

# Brownie Basics:

A resource for those working with  
Girl Scout Brownies



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## THE 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.



## THE GIRL SCOUT LAW

*I will do my best to be*

honest and fair  
friendly and helpful  
considerate and caring  
courageous and strong  
responsible for what I say and do,

***and to***

respect myself and others,  
respect authority  
use resources wisely  
make the world a better place, and  
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

\*Girl Scouts of the USA makes no attempt to define or interpret the word "God" in the Girl Scout Promise. It looks 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."

**Note:** This disclaimer appears in the National Leadership Journey adult guides, but not in the girls' books. It is included here as a reminder to you, as a volunteer, that it's your responsibility to be sensitive to the spiritual beliefs of the girls in your group and to make sure that everyone in the group feels comfortable and included in Girl Scouting. Please feel free to share this information with girls' families.

## Welcome!

Welcome to Girl Scout Brownies! Your girls will take you in lots of new directions – directions you may never have dreamed of. Their enthusiasm and excitement for new adventures will guide your troop/group to find new ways to do activities and new solutions to the challenges presented to them and new energy along the way.

Brownies get excited about projects. They like to complete what they start and enjoy new challenges. Brownies love to play games and learn new skills. They are like sponges, absorbing everything you share with them!

As adults, we can encourage their contributions to our meetings and activities; we set the stage for their future involvement *now*. With your encouragement, they will only get better and better at preparing, planning and cleaning up after themselves.

Brownies are eager to please, and are eager to be helpful. The Brownie Story typically shared with the girls as they prepare for their Investiture or Rededication points out ways they can be helpful. This traditional story can be found in the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* for Girl Scout Brownies.

Enjoy your time with your Girl Scout Brownies. Their enthusiasm is contagious!



## During Her Years as a Girl Scout Brownie, Every Girl Should Have The Opportunity To ...



### ❖ Learn the Girl Scout way

- Know and understand the Girl Scout Promise.
- Know the Brownie Story.
- Be rededicated to Girl Scouting each year.
- Plan an investiture for new Girl Scout Brownies.
- Know the Brownie insignia and what they mean.
- Know and use the handshake, slogan, motto, and quiet sign.
- Understand the meaning of the World Trefoil Pin.

### ❖ Explore the meaning of citizenship

- Learn about our flag, its history and symbolism.
- Plan and participate in a flag ceremony.
- Share her heritage (religion, culture, traditions, and ways of living).
- Learn ways to respect the rights of others.
- Help plan and participate in a community service project.

### ❖ Help manage her troop/group

- Take part in a Brownie Ring to discuss plans and activities.
- Help decide troop/group dues and rules.

### ❖ Learn and achieve

- Participate in activities in Girl Scouting.
- Take short trips to gain new experiences.
- Learn new skills by earning Journey awards, skill-building badges, and/or other patches.
- Receive recognition for accomplishments.

### ❖ Explore the outdoors

Progression is key; girls will progress as their leaders gain skills and experience through their training, Out and About, Ready? Set? Go!, and Camping Adventures.

- Have several outdoor meetings/activities.
- Take a hike.
- Cook outdoors.
- Have an overnight experience.
- Complete the Outdoor Adventurer Badge

### ❖ Express her creativity

- Make something for herself or others.
- Have a song or game as part of each meeting.
- Act out stories, songs, and situations.

### ❖ Share in the Girl Scout community

- Do activities with other Girl Scout Brownies.
- Do activities with older Girl Scouts.
- Learn about the Girl Scout Junior program so she is prepared to bridge and fly up.
- Participate in Service Unit and/or council-sponsored events.

## Girl Scout Leadership Experience

The Girl Scout Program – what girls do in Girl Scouting – is based on the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), a national model that helps girls become leaders in their own lives and as they grow. No matter where girls live or what their age or background, as Girl Scouts, they are part of a powerful, national experience.

