

Ceremonies In Girl Scouting

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This document is intended to give Girl Scout volunteers a taste of Ceremonies in Girl Scouting. Many resources are available from other publications (including each program grade level girl Journey books and Adult Journey Guides and the Girls Guide to Girl Scouting) as well as on the web.

Just a small
taste . . .

Ceremonies in Girl Scouting

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Ceremonies in Girl Scouting

In Girl Scouting, you can find many reasons to plan a ceremony. Girl Scouting has several special days and traditions that help mark the passing of the year. Celebrating these special days helps foster a sense of belonging and historical understanding. Girls learn of the larger organization of which they are members. Best of all, a ceremony which girls have planned and carried out is a creative expression of their ideals and aspirations.

Ceremony Tips:

- No matter what kind of ceremony you are having, good planning is essential so that the ceremony will be meaningful.
- A ceremony has three required parts:
 1. Opening – gives the purpose of the ceremony and sets the mood for the occasion. The mood can be quiet or festive, fun or serious.
 2. Activity or presentation – this is the reason you have gathered people together. It could be to present awards, to celebrate a special occasion or day, or to reflect on an experience.
 3. Closing – marks the end of the ceremony.
 4. Snacks or reception (optional)
- Rehearsal time is important, especially for younger girls.
- The girl participants each have personal qualities and characteristics which they can contribute to the nature of the ceremony. The role that each participant plays is important, and each girl should have the opportunity to express herself in some way during the ceremony.

Incorporating Girl Planning

Girl Scouting operates on the idea 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 that involve girls 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. Keep in mind that, at different levels, girls will have different abilities. As the girls get older, their responsibility for planning should expand. Don't worry about doing everything "right". Be flexible, let the girls make mistakes and learn from them. It is the volunteer's role to guide the group and provide an environment for creativity.

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Bridging

A bridge crosses a gap and makes it easy to get from one side to another; so it is in Girl Scouting. Through a process called “bridging”, girls who move from one program grade level to another have something to help ease that jump.

The Girl Scout program is based on progression. As girls increase their skills and confidence, they can carry out activities that require more planning, take place farther away from home, and utilize special skills and endurance. Progression is built into the design of the awards at each grade level. The bridging process (earning the award and/or participating in a ceremony) can help a girl feel more comfortable about continuing to the next grade level.

It is important to note that while a Bridging Ceremony is part of the activities to earn the Bridging Awards, a girl may bridge to the next grade level without earning this award.

For award requirements, refer to the handbook section of the Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting for each grade level or at the GSUSA web pages at www.girlscouts.org → programs → program basics → for volunteers → bridging awards.

Court of Awards

Why just hand the person an award, when you can make it a memorable occasion where the recipient can feel proud and share their accomplishments with others?

Court of Awards essentials:

- Each person has their time to be acknowledged by their name being called out and visibly identified.
- Whatever method is agreed to for the delivery of awards is used the same way for everyone. If all awards earned are specifically called out for each girl, do the same for every girl.
- An alternative to calling out every badge is to give a summary statement or a special accomplishment for that girl.
- Have each girl tell something special they remember. Make sure they know this ahead of time and can practice or write down their thoughts.
- Special awards like a Bronze Award or Summit Award (where a girl completes all three Journey’s for her grade level) should be given a separate part of the ceremony.
- Make sure the participants and their families are aware of the level of formality planned for the event.
- The ceremony can be a combination of many different other ceremony “parts”
 1. Opening – Flag Ceremony or Promise/Law candle ceremony
 2. Presentation of Awards
 3. Closing – Flag Ceremony, Song, Friendship Circle
 4. Snacks or Reception

Make sure the girls are involved in the planning of this event as appropriate.

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Flag Ceremonies

The main purpose of Flag ceremonies is to honor the flag and to promote patriotism. The flag of our country honors the citizens of this country, those who have served in any way as a soldier or other service to the country, special days that celebrate significant historical happenings such as July 4th, the values this country was built on as defined in the Declaration of Independence or other documents of historical significance to name a few. To find out the basics about flag ceremonies please visit www.girlscouts.org → programs → program basics → traditions → Ceremonies → flag ceremonies.

There are many ways to carry out a flag ceremony. A few samples of these are shown below:

Melting Pot Flag Ceremony

Supplies:

1. Cups of red, white, and blue confetti, poker chips and stars, preferably separated.
2. Large pot or basket
3. Large stirring spoon
4. An American Flag

Set the pot up where it can be seen and still allow the ceremony “helpers” to do their parts. Unfold the flag and place it in the pot so that it can easily be pulled out.

We are going to fix for you a treat that is really grand, and make for you a recipe – the greatest in the land.

