



**CEREMONIES AND TRADITIONS  
WEBINAR**

## Girl Scout Mission, Promise, and Law

### Girl Scout Mission

"Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place."

### 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.

(\*Girl Scouts makes no attempt to define or interpret the word "God" in the Girl Scout Promise. We look to individual members to establish for themselves the nature of their spiritual beliefs. When making the Girl Scout Promise, individuals may substitute wording appropriate to their own spiritual beliefs for the word "God.")

### 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



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You belong to this powerful organization of—and *for*—girls.

The Girl Scout Mission, Promise, and Law speak to the vision we all share for girls and inspire each of us to work on behalf of tomorrow's leaders.

Every opportunity in Girl Scouting—from every group meeting to field trips to earning badges—encourages girls to become courageous, self-confident, and people of character who take action to make a difference in the world.

Every girl and adult who accepts the Promise and Law and pays (or has paid for her) the \$12.00 membership dues is a Girl Scout. \*scholarships available

The Promise and Law are the ethical foundation of Girl Scouts.

A special tidbit of information - the 3 fingers used when making the sign represent the 3 parts of the Promise.

# Welcome to the Great Adventure of Girl Scouting!



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Thanks to volunteers like you, generations of girls have learned to be leaders in their own lives and in the world.

Girl Scouts of Alaska encompasses the blue highlighted areas. We serve girls in these areas through camps, rural camps, troops, programs, and series.

The following are our current stores/camp properties/offices:

Headquarters and product store, Camp Singing Hills – Municipality of Anchorage

Office – Juneau

Camp Togowoods – Mat-Su Valley

# The History

When Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for a local Girl Scout meeting on March 12, 1912, her goal was to bring all girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air. Girl Scouts hiked, played basketball, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first-aid.

Today, Girl Scouts has a membership of more than 3.3 million girls and adults, and over 50 million women in the United States are Girl Scout alumnae.



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Girls and women have made remarkable progress since Juliette Low founded the first Girl Scout troop, but inequalities persist:

Research tells us that a girl’s leadership blooms when she’s among other girls, away from school pressures, social cliques, and boys. In a place where she can be herself and take on new challenges. Where activities are girl-led. Where each girl learns by doing and the learning is cooperative, not competitive. Where adults mentor girls and model skills, behaviors, relationships, and careers that girls can emulate.

You belong to this powerful network!

Why Girl Scouts?

Girl Scouts understands that girls have unique needs that are best met in a program designed specifically for them and delivered in an all-girl setting. Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership organization for girl!

Girl Scouts has developed an exciting model that meets every one of these needs—it’s called the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE). Everything girls do in Girl Scouting is infused with the GSLE, which shows girls how to discover who they are and what they stand for, connect with vibrant and diverse peers in their own neighborhoods and around the globe, and together take action to make a difference in the world. Even better, they inspire and advocate for others along the way! The GSLE identifies 15 exciting outcomes/benefits for girls, all of which propel girls toward becoming the exceptional women they were born to be.

Girl Scouting has been part of Alaska since before statehood. Girl Scouts of Alaska was formed in 2009 as the result of a merger between the Tongass Alaska Girl Scout Council which served the girls of Southeast and the Girl Scouts Susitna Council which served the girls of South-central and Southwest. The newly formed Girl Scouts of Alaska (GSAK) serves nearly 6,000 girls and 1,500 adult members from Bethel to Ketchikan.



Girl Scouts is the world's largest organization of and for girls.

**WAGGGS**

The World Wide Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts and is in 145 countries. One opportunity to celebrate cross-cultural learning is with Thinking Day on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> each year. Many service units will hold Thinking day events in which each troop selects a country that is a WAGGGS member. Many create a display, have food, a craft, a game, or a song from the country. Other troops come in and rotate/ visit countries from around the world. Sometimes a service unit may chose one country and have troops volunteer to research and present different aspects of that country.