Girl Scouting has a practical approach to helping girls become leaders – the **Three Keys to Leadership**:

- Girls **“Discover”** and understand themselves and their values, using their knowledge and skills to explore the world.
- Girls will **“Connect”** with each other to care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally.
- Girls **“Take Action”** to make the world a better place.

In other words: **Discover + Connect + Take Action = Leadership**. And everything you do with girls in Girl Scouting is aimed at giving them the benefits of these Three Keys to Leadership.

### So, how do you know that girls are having an effective leadership experience?

Age-appropriate signs during Girl Scout activities let adults know that girls are achieving the anticipated goals set forth in the **15 Leadership Outcomes\*** or benefits of the leadership experience. While some are appropriate at all levels, some will better apply to Girl Scout Daisies and some to Girls Scout Ambassadors. As you review the 15 leadership outcomes, remember that the intention is not to complete all 15 in the first year, but rather to spread them out over the girl's career in Girl Scouting.

\*For more information on the 15 Leadership Outcomes visit: [gsofct.org/content-files/File/transforming\\_leadership.pdf](https://gsofct.org/content-files/File/transforming_leadership.pdf) and [gsofct.org/content-files/File/transforming\\_leadership\\_continued.pdf](https://gsofct.org/content-files/File/transforming_leadership_continued.pdf)

It's not only what girls do, but how they are engaged that creates a high-quality experience. Girl Scout experiences are designed to use three **Girl Scout Processes** that make Girl Scouting unique from school and other extracurricular activities. When used together, these processes ensure quality of programming and promote the fun and friendship so essential to Girl Scouting.

- **Girl Led** - Girls play an active role in the what, where, when, how, and why of their activities. This starts in Daisies and progresses to Ambassadors, where the girls take a major part in the leadership role. This ensures that girls are engaged in their learning and experience leadership opportunities.
- **Learning by Doing** - As girls participate in meaningful hands-on activities and then reflect on them, they get to explore their own questions, discover answers, gain new skills, and share ideas and observations with others. This is the way most adults learn, too. We need to touch and manipulate the materials to learn how they respond to the movement. Girls will also learn by getting their hands into the dirt and planting seeds, watching them grow and mature.
- **Cooperative Learning** - Girls work together toward shared goals in an atmosphere of respect and collaboration that encourages the sharing of skills, knowledge, and learning. Cooperative learning allows the girls and adults to learn side by side and from each other. Everyone brings a variety of experiences to the troop/group and shares them differently. It can be a very moving experience to pretend we don't know something and learn along with the girls. By encouraging this, and learning to work cooperatively, everyone – girls and adults, will gain valuable education. Encourage this! Allow the girls to work together toward a common goal.

The **Girl Scout Processes** help bind the **Three Keys to Leadership** and the **15 Leadership Outcomes** together to create the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Making sure that girls are involved in the decision-making for the troop/group will accomplish much:

- The girls have ownership of their troop/group.
- The girls learn how the democratic process works.
- The girls learn to work together to make those decisions.

If you cannot think of a good reason to say no, don't. Allow the girls to participate unrestricted when you can. Obviously there are times when this won't work. Safety has to come first! Remember the girls are being loaned to us by their families. Share them well.

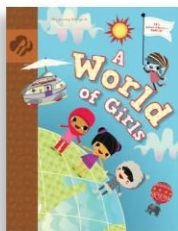
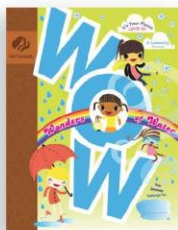
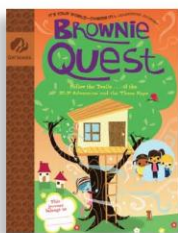
## National Program Portfolio

The National Program Portfolio has two main parts – the National Leadership Journeys and *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*. Complemented by the Girl Scout Product Sales Program, Girl Scout travel and Girl Scout awards, the National Program Portfolio is designed to help girls develop as leaders and build confidence by learning new skills. It also ensures that Girl Scouts at every level are sharing a powerful, national experience—girls together changing the world!