Pour the red confetti/chips into the pot.

First we will put in a heaping cup of red for courage true.

Pour the blue confetti/chips into the pot.

And then we will add for loyalty, a cup of heavenly blue.

Pour the white confetti/chips into the pot.

For purity we will sift in a layer of snowy white.

Pour the stars into the pot.

We will sprinkle in a pinch of stars to make it come out right.

Stir the pot.

We will stir and stir and – slowly pull out the flag so as not to spill the ingredients – then you will see what we have make . . .

Old Glory! All “helpers” gently pull out the flag and hang it on the flag pole.

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Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. Say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Please join me in the Girl Scout Promise. Say the Girl Scout Promise.

Our flag is the most beautiful flag in the world. Let's always be loyal to it.

When no flag pole is available:

Supplies: 6 or 8 people: Caller, Flag Bearer, 4 or 6 Color Guards; American Flag

Color Guard advance.

Color Guard present the colors.

Flag bearer turns around to the Color Guard. Together they reverently unfold the flag. Present the flag by raising it vertically so that it is perpendicular to the ground and as high as possible, all four corners held.

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. Say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Please join me in the Girl Scout Promise. Say the Girl Scout Promise.

Color Guard retire the colors. Color Guard fold the flag and one Guard presents it to the Flag Bearer. The Flag Bearer carries it "point" forward.

Color Guard dismissed.

United States Flag Retirement Ceremony:

Supplies: Flags ready for retirement can be retrieved from many organizations and businesses including schools and government buildings. You can also check with the local Girl Scout Service Center to see if they have a supply. It is recommended that cotton flags are used. **Nylon is very flammable and when burned the smoke is very strong.** Sharp shears are recommended to make the cutting much easier when cutting cloth. Care must be given when cutting and if girls are used for cutting, girls of an appropriate age should be chosen. Girls can participate in the ceremony in ways other than cutting.

A fire should already be burning hot.

When the United States flag (Old Glory) becomes worn, torn, faded or badly soiled, it is time to replace it with a new flag, and the old flag should be "retired" with all the dignity and respect befitting our nation's flag. Today we are not burning a flag we are retiring a symbol of America's honor, courage, and strength. Therefore we request that all remain silent during this ceremony.

The U.S. flag is more than just some brightly colored cloth... it is a symbol of our nation. Seven red stripes and six white strips; together represent the original 13 colonies that gained us liberty.

The red stripes remind us of the lifeblood of brave men and women who were ready to die for this, their country.

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The white stripes remind us of purity and cleanliness of purpose, thought, word and deed. The blue is for truth and justice, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens.

The stars represent the fifty sovereign states of our union.

The American Creed states, "it is my duty to my country to love it, to respect its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

The U.S. flag should be treated with respect when it's flying, and should be treated with respect when it's being retired.

Therefore, we retire flags with dignity and respect when they become worn, torn, faded, or badly soiled.

We separate the 13 strips that represent the original 13 colonies, and the 50 stars to pay homage to the 50 states that together make up this great nation.

Have a "safety participant" remain in the flag circle while all other participants are placing their piece of the flag on the fire. Each participant will place their piece of the flag on the fire, and leave the fire circle. The next participant does not enter the fire ring until the previous participant leaves. Continue this for all 13 stripes.

Place each stripe one at a time in the fire. Read the 13 colonies names as you place each stripe in the fire. **WARNING: Nylon flags ignite fast!**

The thirteen stripes stand for the thirteen original colonies.

As the field of blue with white stars is placed on the fire, read the names of each of the states represented by the stars.

Each of the stars represents the 50 states that are now the United States of America.

Name of State First 13 Colonies	Name of State States 14-26	Name of State States 27-39	Name of State States 40-50
<i>Delaware</i>	Vermont	Florida	South Dakota
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	Kentucky	Texas	Montana
<i>New Jersey</i>	Tennessee	Iowa	Washington
<i>Georgia</i>	Ohio	Wisconsin	Idaho
<i>Connecticut</i>	Louisiana	California	Wyoming
<i>Massachusetts</i>	Indiana	Minnesota	Utah
<i>Maryland</i>	Mississippi	Oregon	Oklahoma
<i>South Carolina</i>	Illinois	Kansas	New Mexico
<i>New Hampshire</i>	Alabama	West Virginia	Arizona
<i>Virginia</i>	Maine	Nevada	Alaska
<i>New York</i>	Missouri	Nebraska	Hawaii
<i>North Carolina</i>	Arkansas	Colorado	
<i>Rhode Island</i>	Michigan	North Dakota	

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After all states names are read, as the flag is being consumed by the flames:

REMEMBER ME?

Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your Flag, the Flag of the United States of America. You may have seen me at the front of the parade, proudly waving in the breeze. Don't forget what I stand for and where I've been all over the world representing each and every citizen of the United States of America. People may salute me with their hands or remove their hats and place them over their hearts. When they do, they are actually saluting all those who gave of themselves, sometimes their lives.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down the street again. So when you see me, stand straight, place your right hand over your heart...and I'll salute you, waving back...and I'll know that... YOU REMEMBERED!

Say pledge of allegiance while flag burns.

Sing Taps – can be accompanied by a trumpet or other instrument.

Maintain a moment of silence.

The participants should maintain a vigil over the fire until all traces of the flag remnants are destroyed. Then, the fire is extinguished and the ashes are buried before sunset the following day. The ashes and the metal grommets are buried in separate unmarked graves.

Founder's Day, October 31, Juliette Low's Birthday

Each year on October 31, girls participate in activities and projects to learn about Juliette Gordon Low who is recognized as the founder of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Go to www.girlscouts.org → programs → program basics → traditions → Girl Scout Days.

Want to plan a Founder's Day Event? Following are some games or ceremonies you might include:

Juliette Low Kim's Game

Kim's Game is a game Lord Baden Powell (who started Boy scouts) used to train his troops. It's a memory game. You have many objects out, then take some away. As the objects are "recalled", they are placed back in view.

Here are a few things that tell a little about Juliette Low's life:

1. Tomato can: having nothing else on hand to put her honor pins in, Juliette grabbed an empty tomato can and carried the pins to a meeting in it.

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2. Daisy: Juliette's nickname was Daisy.
3. Rubber fishing worm: Juliette loved fishing, in fact she would go out with the men after a formal dinner. It was not unusual for her to go fishing in her evening dress.
4. Pearl necklace: Juliette sold her pearls to fund the Girl Scouting program. She solely supported the Girl Scouts in the United States for several years.
5. Rice: It was a piece of rice thrown for good luck that was the cause of Juliette being partially deaf in her one good ear. It lodged itself in the ear drum.
6. Fish: Juliette was one of a very few people ever outside the United Kingdom to be awarded the Silver Fish. The Silver Fish is the highest adult award in Girl Guiding UK. It is awarded for outstanding service to Girl Guiding UK combined with service to world Guiding.
7. Battleship: There was a Liberty ship named for her during World War II.
8. Pumpkin: Juliette was born on October 31, 1860.
9. Paint brush: Juliette loved the arts. She enjoyed drawing, painting, poetry, drama, sculpting and iron work.
10. State of Georgia: Juliette was born in Savannah, Georgia.
11. Telephone: When Juliette arrived home in Savannah, Georgia she made a famous phone call, "I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all America, and all the world and we're going to start it tonight."
12. Toy stuffed dog, cat or bird: Juliette was very fond of animals.

After you explain each item, hide them and ask the group of girls to list each item and give an explanation of it's significance.

Juliette Low Candle Ceremony

Supplies: four candles, matches/lighter

Light Candle #1. *I light this candle for Juliette Low, our Girl Scout founder. 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 and a half million Girl Scouts in the United States.*

Light Candle #2. *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 Girl Guides have members around the world. I light this candle to all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides the world over.*

Light Candle #3. *When you became Girl Scouts you made a Promise. Let us here rededicate ourselves by repeating our Girl Scout Promise.*

Hold Girl Scout sign and say the Girl Scout Promise together.

Lead the song "Whene'er You Make a Promise".

Light Candle #4. *In Adelboden, Switzerland there stands Our Chalet, and in Cuernavaca, Mexico – Our Cabana. In Poona, India – The Sangam and in London, there is Pax Lodge. It is at these world centers*

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that we meet together to strengthen friendship between countries by our own friendships with one another.

Lead the song "World Song".

Juliette Low Eternal Flame – Pass the Light Ceremony

Supplies:

1. Candle for each person
2. Matches/lighter
3. Bucket filled with water

Long ago a special ceremony was formed. Juliette Low wanted her original girls to carry a special spark with them as their Scouting group broke up. Some from the troop were moving away, working to help their families or wanted to help a group of girls a little younger than themselves. But whatever their reasons, Juliette knew no other group would ever quite be the same. As the girls stood in a circle holding candles (they had made), Juliette knew what spark it was that she wanted to pass on.

Leader/Narrator lights her candle.

