

Girl Scout Traditions



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Bridging Ceremony

A ceremony held when Girl Scouts move from one age level of Girl Scouting to the next. Called a bridging ceremony because girls walk over a bridge to signify moving from one level to the next. Girls receive their bridging bar along with their membership pin when they bridge. Certificates are also available.

A Fly-Up Ceremony is a bridging ceremony just for Brownie Girl Scouts who are bridging to Junior Girl Scouts. To mark this occasion girls receive a wing patch in addition to their bridging patch.

Planning the Ceremony

- Set a date and send out invitations! Parents and family members are invited.
- Ceremonies can be done with a single troop, but this can be a great opportunity to include troops of all levels so girls can see the progression.
- If possible, have girls from the next level welcome and congratulate them once they reach the other side of the bridge. (Ex. Daisies walk over a homemade bridge and are welcomed by Brownies on the other side.)
- Along with the bridging portion, troops can sing a song, do a skit, or tell a story about their Girl Scout experience.

Flag Ceremony

Flag ceremonies are a great way to open or close an activity, troop meeting, ceremony, or special event. With a little practice, this simple ceremony can be a meaningful way to mark any occasion. (Instructions are on page 7.)

- Troops can borrow a Flag set from GSSN or use a hand-held American flag and place it in a tall vase.
- Instructions can be found in our Leadership Essentials booklets which can be found at gssn.org.
- Consider asking members of your area American Legion to come in for a demonstration. You can also ask them for flags that need to be retired and hold a flag retirement ceremony.
- Have groups of girls set up the flag ceremony while leaders are getting organized for the meeting.
- Remind girls that flag ceremonies should be quiet and respectful. It is a privilege to be asked to participate.

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Friendship Circle/Squeeze

The friendship circle stands for friendship with Girl Scouts everywhere. The friendship squeeze is a great way to start or end a meeting. (Instructions on page 7.)

- While in the friendship circle, one person starts the squeeze and then it is passed around the circle. When you feel your hand squeezed, you do the same to the person next to you, one at a time, putting your right foot forward when your hand is squeezed. Everyone is silent as the friendship squeeze is passed.

Girl Scout Sign

Girl Scouts use this sign when they say the Girl Scout Promise or give a Girl Scout handshake. To make the Girl Scout sign, raise three fingers of the right hand and hold the pinky down with the thumb. The three fingers represent the three parts of the Promise.



Girl Scout Quiet Sign

Leaders and girls use this sign to quiet the group. To make the Girl Scout quiet sign, raise a hand and five fingers high. Each person who sees this sign should stop talking and raise their hand until the group is quiet. The five fingers remind others of the fifth part of the Girl Scout Law, “**r**esponsible for what I say and **d**o.”

Greeting

The Girl Scout handshake, used by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world, is made by shaking hands with the left hand and making the Girl Scout sign with the right. The left hand is nearest to the heart and signifies friendship.

Also used when congratulating a girl after bridging.

Motto

The Girl Scout motto is “**B**e prepared.”

- In the 1947 *Girl Scout Handbook*, the motto was explained this way: “A Girl Scout is ready to help out wherever she is needed. Willingness to serve is not enough; **you must know how to do the job well, even in an emergency.**” The same holds true today.

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Slogan

The Girl Scout slogan, which has been used since 1912, is “**Do a good turn daily.**”

- Take time to teach girls the slogan—it is a reminder of the many ways girls can contribute positively to the lives of others.

Songs

Singing is a huge part of the Girl Scout experience and is a great way to create sisterhood. (Lyrics on pages 8 through 12.)

- Use songs as a time filler, a teaching opportunity for older girls working with younger troops, or a bonding experience for the troop. **You’ll** find that every girl has her favorite.
- You can find many songs on YouTube along with their actions.



SWAPS

Special Whatchamacallit Affectionately Pinned Somewhere

Small tokens of friendship that Girl Scouts can make and exchange with other Girl Scouts they meet. Often handed out when girls travel or hold group activities.

- Many examples can be found on Pinterest.

Important Dates for Girl Scouts

World Thinking Day—February 22

Celebrated since 1926, World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship. It is an opportunity to learn about and speak out on issues that affect young women and fundraise for 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 150 countries.