# What Brownies Do\*

2ND - 3RD GRADE

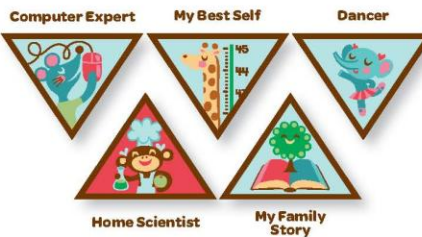
Choose a Journey and earn the awards



\* Remember to add in trips, outdoor adventures, the cookie sale and more! See ideas in all the girl's books.

Want to earn more Badges? Add the Badge sets

## Brownie Quest



## WOW! Wonders of Water



## A World of Girls



Use them all with The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting



# What to pack for the journey!

Girl Scout leadership journeys invite girls to explore a theme through many experiences and from many perspectives—through the 3 keys to leadership: **Discover + Connect + Take Action**. All the joys of travel are built right in! So fill your suitcase with everything you need for an amazing trip that will change girls' lives!



## The Girls' Book

Engaging stories, fun activities, recipes, and creative projects let girls ... meet new people, explore new things, make memories, gather keepsakes, and earn badges—all while exploring a theme through the 3 keys to leadership!

## The Adult Guide

Easy activities to get girls thinking and doing while team-building, being creative, and boosting their sense of self—as they explore the 3 keys to leadership! Plus: healthful snacks, and loads of tips for engaging girls in leadership.

## Your Wider Community

Reach out to local experts on ... storytelling and the arts. And to local partners: libraries, booksellers, and arts groups.

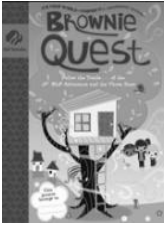
## Your Enthusiasm

And your creativity, your partnership with girls and families, and, most important, your willingness to learn by doing, right alongside the girls!

## Overview of The Brownie Journeys Series\*

### It's Your World - Change it!

#### *Brownie Quest*



What are the most important keys for a Girl Scout to own? This quest, which has second and third graders traveling along two colorful trails, – one they can enjoy on their own, and one they explore with their Girl Scout group – answers that question in a very special way.

Along the quest, Girl Scout Brownies will meet three new friends and a bright and shining elf – in a brand new Brownie story meant to inspire their own Take Action Projects. The accompanying adult guide offers all the tips needed to create and maintain a sense of fun and mystery along the entire quest. Instructions for a Brownie Brainstorm, Brownie Team Trade, and other activities ensure a quality and fun time for the girls.

#### **Journey Leadership Awards**

Girl Scout Brownies are invited on a search. The three keys they will uncover along their journey are the keys of the Girl Scout leadership philosophy. Shhhhh! Don't give away the details! It's important to keep the fun and mystery going! As Brownies move through the Journey, the Quest Master Map offers a visual record of their progress along the quest. This map is included in the adult guide package. The girls have their own mini version of the Quest Map in their book.

- **The Discover Key** – To earn this award, each Girl Scout Brownie will discover herself and her values – as a Girl Scout and a member of her family.
- **The Connect Key** – To earn this award, each Girl Scout Brownie will connect as a member of a Brownie Team, with her family on a healthy-living activity, and, as a group with their community to increase healthy-living opportunities.
- **The Take Action Key** – To earn this award, Girl Scout Brownies will team up to identify a community place where the teams can Take Action. Then they join together to make a plan to Take Action and carry out their Take Action Project to improve their world.
- **The Brownie Quest Award** – At the end of the quest, the girls also earn the Journey's culminating award, the master lock that needs all three of their keys in order to open. Through this award, the Brownies will see that, together, their three keys – Discover, Connect, and Take Action – unlock the meaning of leadership.