*With this candle I give you each something very special to pass on. As I light the candle on my right, I ask each of you to light the candle to your right and pass it on. I want you to carry this thought with you wherever you go. This is the **ETERNAL FLAME** for Girl Scouts. When each of you has lit the candle before you, we will repeat the Girl Scout Promise together, then pause and recall a few of the things we have done together as a group. I will hold my candle up and as I do so you will all raise yours and we will blow them out together. Before we separate from our circle, I want to ask you to keep this candle as a very special candle. It is not to be used for any purpose but passing on the **ETERNAL FLAME**. You may use it in other Girl Scout ceremonies such as camps, encampments, campfires, bridging or court of awards ceremonies. I'm glad we were able to start a special tradition based on our **ETERNAL FLAME**.*

Girl Scouts Own Ceremonies

A Scouts Own Ceremony is one that is usually a reflective, introspective ceremony. It can have a theme. Themes may be reflective of nature, friendship, the event or camping trip the ceremony is a part of or even the past year(s) as a part of a troop/group of girls.

Some famous quotes from Juliette Gordon Low that might be used to enhance a Scouts Own:

"Badges are not medals to wear on your sleeve to show what a smart girl you are."

"A badge is a symbol that you have done the thing it stands for often enough, thoroughly enough, and well enough to BE PREPARED to give service in it."

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“And Girl Scouting is not just knowing... but doing... not just doing, but being.”

“Ours is a circle of friends united by ideals.”

“Right is right, even if no one else does it.”

“The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers.”

“You wear the badge to let people know that you are prepared and willing to be called on because you are a Girl Scout.”

“Badges mean nothing in themselves, but they mark a certain achievement and they are a link between the rich and the poor. For when one girl sees a badge on a sister Scout's arm, if that girl has won the same badge, it at once awakens an interest and sympathy between them.”

“My purpose... to go on with my heart and soul, devoting all my energies to Girl Scouts, and heart and hand with them, we will make our lives and the lives of the future girls happy, healthy and holy. “

“Scouting rises within you and inspires you to put forth your best.”

In a 1925 letter Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scout Movement, wrote of Girl Scouts: "I realize that each year it has changed and grown until I know that, a decade from now, what I might say of it would seem like an echo of what has been instead of what is."

Every spring
the sap rises in the trees
from root to branch
and makes a tree that looks dead
blossom with green leaves
and life.
So it is that the Scouting Spirit
rises within you and inspires
you to put forth your best.
By Juliette Gordon Low

Investiture/Rededication

An Investiture is a ceremony to welcome someone into Girl Scouts. It is a very meaningful step as they become an active member of the Girl Scout movement. The person is committing themselves to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. A rededication is a time for Girl Scout members to reaffirm their belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law and to reflect upon the meaning of Girl Scouting in their lives.

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Sample Daisy Girl Scout Investiture/Rededication

Supplies:

1. Daisy Girl Scout pins for new members, Membership stars and discs or other pin or patch for returning members
2. Cut-out of a daisy flower; yellow center, white petals; back each piece with double sided tape. Make sure each girl has a petal or make more than one flower.
3. Poster or science board

Script: Assign the parts as appropriate depending on girls ability to read, or have them repeat it after you. Make sure each girl has the opportunity to participate in the ceremony.

The woman who started Girl Scouts was Juliette Gordon Low. Her nickname was "Daisy". We are named after her. Together we will learn more about Girl Scouting. (Place the yellow daisy center(s) on the poster or board.)

In Girl Scouting, we have lots of fun things to learn.

We will learn how to be safe and healthy. (Place a petal on the poster)

We will learn how and why things work. (Place a petal on the poster)

We will sing, dance, make things and put on plays. (Place a petal on the poster)

We will have fun outside and learn how to care for our world. (Place a petal on the poster)

We will learn how to be helpful people on this earth. (Place a petal on the poster)

The Girl Scout Promise tells us to help others. (Place a petal on the poster)

The Girl Scout Law tells us how to be good to each other and our world. (Place a petal on the poster)

Most important we will have fun. (Place a petal on the poster)

At this time, all girls make the Girl Scout sign and repeat the Girl Scout Promise.

Call each new girl forward and place her membership pin upside down. Explain that the pin is upside down because she should go home and do a good deed. When completed, her parent or guardian can turn the pin right side up. Let everyone know that you hope to see all the pins turned over by the next meeting.

Call each returning girl forward and place her membership star and disc on.

As you pin each girl, have them give the Girl Scout handshake (give the Girl Scout sign with the right hand and shake with the left hand).

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Sample Adult Girl Scout Investiture/Rededication:

This can be a time of reflection for adult volunteers to reconnect with reasons why they are a part of the Girl Scout movement.