- Every year there is a new World Thinking Day theme and patch. To learn more, go to girlscouts.org.

Girl Scout Week—Middle of March

This is the week Girl Scouts celebrate the Girl Scout Birthday, March 12, 1912, which was the date of the first Girl Scout meeting.

Founder’s Day/Juliette Gordon **Low’s** Birthday—October 31

Commemorates both Juliette Gordon **Low’s** birthday on October 31 and her founding of Girl Scouts of the USA.

- This is a great time to share details of **Juliette’s** life. (See pages 5-6.)

Facts About Juliette Gordon Low



Photo Credit: Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace and Girl Scout National Historic Preservation Center

- Her full name is Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon Low.
 - Her birthday is October 31, 1860.
 - She was the second of six children, born to a wealthy family.
 - She was born in Savannah, Georgia.
 - Her nickname was “Daisy.” It was given to her by her uncle who, when he saw her as a baby, said “I bet she’ll be a daisy!”
 - Juliette was very interested in the arts. She wrote poems, wrote and acted in plays, and liked to draw. She was a skilled painter and sculptor.
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- Learning foreign languages came easily to her.
 - Spelling and math were more challenging.
 - She had many pets throughout her life, but her favorite pet was a parrot named Polly Poons.
 - She had a great sense of humor and loved adventure. Once, to show off her new shoes to a Board of Directors, she stood on her head.
 - She married William Mackay Low, a wealthy Englishman, on December 21, 1886. They were friends with the Prince of Wales and were presented to Queen Victoria. They had homes in Scotland, England, and the United States.
 - Juliette was partially deaf in one ear and totally deaf in her other. She always had ear infections and became partially deaf because she **didn’t** receive proper treatment. A piece of good-luck rice that was thrown at her wedding lodged in her “good ear”. It punctured her eardrum which gave her an infection and total loss of hearing in that ear.
 - She founded Girl Scouts on March 12, 1912 (when she was 51 years old), saying, “I’ve got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we’re going to start it tonight!”

Facts About Juliette Gordon Low

- The first troop had 18 girls, and the first member was **Juliette's** niece and namesake, Margaret "**Daisy Doots**" Gordon.
- Juliette encouraged outdoor activities plus participation in sports and leadership. She worked to prepare girls for roles as professional women as well as teaching them traditional homemaking skills.
- Girl Scouting welcomed disabled girls at a time when they were excluded from many other activities.
- Juliette died of breast cancer on January 17, 1927. She was 66 years old. She was buried in her Girl Scout uniform.
- On October 28, 1979, she was inducted into the National **Women's** Hall of Fame.
- On December 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill naming a new federal building in Savannah in her honor. It was only the second federal building in history to be named after a woman.
- A bust of her is displayed in the Georgia State Capitol.
- On October 14, 2005, she received a bronze-and-granite medallion in the Extra Mile Points of Light Volunteer Pathway which pays tribute to great Americans who built their dreams into movements that have created enduring change in America. The medallions are laid into a one-mile walking path adjacent to the White House.

For more information, watch a video about **Juliette's** life at girlscouts.org.

Photo Credit: Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace and Girl Scout National Historic Preservation Center



Flag Ceremonies

Opening Flag Ceremony

Girl Scouts attention

Color Guard attention

Color Guard advance

Color Guard post the colors

Color Guard salute the colors

We will now say the Pledge of Allegiance

Please join me in the Girl Scout Promise

Color Guard dismissed

Girl Scouts dismissed

Closing Flag Ceremony

Girl Scouts attention

Color Guard attention

Color Guard advance

Sing “**Taps**”

Color Guard salute the colors

Color Guard retire the colors

Color Guard dismissed

Girl Scouts dismissed

Friendship Circle/Squeeze

Start in a circle. Everyone should cross their arms right over left and then hold hands.