### It's Your Planet - Love It!

#### *WOW! Wonders of Water*



The Brownie friends and Brownie Elf enjoy some wonder-filled adventures as they invite the real-life Brownies to explore the Wonders of Water. As they dive in, the Brownies realize they can create another big WOW as they try out new Ways of Working as a team. Brownies learn about the water cycle through a "Green Tea for the Blue Planet," and enjoy making their own rainbows as they explore the precious resource of water.

Brownies pledge to LOVE water by protecting it, then team up to advocate for other people to SAVE water, too. As they SHARE what they have learned, they find they can inspire even more people to protect Earth's water. Along the way, Brownies experience what it is like to live in places where there is not enough water. They come to understand why the right to clean water is so important to everyone on Earth.

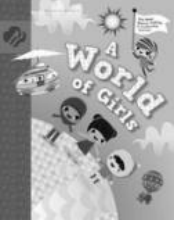
#### **Journey Leadership Awards**

The **WOW!** journey presents Brownies the opportunity to earn four awards. Girls begin with small, personal acts and then move out to purposeful teamwork that engages the larger community and influences its members in significant ways.

- **LOVE Water** - This first award encourages girls to become aware of the many ways they use and enjoy water. As they begin to understand the science of water and its importance in the world, they will also make a personal commitment to protect it.
- **SAVE Water** - The second award is earned when the Brownies team up and speak up as advocates to protect water or keep it clean in their community. Girls start thinking as a team about what they will do for water. By making an effort that moves beyond themselves, the girls begin to realize the impact that group endeavors can produce.
- **SHARE Water** - Girls earn the third award as they create an even bigger ripple by sharing their efforts for water with others, educating and inspiring them to join in, and asking them to commit to a water promise.
- **WOW!** - Girls culminate their journey by earning the WOW! Award, a grand finale that symbolizes the powerful change they've brought to their community. They earn the award by showing proof of their SHARE Water efforts, and by describing how their efforts relate to the Girl Scout Law and how they have had an impact as leaders.



## It's Your Story - Tell it! A World of Girls



Stories are all around us – in movies, in books, in television shows, advertisements, on the news and even on cereal boxes. Stories inspire. Stories motivate. Stories spark imagination and help girls learn about themselves and the world.

*A World of Girls* helps engage Brownies in this wider world of stories in a way that gets them looking for clues to help make the world a better place.

With some help from Brownie Elf along the way, girls see how they can create positive change in the world – change that affects girls.

### Journey Leadership Awards

This Journey presents Brownies the opportunity to earn four awards:

- **Hear a Story Award** - Brownies see that stories hold clues for how to better the world.
- **Change a Story Award** - Brownies realize they have the power to change things for the better for girls in the world.
- **Tell a Story Award** - Brownies have the confidence and knowledge to educate and inspire others.
- **Better World for Girls! Award** - Brownies understand they belong to a large and far-reaching world of girls.

\*Information taken from [girlscouts.org](http://girlscouts.org)



### Journey Connections to State and National Curriculum Standards

The content of all Girl Scout National Proficiency Badges and Journeys have been correlated by grade level to national *Common Core Standards*, *21st Century Skill* standards, *Financial Literacy* education standards, and curriculum such as Health and PE, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies learning objectives for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

To find out how the Proficiency Badges and Journeys support state and national curriculum standards go to [girlscouts.org/en/adults/educators/curriculum-standards.html](http://girlscouts.org/en/adults/educators/curriculum-standards.html).

#### GSUSA Statement of Trust

Girl Scouts of the USA creates national program materials to serve our vast and diverse community of girls. To help bring topics "off the page and into life," we sometimes provide girls – and their volunteers – with suggestions about what people across the country and around the world are doing, as well as movies, books, music, web pages, and more that might spark girl interest.

At Girl Scouts of the USA, we know that not every example or suggestion we provide will work for every girl, family, volunteer, or community. In partnership with those who assist you with your Girl Scout group, including parents, faith groups, schools, and community organizations, we trust you to choose "real life topic experts" from your community, as well as movies, books, music, websites and other opportunities that are most appropriate for the girls in your area and that will enrich their Girl Scout activities.