A young girl will feel the pride of being someone special when she wears her uniform. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

A girl can move to a new town and have "instant friendships" with girls she might never have met. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

Parents will experience that special pride when they listen to their daughter say the Girl Scout Promise. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

Bright eyes will become a little brighter with excitement as the kindling finally catches on her first campfire. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

Nervous giggles will emit from tents as girls try to fall asleep on their first night of camp. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

Voices will be heard as the girls sing loud and strong their favorite Girl Scout songs. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

Lifelong friendships may be made between the girls in your troops, providing support & love throughout their life. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

Curiosity will be sparked and maybe a career chosen because of a girl's experiences in Girl Scouting. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

You will hear the squeals of laughter as the girls put on their first campfire skits. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

Strong bodies will be made through sports and adventurous activities. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

Strong minds will be made because the girls had a safe place to make decisions. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

Our future leaders will be developed, strong and decisive. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

The community and the world will be cleaner because a girl has learned the importance of caring for her environment. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

The community and the world will be richer because a girl has learned to give service to someone less fortunate than herself. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

Your girls will develop great confidence in themselves and each other, building strong relationships. All participants say together: "Because I said yes"

The world will be a more peaceful place as we all learn to accept and revel in our differences. All

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participants say together: *“Because I said yes”*

A parent will find a gold trefoil carefully tucked away in a drawer as their daughter packs to leave home for her first adventures as a young adult. All participants say together: “Because I said yes”

A young woman will contact Girl Scouts one day and say “I had so much fun when I was a Girl Scout, I’d like to try being a leader” All participants say together: “Because I said yes”

We welcome all the new volunteers we have among us tonight with open arms into the sisterhood of Girl Scouting. Here you will never be without good friends and good times. Please step forward to receive your pins. Thank you for saying “Yes”.

Call out the names, etc. of each person as they are pinned. Explain that the pin is upside down because the new leader should go home and do a good deed. When completed, the new leader can turn the pin right side up.

And to all the returning volunteers – Thank goodness you are still here! We knew that we would be in for another year of laughter and friendship. Let’s keep our newest members in our thoughts and make them feel welcome. Let’s support each other and our girls throughout the coming year.

The Girl Promise and Law are shared by every member of Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout promise is the way Girl Scouts agree to act every day toward one another and other people, and the Girl Scout Law outlines a way to act towards one another and the world. Please join me in saying the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Everyone stands, gives the Girl Scout sign and recites the Girl Scout Promise and Law together.

Please welcome your neighbor, all the new volunteers with the Girl Scout handshake. (Give the Girl Scout sign with the right hand and shake hands with the left hand.)

World Thinking Day

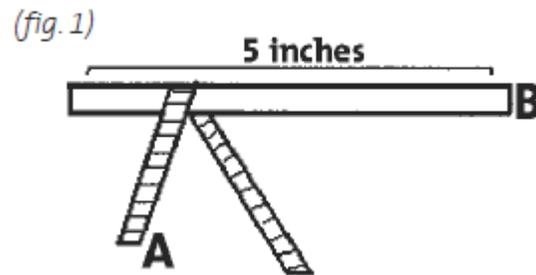
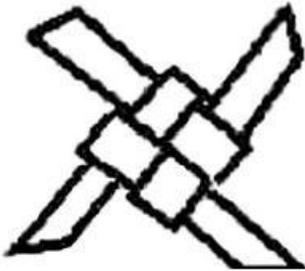
Each year on February 22, [World Thinking Day](#), girls participate in activities and projects with global themes to honor their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in other countries. World Thinking Day not only gives girls a chance to celebrate international friendships, but is also a reminder that Girl Scouts of the USA is part of a global community—one of nearly 150 countries with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Visit www.wagggsworld.org to learn more.

Want to plan a World Thinking Day Meeting or Event? The following are some activities you might use:

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Make the WAGGGS Friendship Knot

This knot symbolizes the ties that bind girls and adults who belong to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. It is also a sign of the continuous friendships they share. The four ends of the knot represent the Girl Scout Promise, the 10 parts of the Girl Scout Law, the Motto and service to others. The four squares stand for the four world centers.

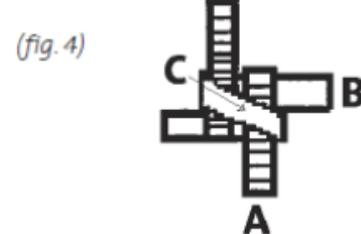
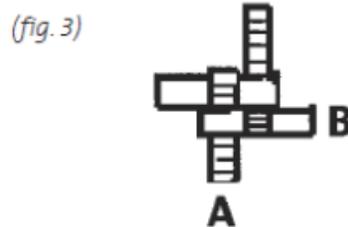
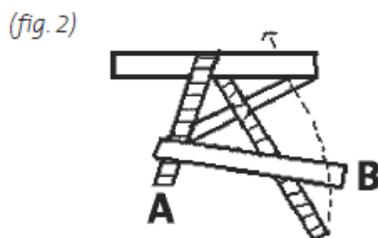


