

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Service Unit Workshop

Ceremonies

(adapted from Girl Scouts of Western Washington)

Total Time: Suggest large group be divided into smaller work groups for activities.

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Describe 3 elements of a ceremony
- Plan and participate in a Ceremony of your choice
- Explain the importance of ceremonies in a troop program

Timing	Strategies	Resources
3-5 minutes	<p>Introduction of Ceremonies</p> <p>Provide a brief overview of ceremonies (this can be read, summarized or printed on newsprint for the group to see before you begin)</p> <p>Ceremonies in Girl Scouting are used to honor special occasions, to recognize accomplishments, or simply to begin or end a meeting. Ceremonies also provide a means of expressing feelings and values of friendship, patriotism, and service. Ceremonies can be informal or formal, for large or small groups, long or short, and with or without guests. What it includes is up to the group (girls) planning it.</p> <p>Whatever its purpose, every Girl Scout ceremony enables girls to share in a special part of Girl Scout history and create their own special memories.</p> <p>Brainstorm on types of ceremonies a Girl Scout Troop might create.</p>	<p>Ceremonies in Girl Scouts – (formerly published by GSUSA, available in the VRC), GS Central: Ceremonies on GSUSA's website. Pg. 31 of Volunteer Essentials, Girl Scout Journey Books.</p> <p>Provide handout after brainstorming.</p>
10 minutes	<p>How to Create a Ceremony?</p> <p>Ask the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of the ceremony? • What is the theme? • What is the central idea or thought? • How can we express the ideas? • How can we organize to communicate our ideas? 	
15 minutes	<p>Planning a Ceremony</p> <p>Divide the larger group into smaller groups. Instruct them to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose a ceremony. (or assign one) 2. Complete the attached planning sheet 	<p>Possible resources to have on hand – song books, poems, readings, etc.</p>
5 minutes	<p>Share ideas; select a ceremony to do at the next meeting.</p>	
10 minutes	<p>End with an Investiture/Rededication planned by Service Team</p>	

CEREMONIES IN GIRL SCOUTING

All Girl Scout ceremonies traditionally include the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

BRIDGING: A ceremony where girls move from one program grade level to another; for Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts. The ceremony takes place at the end of the year when the girl is ready to move to the next program grade level. Bridging patches are available for these grade levels when all of the bridging steps have been completed. Although every girl bridges by moving up to the next level, bridging patches are earned by completing all the required bridging steps found in their Girls Guide to Girl Scouting.

CANDLELIGHTING: May be part of any ceremony. Three large candles may be used to represent the parts of the promise and ten small candles to represent the parts of the law. Small flashlights, battery candles, or cupcakes with birthday candles may be substituted (for young girls especially).

COURT OF AWARDS: Girls receive insignia and other awards they have earned. This ceremony should take place several times a year. Girls should be able to wear their awards shortly after they have been earned. They should not be given just at the end of the year. An explanation of what the award means should be included in the presentation. Parents are sometimes invited. Program Consultants or Cookie Managers who have helped girls may be recognized at this time.

FLAG: This ceremony can be part of any activity that honors the American flag. This can be done in many different ways as long as proper respect and flag etiquette is followed. It may be done with the American flag alone or could include the flags of Maryland State, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, or Girl Scout grade level or troop flags. You can find more information on the GSUSA website.

FLY-UP: The bridging ceremony for Girl Scout Brownies who are Bridging to Girl Scout Juniors. This is the only age level to "Fly-Up". Girls receive the Girl Scout pin along with their Girl Scout Brownie wings.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE AWARDS CEREMONIES: Special ceremonies for girls who have earned the highest awards for their grade level. GSCM holds an annual council-wide ceremony for recipients of the Gold Award.

GIRL SCOUTS' OWN: This is a girl planned program that allows girls to explore their feelings around a topic, such as friendship or the Girl Scout Promise using a variety of methods of expressions such as: readings, poems, music, or spoken word. A Girl Scouts' Own can be carried out any time or place, at troop meetings or camp. Traditionally participants walk to and from the Girl Scouts' Own site in silence. A Girl Scouts' Own ceremony is not a religious ceremony and does not take the place of religious service.

INVESTITURE: A ceremony welcoming new members into the Girl Scout family for the first time. The Girl Scout Promise is repeated and the member receives the Girl Scout pin, Girl Scout Brownie pin, or Girl Scout Daisy pin. Parents are often invited.

REDEDICATION: A ceremony designed to renew commitment to the ideals of Girl Scouting. Troops often plan rededication ceremonies at the beginning and end of their troop year. Participants repeat The Promise and Law and may review what they mean to them. Because they contain similar parts a rededication ceremony is often combined with an investiture ceremony.

INTERNATIONAL CEREMONIES: Usually held on Thinking Day, February 22, it traditionally includes an explanation and meaning of The World Association (Trefoil) Pin and fun, educational

activities focused on the International aspects of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. Donations to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund are often done at this time. Girls are sometimes given their World Association pins; however they may be given earlier in the year also.

CEREMONIES FOR SPECIAL GIRL SCOUT DAYS:

October 31 – Juliette Gordon Low’s birthday (also known as Founder’s Day) – may include a birthday celebration.

February 22 – Thinking Day, the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. Troops may include an international ceremony as part of Thinking Day. The ceremony traditionally includes an explanation and meaning of the World Association Pin and fun, education activities focused on the International aspects of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. Donations to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund are often done at this time. Girls are sometimes given their World Association pins as part of the ceremony, but they may also be given as part of the investiture ceremony.

March 12 – The birthday of Girl Scouting in the United States (1912).

Ceremony Planner

Adapted from Ceremonies in Girl Scouting
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Print out this sheet and use it with your troop or group when planning your next ceremony.

Type of ceremony	Bridging Girl Scout Birthday Girl Scout's Own Girl Scout Sunday Investiture Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday Leader's Day Rededication Thinking Day Other _____
Purpose or theme	Awards and Recognition Celebration Environment Friendship Girl Scouting History Peace Other _____

Date of ceremony _____ Time _____

Length of Ceremony _____

Do invitations need to be made? _____

Who will attend?	
How will the ceremony begin?	Who will do what?
What songs, poems, and quotations will be included?	Who will do what?
What will the main section consist of?	Who will do what?

Where will people stand or sit? Is special setup needed? (Make a sketch if necessary).

How will it end?	Song Poem Flag ceremony Friendship circle Taps Other _____
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Who will record the ceremony for the troop scrapbook?

What decorations or props do you need?	Campfire Candles Candleholders Banner Bridge Film Flags Recognitions Other _____
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What, if any, refreshments will be served? What quantities do you need?	Who will bring them?
Items to budget for:	Cost
When will a rehearsal be scheduled for the ceremony?	