# Journeys

## How to Start Your Journey

At the core of the GSLE are National Leadership Journeys, which are fun and challenging experiences grouped around a theme and spread over a series of sessions. Each Journey has all the important components of the GSLE incorporated into it. To guide girls on a great Journey, all you need is enthusiasm and a sense of adventure. Before you dive in, try these six simple tips:

1. **Check out the Journeys** at [girlscouts.org/en/our-program/journeys.html](https://www.girlscouts.org/en/our-program/journeys.html). There, you can find information about the topics that each Journey covers, which you can share with girls. And you'll find even more fun traditions to complement your Journey in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, a resource for each grade level of Girl Scouting.
2. **Choose a Journey.** Because Girl Scouting is girl-led, it's important to give girls the chance to pick the Journey they want to do. Talk to them about what each Journey for their grade level is about and let them choose one.
3. **Get to know the Journey.** Pick up a girls' book and an adult guide. Read the girls' book for the pleasure of it, just to get an overview of the Journey's theme and content.
4. **Review the sample session plans in the adult guide.** These sample session plans give you ideas about bringing the Journey to life with girls while leaving plenty of room for creativity and customization.
5. **Invite girls (and their parents/guardians) to use their imaginations** to make the Journey come to life in ways that excite them. Remember that you and the girls don't have to do everything exactly as laid out in the sample sessions.
6. **Step back and watch** how the girls, with your knowledge, support, and guidance, have enormous fun and a rewarding experience. Celebrate with them as they earn their National Leadership Journey awards—and perhaps some Girl Scout badges, too!

As your group starts its journey, get a discussion (or debate!) going on the journey's theme and what it means to the girls. Ask questions to find out what they're most interested in accomplishing during their time together, and then help them connect those interests to their journey. This will help them chart the course of their journey and their time together.

*\*Excerpt from Volunteer Essentials*



## Take Community Service to Another Level; Take Action!

**Community Service** is defined as a project or activity that helps for a short time. It may help a limited number of people or it could be there are too few people involved to make a larger impact. The service is often an immediate and necessary response to a basic need. Service projects have a definitive beginning and end point. Projects should be meaningful to the girls, part of troop/group activities, or in partnership with older girls.

- Organize a book or clothing drive.
- Paint walls to cover graffiti.
- Assemble a holiday food basket.
- Host a sing-a-long at a senior center.

**Take Action** is designed to elevate traditional Girl Scout community service projects from meeting an immediate need to advocacy projects that make change happen. Girls identify a cause they feel passionate about, and with advocacy and action, make a change. Take Action Projects pick up where short-term projects left off. Their plans are designed to reach a larger number of people and have a lasting impact.

When girls pursue Take Action Projects, they take time to identify and understand the **root cause** of an issue instead of simply addressing the symptoms. A **root cause** is the origin of the problem. Girls must also ensure that each project is sustainable and that the impact is measurable.

- **Measurable:** The success of the project can be determined based on the number of people the project helped, the number of people who were involved, any reduction in the community's need, and other concrete numbers.
- **Sustainable:** Girls must make arrangements (such as collaborating with community leaders and/or organizations or building alliances with mentors) to ensure that the project creates lasting change and is not a one-time event.

### Make the World A Better Place



An easy way for you to remember the difference between short-term community service projects and Take Action Projects rests on whether the project is being done **for** the community or **with** the community. If a girl is doing something **for** the community, most likely she is working on a short-term service project. If she is doing something **with** the community, she is working on a Take Action Project.

In this chart, you can see the difference between short term project solutions and Take Action Projects. It is still important to do the short-term projects however; the Take Action Project has a larger impact on the community.