Materials needed:

2 pieces of grosgrain or velvet ribbon, 1/4 inch wide, 5 inches long

Instructions:

1. Fold end A over B (fig. 1)
2. Fold B behind A and around to the front and over A. (fig. 2)
3. Weave long end A over B's end, and under B's loop. Pull gently to even the four ends of the knot. Check to see that front and back of the knot look like figures 3 and 4.
4. Attach small safety pin under C. (fig. 4)

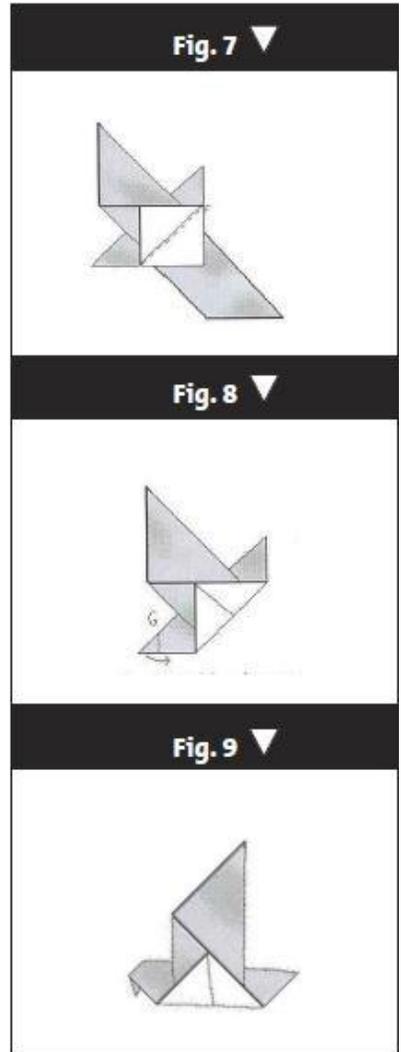
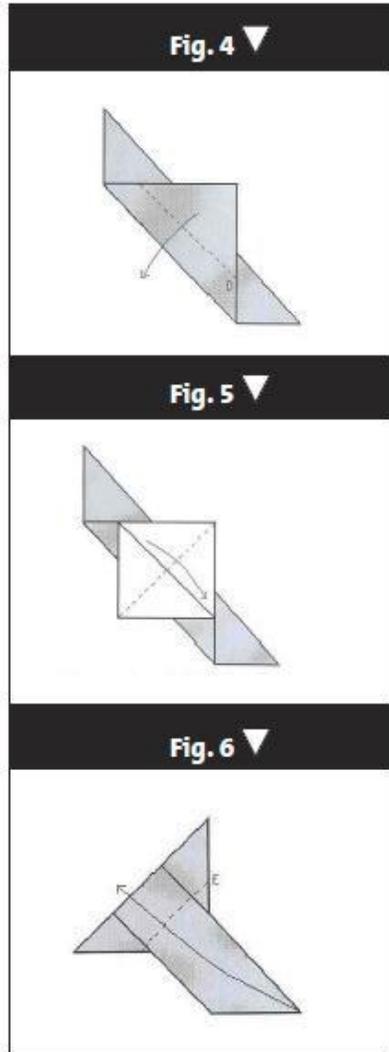
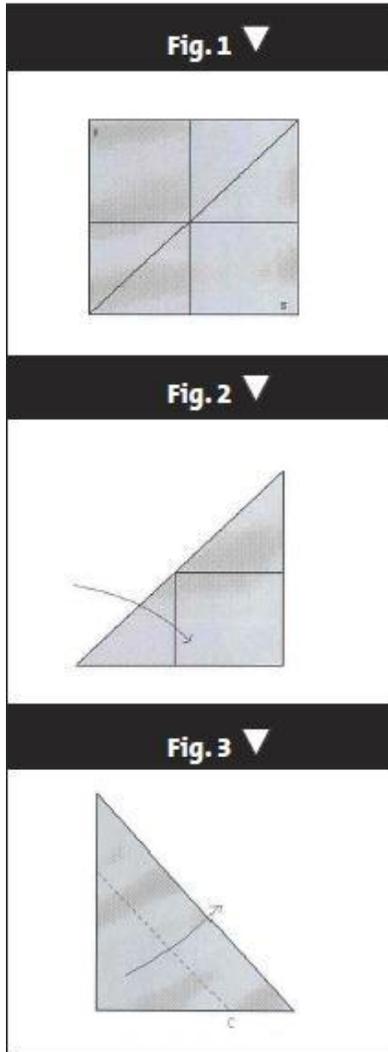


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Make an Origami Peace Dove

- Fig. 1 Begin with a piece of paper 6 inches square.
- Fig. 2 Fold point A to point B.
- Fig. 3 Fold at line C to 1/3 of the width.
- Fig. 4 Fold upper sheet at 1/4 of the width at line D.
- Fig. 5 Now open inner fold. Fold in half
- Fig. 6 Lift and fold one wing at line E.
- Fig. 7 Lift and fold the other wing at line F.
- Fig. 8 Pocket fold at line G to form the head. Do this by folding a small part of the tip to the side at an appropriate angle, then fold the paper inward.
- Fig. 9 Now you have completed your Origami Peace Dove.

