader or Leaders. One Leader or girl acts as a flag ceremony caller. Color Guard enters, followed by remaining Daisy Girl Scouts - two by two forming a single line across stage behind flags and Color Guard.

First girl on far right comes to Leader on right who hands her a daisy petal. Girl goes to center, hooks clothespin on end of petal to wire around middle of the yellow center. Girl sits or squats at edge of petal. Each girl in turn gets a petal and hooks it to center. When the daisy is complete, girls stand. As Daisy Girl Scouts stand, they lift the DAISY they have made holding their petal and forming a circle. They should then say or sing:

Round and round our petals turn,
Begin our Girl Scout life to learn.
Daisy - Daisy Girl Scouts are we,
We will grow and serve - You' ll see!

Girls line up one after the other, raise their right hands and with the help of the Leader, say the Girl Scout Promise in unison.

The girls sit down. One remains standing and goes to the Leader on the left who pins on her Daisy Girl Scout Pin. The Daisy Girl Scout gives the Girl Scout sign, is handed a beginning certificate and a daisy flower which she can take to her parent(s) and then joins her family. Each Daisy Girl Scout leaves her petal and goes to be pinned in turn. The daisy the girls made remains on the floor. This ends the investiture. Refreshments are served.

The number of girls in the troop determines the number of daisy petals. Girls may need part of five meetings to learn their part in the ceremony.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Petals cut from large poster board, clothespin glued on inside edge of petal; yellow center of Styrofoam, spray-paint or use yellow tissue or yellow poster board. Be sure there is something for the clothespin to grip on.

THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE

EACH PETAL IS A LAW

BRIDGING TO BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS

In order to create a smooth transition from Daisy Girl Scouts into Brownie Girl Scouts, the planning for the actual bridging ceremony should begin as early as possible.

The Troop Committee should be involved with the planning of the Bridging Ceremony and families should be invited. Girls can design and produce family invitations for the event, plan refreshments, decide if they want the ceremony with their sister troop, the entire school area or with a few Brownie Girl Scout representatives.

IN ADVANCE

Meet with Brownie Girl Scouts at least once (hopefully 2-3 times). Have the older girls teach Daisy Girl Scouts the Brownie Smile Song; share adventures and stories about their troop; and learn the Girl Scout handshake (to be used at the Bridging Ceremony)

Girls in the troop/group make a petal of a daisy flower approximately 5" in diameter (put her name on it). Leaders make the stem and center of daisy flower. Stem is approximately 18-24" and center is approximately 5" in diameter. Buy or make small bees to attach to petal of daisy for each girl. A sign can also be made saying "GOOD-BYE DAISY GIRL SCOUTS".

AT BRIDGING

Have girls stand in circle or horseshoe around their daisy flower. Ask girls if they have worked with a Brownie Girl Scout to learn what Brownie Girl Scouts do. (name some things and make this very brief).

Leaders ask, "Are you ready to cross over to be Brownie Girl Scouts?"

READ

Girls respond: As you can plainly see
 We are really ready to be
 Brand new Brownie Girl Scouts.

Leaders read on: Old Friendly Bee came out to see
 You take the path so new
 Now make the sign and leave behind
 Your Daisy Girl Scout smock of blue.

As you read the part about "friendly bee", girls move forward toward daisy flower. Leader and helpers take "bee" from flower petals and pin on girl' s shoulder.

BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT INVESTITURE CEREMONY

EQUIPMENT: A "pool" can be constructed in the center of the Brownie Girl Scout Ring by using a mirror edged with greens. A cardboard circle (or hula hoop) covered with aluminum foil may be used.

FORMATION: Brownie Girl Scout inductees are sent outside the room with Co-Leader. The troop helps to construct the pool and then sits around it (significance of the pool may be explained by reading, dramatizing or referring to the Brownie Girl Scout story).

Co-leader (with the new Brownie Girl Scouts) knocks on the door.

Leader (with troop): "Who comes to the Brownie Forest?"

Girls: ***We do"***

Leader: "What do you want?"