Discuss the purpose and the “**rules**” of the squeeze: “**We** are passing our friendship on to the next girl in the form of a gentle squeeze, reminding us that we are all connected to each other. There will be no hard squeezes and no fake **squeezes.**”

Anyone can start the squeeze. You can do it in silence, or you can have each person say something when it is their turn. It helps to have girls put their right foot in the circle once they have received their squeeze. For extra fun, after everyone has squeezed and on a 1-2-3 count, while still holding hands, each person lifts their crossed arms over their heads at once and turns facing outside of the circle, uncrossing their hands and bringing them down by their sides. Then they can release their hands.



Songs

Alligator

Chorus:

Alligator, Alligator

Can you be my friend

Can you be my friend

Can you be my friend too

The alligator is my friend

He can be your friend too

If only you would understand

that he has feelings too (chorus)

The alligator laughs and sings

He never cries the blues

I'd rather have him on my shirt

Than have him for my shoes (chorus)

The alligator ate my friend

He can eat your friend too

If only you would understand

That he is hungry too



Baby Bumble Bee (with actions)

I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee.

Won't my mommy be so proud of me?

I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee.

Ouch! It stung me.

I'm squishing up a baby bumblebee.

Won't my mommy be so proud of me?

I'm squishing up a baby bumblebee.

Uh oh! It's all over me.

I'm licking off a baby bumblebee.

Won't my mommy be so proud of me?

I'm licking off a baby bumblebee.

Ewww! I don't feel so good.

I'm bringing home a baby polar bear.

Won't my mommy pull out all her hair?

I'm bringing home a baby polar bear.

Uh oh! Mommy's bald!

I'm bringing home a baby dinosaur.

Won't my mommy fall right to the floor?

I'm bringing home a baby dinosaur.

Uh oh! There goes mommy!

Songs

Baby Shark (with actions)

Repeat each phrase three times.

Baby shark, do do do do do do do do
(make a small shark mouth with hands in front of you, clapping vertically)

Mama shark, do do do do do do do do
(make a medium shark mouth)

Daddy shark, do do do do do do do do
(make big shark mouth)

Grandma shark, do do do do do do do do
(curl fingers in so mouth has dull teeth)

Grandpa shark, do do do do do do do do
(hug yourself, move arms up and down so mouth has no teeth)

Went swimming, do do do do do do do do
(use arms to swim)

Saw a shark, do do do do do do do do
(make a shark fin on top of your head)

Swam real fast, do do do do do do do do
(use arms to swim real fast)

Shark attack, do do do do do do do do
(wave both hands in the air)

Lost an arm, do do do do do do do do
(right hand on hip, shake your arm)

Lost a leg, do do do do do do do do
(right leg in front, shake a leg)

Lost an arm, do do do do do do do do
(left hand on hip, shake your arm)

Lost a leg, do do do do do do do do
(right leg in front, shake a leg)

Lost my head, do do do do do do do do
(shake your head)

Now **I'm** dead
(let your head fall or fall on the floor)

Boogie Woogie Washer Woman

Tune: Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy

Way down yonder where nobody knows,

There's a boogie woogie washer woman
washing her clothes

With a scrub a dub here and a scrub a
dub there

The boogie woogie washer woman
washes her clothes

Skiddlee op bop boogie woogie

Skiddlee op bop boogie woogie

The boogie woogie washer woman
washes her clothes, Yeah!

Brownie Smile Song

(I Have Something in my Pocket)

I have something in my pocket

It belongs across my face

I keep it very close to me

In a most convenient place

I'm sure you **couldn't** guess it

If you guessed a long, long while

So **I'll** take it out and put it on

It's a GREAT BIG BROWNIE SMILE!

Do Your Ears Hang Low

Do your ears hang low

Do they wobble to and fro

Can you tie them in a knot

Can you tie them in a bow

Can you throw them over your shoulder

like a continental soldier

Do your ears hang low

Songs

Girl Scout Song

She wears a G for generosity
She wears an I for interest too
She wears an R for real good
sportsmanship
She wears an L for loyalty, for loyalty
She wears an S for her sincerity
She wears a C for courtesy
She wears an O U T for outdoor life,
outdoor life
And that Girl Scout is ME

Gray Squirrel

Gray squirrel, gray squirrel
Swish your bushy tail
Gray squirrel, gray squirrel
Swish your bushy tail
Wrinkle up your nose
Put a nut between your toes
Gray squirrel, gray squirrel
Swish your bushy tail