Key: Fold



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The World Center Game

Everyone stands in a circle. The leader reads the following story. When the words in the list are spoken, do the required motion. (Leader should pause in her reading to allow time for the motion.)

World Form friendship circle
Countries Stand at attention and give civilian salute
Girl Girl Scouts sign and a big smile
Center Turn in place

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts or WAGGGS as it is conveniently called, was founded in 1928. Currently there are 141 member countries. Currently there are 141 member countries. New countries are admitted at World Conferences which are held every three years.

In order to be a member, countries must be free and able to maintain an organization for girls. All recite the Promise and Law in their own language. All wear the World Association Pin.

One of the duties of WAGGGS is to maintain the World Centers. The Centers provide a place for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to meet people from all over the world. They also give girls a chance to hear different languages, learn about different cultures and to become sisters with girls throughout the world.

Our Chalet, the first World Center, was a gift from Helen Osborne Storrow of Boston. Located in the Swiss Alps above the town of Adelboden, it opened in 1932. Girls enjoy skiing, tobogganing and hiking during the day and singing and sharing at night when they visit the Center.

The Ark opened in 1939 in London. It was renamed Olave House in 1963, in honor of Lady Baden Powell, the World Chief Guide. It closed September 30, 1988. The new Olave Center houses the World Bureau. In 1990 a new and expanded World hostel, Pax Lodge (Pax is Latin for "peace") opened adjacent to the World Bureau. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts stay there while visiting London. The lodge also serves as an International Training Center.

It took 10 years to raise the money to build Our Cabana. It was opened in 1957 in Cuernavaca, Mexico. While there, girls learn folk arts and music of Mexico. Community recreation projects and service projects for local residents are also part of the program.

In 1966 Sangam was opened, located in an area southeast of Bombay, India in the town of Poona. Indian music, dance and crafts are popular at this center. Girls also have an opportunity to work with underprivileged local children, and travel to wildlife sanctuaries and historic spots.

Any member of Girl Scouts of USA may visit any of the Centers. It takes several years of planning and saving for a "never to be forgotten" trip to any of the four World Centers.

Ceremonies in Girl Scouting

Carry out an International Thinking Day Ceremony:

On or around February 22 – Thinking Day or during the month of February which is International Friendship month.

Using the Law

Have Girl Scouts stand in a circle or horseshoe. Arrange 10 candles in the center. Each individual represents a country and, one at a time, steps forward to say one of the laws, each from a different country, then light one of the candles.

Narrator: Today we are celebrating Thinking Day, the joint birthday of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, and of his wife, Lady Olave Baden Powell, our World Chief Guide. On this day, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere gather to think of their sister Girl Scouts and Girl 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 Girl Scout Law. Let us now light candles for the Laws in the words of other countries.

(Research laws from 10 other countries, each individual reads the law and lights the respective candle.)

Narrator: These are our Laws. We try hard to keep them so that the spirit of Guiding may bring light into this room. While each Law is followed, the flame of the Guide spirit will never die.

Close the ceremony by singing the World Song.

Using the World Association Pin

The World Association Pin can be worn by any Girl Scout or Girl Guide.

Leader: The World Association Pin is the emblem of the World Association of Girl guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), representing the international World of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. Familiar to all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is the yellow and blue of our World Association Pin. We will now explain its meaning.

1st individual: The blue background represents the blue of the sky surrounding the earth which holds us all. Yellow is used to represent the sun shining over all the children of the world. The flowing yellow border encircling the trefoil depicts a worldwide and growing movement.

Leader: Please join me in singing “Make New Friends”.

Leader: The three leaves of the trefoil represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise, common to all Girl Scout and Girl Guide Promises. These three parts are also represented by the three fingers every Girl Scout and Girl Guide holds up when reciting the Promise.

2nd individual: The three trefoil leaves represent the three-fold promise: “To serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.”

3rd individual: Two stars represent the Promise and law, a philosophy shared by all members.