**National Organization**

The national office of Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), is located in New York City. This 99-year-old organization is now affiliated with a worldwide family of girls and adults in 145 countries through the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). On March 12, 2012 we will celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

As girls engage in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, Global Girl Scouting ensures that they have increased awareness about the world, cross-cultural learning opportunities, and education on relevant global issues that may inspire them to take action to make the world a better place.

National provides research, program books, national standards for councils. Check out the GSUSA online orientation & leadership essentials.

**Girl Scouts of Alaska -Your Local Council**

Local Girl Scout councils are chartered by the national office to establish local responsibility for leadership, administration, and supervision of the Girl Scout program, and to develop, manage, and maintain Girl Scouting in a geographic area. Through your council, the national office provides support materials, to ensure that what is delivered through the councils is nationally consistent for all volunteers across the country.

GSAK Locally supports volunteers. GSAK held two adult learning summits in Juneau & Anchorage in 2010, provided travel training to multiple communities, provided face-to-face training, held webinars, and conference calls. The 2011 Encampment will also include adult learning opportunities. We are committed to supporting volunteers!

**GSAK Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors is comprised of a diverse group of volunteers who are community leaders and professionals. They ensure that the Girl Scout mission is carried out in the areas that Girl Scouts of Alaska serves. Their responsibilities include strategic planning, fund development, appointment of the CEO, financial oversight, and interaction with the community.

**Service Units**

A Girl Scout service unit is a team of volunteers that support and deliver a quality Girl Scout experience for the adults and girls in a specific geographic area. Service units help Girl Scouts organize, recruit, plan, and deliver Girl Scouting in their respective neighborhoods.

# Membership Pins



WAGGGS Pin



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Membership pins are worn by girls of every age level and adult members, as well. The pins are worn on your left side over your heart.

Pins may be worn directly on a shirt or on an insignia tab.

The yellow insignia tab is for Daisy Girl Scouts. The WAGGGS pin is worn over the Daisy pin. The brown insignia tab is for Brownie Girl Scouts. The WAGGGS pin is worn over the Brownie pin.

The green insignia tab is for Junior Girl Scouts.

The navy insignia tab is for Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts.  
The forest green insignia tab is for adult Girl Scouts.

For Junior, Cadette, Senior, Ambassador, and adult members, there is a choice. Their WAGGGS pin is worn over either the contemporary Girl Scout pin or the traditional Girl Scout pin.

Many times, troops will present girls with their WAGGGS pin at Thinking Day or an awards ceremony after the girl has completed Thinking Day.

The other portion of the time, the WAGGGS pin is simply presented to the girl during the investiture or rededication ceremony at the beginning of a membership year. Wearing the WAGGGS pin represents our membership in the World Wide Association.

The Daisy, Brownie, or Girl Scout pins are typically presented at an investiture or rededication ceremony at the beginning of a membership year. Wearing these pins represents your membership in the Girl Scout USA.

There are some very cute ways to present this pin. Check out the Brownie story and ceremony suggestions.

# Girl Scout Traditions



Girl Scout  
Handshake



Girl Scout Sign

Friendship Circle



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## Girl Scout Traditions

### **Girl Scout Sign**

The sign is formed by holding down the thumb and little finger on the right hand, leaving the three middle fingers extended. These three fingers represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

### **Girl Scout Handshake**

This is the way many Girl Scouts and Girl Guides greet each other. They shake their left hands while making the Girl Scout sign with their right hand. The left handed handshake represents friendship because the left hand is closer to the heart than the right.

### **Quiet Sign**

In order to maintain order at lively Girl Scout functions, the leader raises her right hand for silence. The girls follow in the motion; as their hands go up, the conversation stops, until everyone has their hand up and the room is silent.

### **Friendship Circle**

The friendship circle is often formed at the end of meetings or campfires as a sort of closing ceremony. Everyone gathers in a circle where they cross their right arm over their left in front of them and hold hands with the people on either side. Once everyone is silent, the leader starts the **friendship squeeze** which is passed from hand to hand. Often the girls will make a wish after their hand has been squeezed before they pass the squeeze along. Also, in some larger groups, the girls put their right foot out into the circle when they receive the friendship squeeze, so that everyone can see it travel along the circle.