Issue	Community Service Project (One time effort: has a short-term impact)	Take Action Project (Long term benefits and sustainable support)
Local food pantry needs to stock its shelves.	Collect non-perishable food through school food drive.	Collect food and also develop a recipe book of nutritious foods using simple, accessible ingredients – find local printing company to print several copies and give original to the food pantry to make more when needed.
Local animal shelter needs supplies and volunteers.	Donate canned food and animal toys to the shelter.	Hold a community animal food and supply drive. Create a marketing plan – posters, radio spots, flyers, etc – encourage community to donate supplies and time at the shelter. Give all marketing materials to the shelter for future use.
An uninsured family's home is destroyed by fire.	Collect clothing, household goods, and food for the family	Work with a local Habitat for Humanity and organize a work group to rebuild the family's home. Organize community groups to establish an ongoing clothes closet for use by families facing a crisis.

## Why Focus on Take Action?

The Take Action key and its corresponding outcomes get girls motivated and excited about making an impact in their community that can be felt in the long-term. Take Action encourages girls to think bigger and to address problems in such a way that they do not reoccur. And, perhaps most important, a girl's Take Action Project changes the world in a meaningful way.

- **Girls can identify community needs.** To have an effective Take Action Project, girls must first find out what the community needs.
- **Girls are resourceful problem solvers.** Girls will learn how to identify the root cause of the issue they choose to address. In addition, girls will undoubtedly face road blocks during their project, which means they will need to come up with creative ways to solve the problems that arise.
- **Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally.** As they learn about the issues in their community and work to solve them, girls stand up for issues they believe in, influence policy, and identify ways to continue their project goals into the future.
- **Girls educate and inspire others to act.** Girls educate others about issues that are important to the community and inspire others to act.
- **Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world.** Girls develop leadership skills and use the knowledge they gain through their experiences to improve their community and the world!



## Tools to Help Guide Girls Through the Take Action Process:

### → Meeting the Community:

Through field trips or visiting speakers, girls gain a broader scope of issues in the community.

### → Listing as a Group:

Girls go on a trip or have a speaker. Ask the girls to look around the area. If they are not physically in the area where they would like to do their project, they will need to imagine the area.

Help the girls outline what they saw, imagined, or heard by creating a group list. Younger girls may need pictures next to the words to help them remember. Ask questions to drive the conversation, such as:

- What do you see? What do you imagine the area to look like?
- Who can they talk to if they want to verify any information; a camp ranger, town official, agency staff member, or another troop/group?

### → Community Mapping:

This is a list or drawing that helps girls see a bigger picture of their community. It is a way of highlighting a community's assets – the people, things, services, organizations, and businesses that exist in a given area.

After a trip or from memory, create a large map of the area showing the community's specific needs and resources, including contacts that might help the girls proceed in their Take Action Project. The girls should be thinking about what needs might exist for each street, park, home, school, community center, and so on that they can identify and draw.

The aim of community mapping is for the girls to "find" a project they are passionate about and that solves a problem in the community.

### → Mind Mapping:

Girls take one issue found on their community map and write the issue in the center of a large piece of paper. Have the girls openly discuss the selected issue and record ideas related to or reasons for the issue around the central idea. Let them write down as many specifics as they possibly can. This helps girls to visually see an issue from a variety of angles. From that list ask:

- What kinds of problems can be identified as associated with the main idea? (i.e. noise pollution, oil spill, litter)
- What are the causes of the more defined problems? (i.e. noise – music, sirens, talking in a lunchroom)

### → Levels of "Why":

This helps drill down the root cause of an issue. This technique can be used with all tools listed above.

Write one of the ideas that interest the girls most at the top of a sheet of paper. Reflecting on this idea, continue to ask the question "*Why?*" writing down each response to the question:

**Issue:** Don't always get to eat lunch at school.

- Why? Too many people;
- Why? Size of lunch waves;
- Why? Only time to "hang out" with friends

When you are at the end of the "Why" cycle, girls can begin building a Take Action Project to address this root cause.

## Seven Components of a Successful Take Action Project

When planning Take Action Projects with girls, keep in mind that it's not just "what" the girls do, but how they go about it, and what they learn through doing that will inspire them to Take Action throughout their lives.