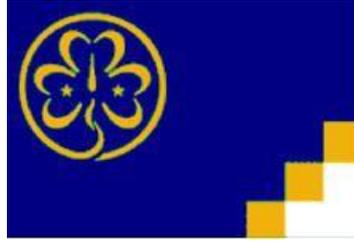
4th individual: The center vein is a compass needle, leading the way. The Promise and Law become our way of life.

Leader: Let’s sing “When E’er You Make a Promise.”

5th individual: The flame completes the whole. It represents the eternal love of humanity.

Leader: Please join with me in singing “Rise Up O Flame”.

Ceremonies in Girl Scouting



Using the World Flag

A new world Flag was introduced in 1991. The three golden/orange squares on the flag represent our threefold Promise. The white blaze in the corner is a symbol of world-wide peace which all Guides and Girl Scouts work for in their families, communities and the wider world.

Using Candles

Supplies:

1. Six assorted shapes and colors of candles. The more mismatched, the better.
2. One tall multicolored (if possible) candle in the center.
3. A green taper candle for each participant.

All participants should be in a horseshoe, each holding a green taper candle.

Light the tall candle in the middle. *Stars that shine together form a galaxy. Flowers that grow together create a garden. Buildings that stand together create a city. People who work together make a difference. That is what valuing differences is all about.*

Light the first smaller candle from the taller candle. *I light this candle in friendship for all of the people who are younger or older, bigger or smaller, richer or poorer than I.*

Light second smaller candle from the taller candle. *I light this candle in friendship for all people who worship differently than I.*

Light the third smaller candle from the taller candle. *I light this candle in friendship for all people of a different nationality or ethnicity than I.*

Light the fourth smaller candle from the taller candle. *I light this candle in friendship for all people who are a different color than I.*

Light the fifth smaller candle from the taller candle. *I light this candle in friendship for all people who come from a different country than I.*

Light the sixth smaller candle from the taller candle. *I light this candle in friendship for all people who don't run, walk, hear, see, or learn the same as I.*

Light her green taper candle from the taller candle. *I light this candle for me, for I am unique & special.*
Walk to the beginning of the horseshoe & lights the green taper candle from her candle, reciting "*I light this candle for me, for I am unique & special.*" all around the horseshoe.

Watch the flames closely, please. Notice that the light from each candle is the same as the others although the outside of the candles is different. So, too, are all of us in the world. We wear different

Ceremonies in Girl Scouting

clothes, speak different languages, follow different religions or beliefs, sing different songs. And yet we all belong to the same human race.

Inside we are all the same. We all wish to be recognized. We all wish to be called by name. We all wish to be loved. We all wish for friends. We all wish for peace.

In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to world friendship. (Pause)

In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to peacemaking. (Pause)

In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to accept the challenge to look wider still.

Each person blows out her candle. End with a friendship circle.

Here are some other activity suggestions:

- 1) Conduct a Thinking Day meeting with clothing from other countries or international songs that reflect friendship or peace. Play games, make a craft or prepare a potluck with an international theme. Invite someone from another country to share life in their country.
- 2) Learn about Girl Scouts or Girl Guides in other countries by visiting one of these additional website:
 - a. <http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/home> (WAGGGS)
 - b. http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/global_action_award/ (Global Action Award)
- 3) Visit a younger troop and teach them the meaning of the World Association Pin. Include them in a Thinking Day Ceremony.
- 4) Earn a badge with an international focus.
- 5) Put on a fashion show wearing clothing or items from other countries. Discuss the reasons for the types of clothing.
- 6) Hold a Thinking Day Party, dinner or gathering. Use decorations, favors, activities and foods to celebrate our global sister hood.
- 7) Hold a musical event with songs from Girl Scouts and Girl Guide countries.
- 8) Ask a Girl Scout Senior, Ambassador or Adult Girl Scout to share her international leadership journeys. Contact the council office for help making contact.
- 9) Perform a service project. Start the service project on the evening of the event.
- 10) Create a wide game, a themed event with a number of stations. Include passports, foreign stamps, money, postcards and special challenges or projects in each of the countries "visited". Groups rotate between stations, completing activities at each station. Use different countries from different regions of WAGGGS.
- 11) Learn words or phrases from other languages.
- 12) Identify the Flags of other Girl Scout and Girl Guide member nations.
- 13) Learn the World Song.
- 14) Learn about and play games from different countries.

Ceremonies in Girl Scouting

Other Ceremony resources:

GSNETX *Grade Level* Adventures – offered as classroom or home study experiences

Ceremonies information at GSUSA website:

<http://www.girlscouts.org/program/basics/traditions/ceremonies/>

Each Journey adult guide

The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting

Other Girl Scout Council web sites (start with GSUSA <http://www.girlscouts.org/councilfinder/>)