Girls: ***"We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts"***

Leader: "Why?"

Girls: ***Each girl gives her own reason.***

GIRLS ENTER AND STAND BY THE "POOL"

EACH GIRL IS THEN ASKED TO RECITE THE PROMISE
(help her if she is shy)

AS SHE RECITES THE PROMISE, SHE GIVE THE GIRL SCOUT SIGN.

Leader pins her and tells her she is now a Brownie Girl Scout. She welcomes her to Girl Scouting and invites her to come sit by the pool.

You may wish to use the following variation:

Take each prospective Brownie Girl Scout to the Pool. Turn her around as the members of the troop say,

"Twist me and turn me and show me the elf.
I looked in the water and saw myself!"

As the girl says "myself", she looks in the magic pond and sees a Brownie Girl Scout - herself - peering back.

Proceed now with the investiture: Ask her why she wants to be a Brownie Girl Scout; have her say the Promise, then, pin her and welcome her into Girl Scouting.

It is important to the girls to have their parents present at the investiture. Perhaps a little play based on the Brownie Girl Scout story might precede the ceremony.

OPTIONAL NOTE: The Brownie Girl Scout pin may be pinned on upside down. When the girls have done a good deed without being asked, the girl can turn the pin right-side up.

BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT FLY-UP CEREMONY

LEADER: Mentions name of girl who is flying up and tells something about her.

CO-LEADER: Now it' s time to say Good-bye,
Break the Ring and out you fly.

(The Ring breaks long enough for Leader and girls flying up to leave)

LEADER TAKES GIRL TO THE BRIDGE AND SAYS:

Brownie you are just about
To become a Junior Girl Scout.
In the troop you soon will find
Junior Girl Scouts are true and kind.
So now I give you Brownie Wings
That you may fly to bigger things.

Leader presents girl with her Wings and shakes her hand. Girl crosses bridge and is met on the other side by a Junior Girl Scout. Girls flying up recite Promise to Junior Girl Scout Leader. The Leader put trefoil pin on girl, shakes her hand and welcomes her to the troop. (Repeat for each girl flying up to the Junior Girl Scout level.)

BRIDGE may be a balloon or cardboard arch, made of wood, made of paper strips laid flat on the ground (or any other ideas you may have).

BRIDGING TO CADETTE GIRL SCOUTS

This ceremony should be planned by, and have meaning for, the participating girls. It may be planned jointly by the Junior Girl Scout troop and its sister troop or by one of these troops. Both troops and both Leaders should participate in the ceremony.

The essential parts of the ceremony are:

- ♣ Each girl rededicates herself to Girl Scouting by renewing their Girl Scout Promise and reviewing what the Girl Scout Law means to them.
- ♣ Each girl is welcomed into her new troop.

Each troop forms a horseshoe with a bridge separating them. The bridge may be symbolic and the girls' choice.

Each Cadette Girl Scout has been assigned the name of a Junior Girl Scout who is bridging.

The Cadette Leader and Cadette Girl Scout come to the end of the bridge. The girls call out the Junior Girl Scout' s name. The Junior Girl Scout leaves her troop, gives the Girl Scout sign and handshake to the Junior Girl Scout Leader.

She then crosses the bridge, gives the Girl Scout sign and handshake to the Cadette Girl Scout Leader. The Cadette Girl Scout then takes the girl' s hand and leads her to the Cadette Girl Scout Horseshoe formation.

After all the girls have crossed the bridge, the whole troop recites the Girl Scout Promise and sings "When E' er You Make a Promise" or "Girl Scouts Together". Both songs may be found in the Girl Scout Pocket Songbook.

NOTE: Junior Girl Scouts preparing to leave the troop should learn all they can about Cadette Girl Scouting and complete the requirements for Bridging. If they have completed these requirements, the Bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts bar should be presented at this ceremony.