Use the following components to guide girls in developing successful Take Action Project plans.

Component	Description
<b>1. Investigate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls identify issue(s) they care about most.</li> <li>• Girls explore their community and match its needs to the issues they care about.</li> <li>• Girls connect with their community to further investigate community priorities, whether through community walks, examining public documents, conducting surveys, community mapping, or interviewing key leaders.</li> <li>• Girls identify their specific Take Action Project.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls get ready for all aspects of the Take Action Project.</li> <li>• While the girls or the group of girls are leading, volunteers, and community partners are active participants in project planning.</li> <li>• Girls locate tools and resources they need, and know when, where, and how to enlist help from others. The project plan addresses both the goals of the project as well as sustainability and measurability. Girls examine money-earning, safety requirements, participant training, and any other elements needed for a successful project.</li> <li>• Girls set the goals, make a timeline, and plan how and when to evaluate their project. (<i>Note: Sustainability needs to be planned at this stage, especially with community partners.</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>3. Act</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This most visible and tangible part of a Take Action Project involves providing measurable and sustainable service in the community.</li> <li>• The action stage requires clarity in expectations, assignments, and schedules.</li> <li>• Encourage girls to build relationships with community members and their peers to ensure that the project is appropriate and meaningful for everyone.</li> <li>• Girls also collect data, artifacts, pictures, and other documentation for reflection, demonstration, celebration, and evaluation.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Reflect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout the various stages of their Take Action Project, girls reflect on what they have done and where they are going.</li> <li>• Reflection involves critical thinking, analysis, problem solving, and interpretation so that girls integrate the experience into their lives.</li> <li>• Girls select, design, and lead reflections through a variety of methods and approaches that match various learning styles.</li> <li>• Reflection questions may include: What have we accomplished? What does it mean? Now what?</li> </ul>
<b>5. Educate, Inspire, and Advocate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls can educate others about what they have learned, whether with a small audience of younger girls, peers, the general public, or key community leaders, and they can advocate for their issue, inspiring others to join with them in making the change sustainable.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Celebrate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls and partners step back and say "thank you" to all who are involved in the Take Action efforts. Recognition of others' contributions helps to cement the experience in girls' lives.</li> <li>• Celebrating may involve public, high-energy recognition events or it may mean writing and sending a personal note to acknowledge contributions.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Sustain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls engage the community in the project so that the community sustains it. In this way, the community relationships girls have built are continued and deepened.</li> <li>• Encourage girls to find ways they can use their own skills and interests to inspire others to pick up where they've left off.</li> </ul>

# The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting

## A Walk through *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*

The *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* includes the handbook and the badge book. The Girl's Guide is a record of what girls do in Girl Scouts! Each grade level has a binder with covers chosen by girls that coordinate with the Journey colors.



The *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* is divided into three sections: the Handbook, Awards, and My Girl Scouts section. Below is an outline of a walk through the different sections:

### The Girl Scout Handbook



Each grade level has its own special version of the handbook! From Girl Scout basics to fun with family and friends, they're packed with information and activities that encourage girls to get their hands dirty, hearts racing, and brains whirling.

### National Proficiency Badges



In addition to the awards they are earning through the Journeys, the Girl's Guide gives girls the opportunity to earn Legacy badges and Financial Literacy badges, as well as Cookie Business badges at each level.

Sold separately, but easily added to the Girl's Guide are three badge sets related to the Journeys for Brownies through Seniors, each containing five badges. They offer great examples of ways to incorporate the skills while on a Journey, but can also be used on their own!

A new addition to the Proficiency Badges, Outdoor Badges are now available for Brownies through Ambassadors. The requirements are available on the council website.

The Outdoor Badge for Brownies is Outdoor Adventurer. You can find the requirements at [gsofct.org/pages/Badges.php](http://gsofct.org/pages/Badges.php).



### "My Girl Scouts" pages

Girls get their own special pages for journaling, autographs, or whatever they want to do! There are also coloring pages for Daisies and stickers for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors.