Hat Song (with actions)

My hat, it has three corners
Three corners has my hat
And had it not three corners
It would not be my hat

Motions:

Point to self on my
Point to head on hat
Point up three fingers on three
Hold right elbow with left hand on corners

1st time sing all of the words

2nd time get rid of my

3rd time get rid of my, hat

4th time get rid of my, hat, three

5th time get rid of my, hat, three, corners

6th time sing all of the words



Songs

Hawaiian Punch

Tune: The Brady Bunch theme song

Here's a story, of a big banana

Who was bringing up three nanners of her own

All of them had skin of gold, like their mother

The youngest one in green

Here's a story, of a big red apple

Who was bringing up three apples of his own

They were two fruits, living all together

Yet they were all alone

'Til the one day when the banana met this apple

And they knew that it was much more than a hunch

That these fruits must somehow form a fruit drink

That's the way they all became Hawaiian Punch

Hawaiian Punch! Doo-doo-doo

Hawaiian Punch! Doo-doo-doo

That's the way they became Hawaiian
Punch! Doo-doo-doo!

Hermie the Wormie (with actions)

Chorus:

Sittin' on a fence post, chewin' my
bubble gum (smacking sound 4xs)

Playin' with my yo-yo (pantomime
playing with a yo-yo) Whooh! Whooh!

When along came Hermie the Wormie.

And he was this big (show small with
fingers)

I said, "**Hermie, what happened?**"

"Nothing." (chorus)

"I ate my sister." (chorus)

"I ate my brother." (chorus)

"I ate my mother." (chorus)

"I ate my father." (chorus)

*Repeat the above showing Hermie
getting larger with each verse.*

Last verse, Hermie gets very small.

"I burped."

On Top of Spaghetti

On top of spaghetti, all covered with
cheese

I lost my poor meatball, when somebody
sneezed

It rolled off the table, and on to the floor
And then my poor meatball, rolled out of
the door

It rolled in the garden, and under a bush
And then my poor meatball, was nothing
but mush

The mush was as tasty, as tasty could be
And early next summer, it grew in to a tree
And the tree was all covered with beautiful
moss

It grew lovely meatballs, with tomato
sauce

Songs

Penguin Song

Chorus

Have you ever seen a penguin come to tea

Take a look at me, a penguin you will see

Penguins' attention

Penguins begin

Right arm (chorus)

Right arm, left arm (chorus)

Right arm, left arm, right leg (chorus)

Right arm, left arm, right leg, left leg
(chorus)

Right arm, left arm, right leg, left leg, nod
your head (chorus)

Right arm, left arm, right leg, left leg, nod
your head, turn around (chorus)

Right arm, left arm, right leg, left leg, nod
your head, turn around, tongue out
(chorus)

Taps (with actions)

Day is done (wipe with right arm)

Gone the sun (wipe with left arm)

From the lakes, from the hills, from the
sky (point down, middle, and up)

All is well (put right hand on left elbow)

Safely rest (put left hand on right elbow)

God is nigh (slowly put both hands
down)

Yogi Bear Song

Tune: Camptown Races

I know someone you **don't know**

Yogi, Yogi

I know someone you **don't know**

Yogi, Yogi Bear

Yogi, Yogi Bear, Yogi, Yogi Bear

I know someone you **don't know**

Yogi, Yogi Bear

Yogi has a little friend

Boo-boo, Boo-boo

Yogi has a little friend

Boo-boo, Boo-boo

Boo-boo, Boo-boo Bear, Boo-boo, Boo-boo
Bear

Yogi has a little friend

Boo-boo, Boo-boo Bear

Yogi has a girlfriend too

Cindy, Cindy

Yogi has a girlfriend too

Cindy, Cindy Bear

Cindy, Cindy Bear, Cindy, Cindy Bear

Yogi has a girlfriend too

Cindy, Cindy Bear

They all live in Jellystone

Jelly, Jelly

They all live in Jellystone

Jelly, Jellystone

Jelly, Jellystone, Jelly, Jellystone

They all live in Jellystone

Jelly, Jellystone