### **Girl Scout Slogan**

Do a good turn daily.

### **Girl Scout Motto**

Be prepared.

# Days to Remember



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## **Girl Scout Days**

Special Days in Girl Scouting—All Year Long!

Throughout the year, girls and adults celebrate some very special days in Girl Scouting.

**Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday, or Founder's Day, October 31**, marks the 1860 birth of Girl Scouts of the USA founder Juliette Low in Savannah, Georgia. Juliette started the organization in 1912. Sometimes troops or service units will have tea parties to celebrate.

**World Thinking Day, February 22**, celebrates the birthdays of Girl Guides/Girl Scouts founder Robert, Lord Baden-Powell (1857-1941) and World Chief Guide, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell (1889-1977).

In the United States, Girl Scouting grew out of the friendship between Juliette Gordon Low and Lord Baden-Powell and his sister, Agnes, who began Girl Guiding. World Thinking Day celebrates that friendship and the sisterhood of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the globe. The day is also a time to donate funds to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.

**Girl Scout Birthday, March 12**, commemorates the day in 1912 when Juliette Gordon Low officially registered the organization's first 18 girl members in Savannah, Georgia.

**Girl Scout Leader's Day, April 22**, honors all the volunteers who work as leaders and mentors in partnership with girls. Girls, their families, and communities should find a special way to thank their adult Girl Scout volunteers.

**Girl Scout Week is celebrated each March**, starting with Girl Scout Sunday and ending with Girl Scout Sabbath on a Saturday, and it always includes the Girl Scout Birthday, March 12.

**Girl Scout Sunday and Girl Scout Sabbath** give girls an opportunity to attend their place of worship and be recognized as a Girl Scout. If a place of worship is the group sponsor, girls may perform a service, such as greeting, ushering, or doing a flag ceremony. These days can also be a time when girls explore other faiths. [Fund](#).



# Parts of Ceremonies



some ideas that might be part of a ceremony:

- Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Reading original words written by girls for the occasion
- Poems - done as choral reading or read by individuals
- Songs - sung by the entire group, by a special chorus, or hummed in the background
- Quotations and readings
- Candle lighting
- Flag ceremony



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Ceremonies in Girl Scouts are used to celebrate 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, service, beliefs and so forth.

A ceremony may be informal, taking only a few minutes to prepare. On the other hand, it may be of a more formal nature, requiring advance preparation.

Girls may decide to have ceremonies for a number of occasions throughout the year.

Celebrating important events together helps bind girls of different backgrounds together into a feeling of sisterhood. It becomes a special time in their lives for reflection on the "oneness" of being a Girl Scout and a member of the largest girls' organization in the world.

## PLANNING CEREMONIES

Girl-planning is one of the principle ways in which leaders work with girls. Leaders need to recognize this method and solicit ideas from the girls to incorporate in the program. Even the smallest Daisy Girl Scout can contribute if given choices from which to choose.

As the leader, you will have to give many suggestions and much help in planning at the beginning. After girls have experienced a few ceremonies and see what can be included, they will begin to have ideas of their own.

Work with a committee, a patrol or the Court of Honor. Explain the purpose of the ceremony and have the girls talk about appropriate behavior during an activity. Discuss the form of the ceremony using questions to help make a plan.

There is no one way to plan a ceremony or celebration. However, you should recognize the difference between the two.

A ceremony can be an observance of tradition with a symbolic meaning, an expression of deep feeling or conviction and a means of stressing beauty and instilling ideas. It should be simple and dignified, appropriate to the occasion and easily understood by the girls who take part in it. It should never be too sentimental or solemn.

A celebration is a time for sharing such things as sisterhood, fun, food, dances, songs, talents, etc. over a longer period of time than that given to a ceremony. An example would be an international celebration in observance of World Thinking Day. It could include customs, food, songs and dances from other countries. A ceremony can be part of a celebration.

Girl Scout ceremonies are not required to follow a set procedure but may open, carry out the purpose, and close in a number of ways. The ages of the girls, the season, location, and the purpose of the ceremony will help determine what goes into the ceremony. A group may build up a repertory of songs and collect a file of poems, readings and quotations to be used in ceremonies.

