



Promise and Law

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland
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Promise and Law

►► To earn Promise and Law patch segments, go through the activities found here that are age-level appropriate. There is no required number of activities to earn the patches, instead the focus of this patch packet is on a deeper understanding of what Girl Scouts believe when reciting the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Background of the Girl Scout Promise and Law

In 1910, Agnes Baden-Powell, sister of Sir Robert Baden-Powell, and Olave, his wife, established the Girl Guides in England. Juliette Gordon Low was a friend of the Baden Powells, and also believed in an organization for girls. In 1911 she wrote to her father that she was “getting up a corp of Girl Guides” in Scotland. She taught the girls how to raise chickens, which they sold to help support their families. She also taught them how to card and spin wool and found a market for their products in London.

In 1912, after returning to the United States, Juliette Gordon Low began the Girl Scout movement. Juliette believed that the Girl Guide Promise used in Great Britain would have the same importance for the Girl Scouts of the USA and she was right.

All Girl Scouts make the Girl Scout Promise.

On my honor, I will try: (I pledge my good name and respect for others)
To Serve God (I will observe my personal spiritual beliefs)
and my country, (I will be a good citizen of the United States of America)
To help people at all times (I will be courteous and look to assist or serve others)
And to live by the Girl Scout Law (I will use the law as my daily guide)

When Juliette Gordon Low began Girl Scouts, she wanted to build an organization that would provide exciting opportunities for girls within the framework of a positive values-based movement. The Law is a guide that Girl Scouts agree to live by, it should be used thoughtfully and in everyday of life. Today these values, as expressed in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, continue to be a force that unites Girl Scouts nationwide.

Making the Girl Scout Promise and accepting the Girl Scout Law are a very important part of becoming a Girl Scout.

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.

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Daisy Girl Scouts:

- Write the Girl Scout Promise on cards, putting two to three words on each card. (Use a visual cue, such as stickers on the card, if girls cannot yet read.) Give girls a card and have them shuffle the cards (move themselves around mixing up the order). The girls place the cards on the floor (one girl at a time) in order until every girl has placed a card and the promise is displayed before them. The troop/group can then say the promise together.
- Have girls draw a picture of what the Girl Scout Promise and/or Girl Scout Law means to them and then discuss how different or similar everyone's drawing is.
- Ask girls what they did today that is represented in the Girl Scout Law. This gives an opportunity to discuss what each part means to them. You can place a sticker with the girls name next to that part of the law.

Brownie Girl Scouts:

- Write the Girl Scout Promise on cards putting two to three words on each card. Pin a card on each girl and have them shuffle the cards (move themselves around). The girls then line up until the Girl Scout Promise is in order. The troop/group can then say the promise together.
- Have girls make a large poster with the Girl Scout Law written on it. Let girls either draw a picture or cut out pictures from magazines that show the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law. The girls can then paste the pictures next to the part of the law it represents until all ten parts are represented visually.
- Discuss with girls how service is an integral part of the Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law. Have them brainstorm ideas for future service projects. Ask the girls if they think the service project is represented in the law, such as being cheerful when visiting people in a nursing home.

Junior Girl Scouts:

- Have girls play Girl Scout Snap by writing the Girl Scout Promise on cards. Put two to three words on each card. Make several sets. Deal the cards out to each girl. The girls take turns playing their cards, placing them in a pile in the center. (If two of the same cards are played one after the other, the first girl to put her hand on the pile of cards and say "girl Scout" gets the pile.) The game is played until someone has all the cards. The Girl Scout Snap game may also be played using the Girl Scout Law. Put each part of the law on a card and make several sets.
- Find the definition of Promise and Law in the dictionary. What do they mean? What other words mean the same or something similar?
- Have girls discuss what it means to "be your best." Ask them to think of someone who is famous or from history who is an example of "being their best." Have the girls research this person through their local library or by using their computer. Ask the girls if they can find any similarities between the person they researched and themselves.

Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts:

- Girls should research the promise and law of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in other countries. Use the library or the internet. How different are the Girl Scout and Girl Guide Promises and Laws from the one used in the United States? What elements of their culture and spiritual beliefs are reflected?
- Teach younger Girl Scouts about the Promise and Law. Use the age level appropriate activities from this packet.
- As service is an integral part of the Girl Scout experience, discover what the "promise and/or law" (this may be called their mission statement) is for some of the agencies or organizations that your group has given service. Does their promise and law represent what they believe in? How different is it from the Girl Scout Promise and Law? Did it change your perception of the organization?

Attn: Program



Girl Scouts of Central Maryland
PROMISE AND LAW
Report Form

Please complete and return to: Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, 4806 Seton Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215, Attention: Program

Date: _____

Troop/Groups: No. _____ Community. _____

Leader's/Advisor's Name: _____ Telephone No. _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Email Address: _____

Number of Girls Participating in this patch packet: _____

Individuals: Name: _____ Telephone No. _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Email Address: _____

Age level (check): Brownie Junior Cadette Senior STUDIO 2B

Patches:

Patches are available at the council store.

Please contact store for prices and information: 410-358-9711

We would like to hear from you!

What did you like the most about this patch packet?

What did you like the least about this patch packet?

What would you change about this patch packet?

Do you have any comments/suggestions?