TRADITIONAL INVESTITURE FOR JUNIOR, CADETTE, SENIOR GIRL SCOUTS AND ADULTS

A girl is welcomed into Girl Scouting at a ceremony called an investiture. During this ceremony, new members (both girl and adult) make their Girl Scout Promise, adopt the Girl Scout Law as their own and receive their membership pins. Traditionally, the pins are first put on upside down - to be turned right side up when the first good deed is done. New leaders, of course, have already done a good deed. They have agreed to be a Girl Scout Leader!!

In planning an investiture, you must remember that it can be done in many ways. The ceremony can be held indoors or outdoors. A candlelighting ceremony is most impressive for an investiture and a brief flag ceremony usually begins the program. The addition of songs or dignified processions are impressive. The interpretation of the Trefoil, World Association Pin or Girl Scout Promise and Law are nice additions to the basic investiture. Family and friends may be invited and the ceremony may be followed by refreshments.

EQUIPMENT: A small table, three large candles with holders, ten small candles with holders, matches, a wooden or cardboard trefoil on which is written the Girl Scout Law and Girl Scout pins (one for each person to be invested - removed from cards and unpinned for convenience in presentation).

ORDER OF CEREMONY: Girls usually like to be invested by their leaders. Anyone who is already currently a member of the troop may conduct the beginning of the ceremony - formation of the horseshoe, presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance and song (patriotic or Girl Scout). Leader explains the meaning of investiture and this is followed by the lighting of the candles.

LEADER: The three candles represent the Girl Scout Promise. "This candle that lights all shines as a symbol that Girl Scouts are true to God and their country" (light first candle). "May the light of the second candle shine as a symbol that a Girl Scout's greatest desire is to serve" (light the second candle) and "may the light of the third candle shine as a symbol that Girl Scouts are true to their ideals as interpreted by the Girl Scout Law (light the third candle).

The trefoil, which is the Girl Scout emblem, lies before you. We shall place before it ten candles, representing the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law. (Ten girls, chosen previously, come up to the table one by one, take a small candle, light it from a large candle and as it is placed in the candle holder set before the trefoil, recite the part of the law as assigned. After each part of the Law is recited, the troop might sing the appropriate verse of the Girl Scout Chant (found in the "Sing Together" songbook).

PRESENTATION OF GIRLS TO BE INVESTED: Each girl to be invested is brought forward by her patrol leader or a troop members who says, " wishes to become a Girl Scout".
(Girls Name)

LEADER: "On your honor, will you try to serve God, your country and to help people at all times and live by the Girl Scout Law?" Each girl answers "Yes, I will". Then as both girl and leader make the Girl Scout Salute, each girl repeats the Girl Scout Promise. The leader then pins on the Girl Scout pin, saying something to each girl (such as, "This pin tells everyone that you are a Girl Scout. I know you will be proud to wear it.) The Girl Scout Handshake (shaking hands with the left hand while giving the Girl Scout sign with the right hand) is exchanged by the leader and the new Girl Scout, while leaders says "I welcome you into the Girl Scout movement and as a member of Troop #_____.

LEADER: "Girl Scouts, the three gold leaves the trefoil wears and the three-fold that it bears, may they bring to you, as you start your journey in Girl Scouting, the feeling that you are going into something deeper, wider and more joyful--a quest that you are following together. Added to the great joy of the quest is the comradeship it brings through working together, playing together, seeking together. Today in every land this emblem points the way to sisterhood, friendliness and good citizenship".

Girls return to their places in the horseshoe. All girls in the troop repeat the Girl Scout Promise together and sing "When Ever You Make a Promise".

NOTES TO HELP YOU: Adaptations should be made to suit the number of girls to be invested, age of girls, etc.

If more than 4 or 5 girls are to be invested at one time, it is advisable to have them brought up to the Leader in several groups rather than all at once. If the troop is new and everyone is being invested, the girls could stay in their places in the horseshoe and the leader can go from one girl to the next.

Although it is advisable to have each girl make her Girl Scout Promise individually, when there are more than 6 or 8 girls, the Girl Scout Promise should be made simultaneously by all members of the group.

When welcoming girls into the organization, you may wish to tell them something about the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), show them the World Association Flag or pictures of the Chalet, Our Cabana, Olave House and Pax Lodge.