# Traditional Ceremonies

**Investiture**- a ceremony to welcome new girls and adults into the Girl Scouting program. It is held anytime a person joins the Movement as a new member. Note: A person is invested only once in their lifetime.

**Rededication**- a ceremony for girls and adults who have already been invested at some time in their life. It is a time for them to reaffirm their belief in the Promise and Law and to reflect upon the meaning of Girl Scouting in their lives. It is usually held at the beginning of each Girl Scout year.

Note: If a person rejoins the Movement after a period of absence, they are welcomed back at a rededication ceremony.

**Court of Awards**- a ceremony to recognize the achievements of the Girl Scouts. It is on this occasion that girls receive the insignia they have earned. This ceremony can be held any time during the Girl Scouting year. At the last Court of Awards of the year, members can receive their membership stars.

**Fly-up**- a ceremony held at the end of the Girl Scouting year for Brownie Girl Scouts bridging into Junior Girl Scouts. It is at this time the girls receive their Brownie Girl Scout wings.



## Traditional Ceremonies Continued

**Bridging** - a ceremony held for any Girl Scout moving up to a new level in the program. Daisy Girl Scouts to Brownie Girl Scouts, Brownie Girl Scouts to Junior Girl Scouts, and Junior Girl Scouts to Girls Scouts 11 - 17.

**Campfire** - a ceremony and/or celebration held around a fire. The meaning of a campfire lies in the spirit of the program. It can unlock the spirit of mystery, romance, sisterhood, humor, and magic within the heart of each participant.

**Adult Recognition** - an occasion at any time of the year when adults are recognized for their service to Girl Scouting.

**Girl Scout Own** - not a ceremony in the strict sense of the word but a time for Girl Scouts to reflect upon their feelings about Girl Scouting and the world around them. It is a solemn time given over to the girls themselves to create a moment of their very own. A Girl Scouts' Own can be held at any time and can take place at a troop meeting, an inter-troop gathering or camp.

**Opening** - a ceremony to begin a meeting or event.

**Closing** - a ceremony to end a meeting or event.

**Flag** - a ceremony to recognize our allegiance to our nation or discard a worn flag. A flag ceremony can be held as part of a celebration. It can also be used to open a troop meeting as well as on a separate occasion.



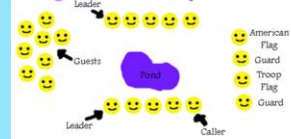
# Keys to Successful Ceremonies

- You can help the girls gain confidence by having them walk through the mechanics once or twice.

Each girl should know the order of events and exactly what she is to do all the way through. For example:

- Will everyone walk together?
- Does she stand or sit during ceremony?
- What movement occurs during ceremony?
- Does she come up front for her part of the ceremony?
- What is the order of events and what part does she follow?
- How does the group disperse at the end?
- What songs, poems, and quotations should we include?
- How will we end the ceremony?
- Who will do each part? An individual? A group?
- What do we need? Candles? Decorations?
- Who will bring them?
- Who will start the songs?

Arrangement of the Troop



# Girl Bridging Awards

[Brownie](#) | [Junior](#) | [Cadette](#) | [Senior](#) | [Ambassador](#) | [Adult](#)



Bridging awards mark a girl's transition from one leadership level to the next. An exciting time in a Girl Scout's life, the earning of the award and completion of the activities are designed to emphasize the continuity of one Girl Scout program and to welcome girls to an anticipated "next level."



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## Earning the Award

To earn the level bridging award, complete the two bridging steps. These steps will help you pass down something you learned as a Girl Scout and look forward to what's waiting for you at the next level.

### Bridging Step One: Pass It On!

Inspire younger girls by sharing what it's like to be a Girl Scout at your current level.

Teach younger girls the Girl Scout Promise, then take them through the Girl Scout Law. Share a story about how you learned to put the Promise and Law into action.

### Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead!

Find out What Girl Scouts do at the next level.

Spend time with some Brownie sisters.

## Automatically given

Brownie wings

### Membership Star pins

Daisy – with blue disc

Brownie – with green disc

Junior – with yellow disc

Cadette – with white disc

Seniors – with red disc

Ambassador – with navy disc

# Older Girl Awards



**The Girl Scout Gold Award®**, the highest award in Girl Scouts, focuses on a 14- to 18-year-old Girl Scout's interests and personal journey through leadership skills, career explorations, self-improvement, and service. The Girl Scout Gold Award was updated in 2004.

**The Girl Scout Silver Award** symbolizes an 11- to 14-year-old Girl Scout's accomplishments in Girl Scouting and community activities as she matures and works to better her life and the lives of others.

**The Girl Scout Bronze Award** recognizes that a Girl Scout Junior has gained the leadership and planning skills required to follow through with a project that makes a positive difference in her community



# Adult Recognition

## Service Unit Awards

**Outstanding Leader Award** - Recognition by the service unit of outstanding troop leadership in the delivery of Girl Scout program to girls. Nomination is submitted to the Service Unit Recognition group for approval.

**Outstanding Volunteer Award** - Recognition by the service unit of outstanding service other than troop leadership by a volunteer. Nomination is submitted to the Service Unit Recognition group for approval.

## Council Awards

**Appreciation Pin** - For service to Girl Scouting that is well beyond expectations for the position held and which is delivered to ONE SERVICE UNIT.

**Honor Pin** - For service to Girl Scouting that is well beyond expectations for the position held and which is delivered to at least TWO SERVICE UNITS.

**Thanks Badge** - For service to Girl Scouting that is truly outstanding and significantly above and beyond expectations. Benefits the TOTAL COUNCIL.



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## Service Unit/Community Volunteer Recognition

Showing appreciation for one another is a good way to show respect, relate to each other's strengths and build mutual commitment. Recognition awards allow us to show our immense gratitude to the volunteers whose service goes above and beyond and whose contributions are significant.

**Outstanding Leader Award** – This award is given only once to recognize outstanding troop leadership in the delivery of Girl Scout program to girls, meriting recognition by geographic/service team.

**Outstanding Volunteer Award** – This award is given only once to an adult in a position other than a troop leader for service to a geographic area or program delivery audience that is beyond the expectations for the position.

## Council Awards

**Appreciation Pin** - For service to Girl Scouting that is well beyond expectations for the position held and which is delivered to one service unit.

**Honor Pin** - For service to Girl Scouting that is well beyond expectations for the position held and which is delivered to at least two service units.

**Thanks Badge** - For service to Girl Scouting that is truly outstanding and significantly above and beyond expectations. Benefits the entire council.

# Leadership Development Pin

The Leadership Development Pin and Leaves represent a leader's hours of Girl Scout related training.

Form of recognition: A round pin with an owl with spaces to attach up to five "learning leaves".



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## Leadership Development Pin

Each green leaf represents 10 contact hours of training. Five green leaves are replaced by one silver leaf.

The silver leaves represent 50 contact hours of training. Five silver leaves are replaced by one gold leaf.

The gold leaves each represent 250 contact hours of training.

### Criteria for selection:

The candidate is a registered Girl Scout adult.

The candidate has completed one successful year in the position of troop/group leader, advisor, assistant leader, or group coordinator.

The candidate has completed the appropriate basic adult learning course.

The candidate has participated in at least two meetings or events beyond the troop or group (Service Unit, community, Council).

### Approval:

Leaders apply or are nominated whenever the requirements are met.

Candidates applying for Leadership Development Leaves need to document their hours.

Council adult learning opportunities, community workshops, and higher education classes may be used to qualify for the Leadership Development leaves. The contact hours may be completed at one workshop, course, or training event or represent hours of training accumulated at several events over a period of time. Conference calls and webinars may be counted as well.



## Want to learn more?

Complete Online Leadership Essentials and Orientation at <http://training.girlscouts.org>  
the password is: discover

Have fun exploring at [www.girlscout.org](http://www.girlscout.org)

Webinars, Conference Calls, and Adult Learning Forums