In each guide there is also a fold-out section with all the awards for that level. Girls can check off each award they've earned to see how far they've already gone, and what lies ahead for their future in Girl Scouts! Some of these awards include:



### **Journey Summit Awards**

For girls who complete all three Journeys at each grade level.

### **My Promise, My Faith**

A faith-based award that girls can earn once each year they are in Girl Scouts.

### **Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards**

The Girl's Guide for Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors also include the requirements for earning the [three highest awards](#) in Girl Scouting.

## **Special for Daisies!**

Girl Scout Daisies will continue to earn their petals instead of earning badges, with new activities for each petal. However, they now have the option to earn one Cookie Program leaf and one Financial Literacy leaf for each year they are a Daisy.



Leaders can also check out some tips for using the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting at: [girlscouts.org/en/our-program/our-program.html](http://girlscouts.org/en/our-program/our-program.html)

Information taken from [gsfct.org/pages/GirlsGuide.php](http://gsfct.org/pages/GirlsGuide.php)

## Girl Scout Insignia and Award Basics

The insignia on a girl's uniform are a record of her adventures and accomplishments as a Girl Scout. *Insignia* is the general term for all official items that girls and adults can wear on their uniforms. All official awards are worn on the **front** of the sash or vest.

### Girl Scout insignia are broken into five categories:



**Insignia Showing You Belong:** These insignia, also known as *Emblems*, include such items as Girl Scout membership pins, the World Trefoil pin, GSUSA and council identification strips, and troop numerals.



**Earned Grade-Level Awards:** These Girl Scout program awards include Girl Scout Journey Awards, Girl Scout Daisy Promise Center, Petals and Leaves, Girl Scout Brownie through Ambassador Proficiency Badges found in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, Outdoor Badges, and Girl Scouting's highest leadership awards (Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards).



**Special Opportunity Awards:** These are national awards earned through requirements determined by Girl Scouts of the USA or by another organization which GSUSA has a partnership agreement. These awards include the Girl Scout My Promise, My Faith Awards, Girl Scout Cookie Sale Pins, Girl Scout Safety Awards, and the President's Award for Community Service.



**Meritorious Service Awards:** These include the Girl Scout Lifesaving Awards awarded from GSUSA through council nomination. For more information, go to: [gsofct.org/pdf/membership/formLibrary/LifesavingAwardsPacketProcedure.pdf](https://gsofct.org/pdf/membership/formLibrary/LifesavingAwardsPacketProcedure.pdf)



**Participation Patches and Pins:** Supplementary insignia developed at the national or council level with a focus on participation. These patches represent activities girls have tried and are fun ways for girls to remember special events they've attended. Since these patches and pins aren't tied to skill-building activities, they are worn on the **back** of a girl's sash or vest.

**GSOFACT Council's Own patches** were designed to reflect Connecticut's resources and interests and supplement those offered by GSUSA. All available patches are listed in the Program and Resources Guide or can be found at [gsofct.org](https://gsofct.org) in the Resource and Form Library under the Girl Program section. They are worn on the **back** of a girl's sash or vest.

Girl Scout badges, patches, awards, and other insignia should be presented, worn, or displayed only after Girl Scouts have completed the requirements outlined in the appropriate program materials.

To find out where to place insignia on a Girl Scout uniform, visit [gsofct.org/join/girls.php](https://gsofct.org/join/girls.php), click on the level you are interested in, and follow the link on that page. You can purchase emblems and patches—along with badges and leadership awards—at any of our council's Girl Scout shops or online at [shop.gsofct.org](https://shop.gsofct.org).



## Girl Scout Insignia and Award Basics – Girl Scout Brownie

INSIGNIA	TYPE	WHO PURCHASES	WHEN GIVEN	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Uniform Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American Flag</li> <li>GSUSA and Council ID strips</li> <li>Troop Numerals</li> <li>Troop Crest</li> </ul>	Emblem	Parent/Guardian	Initial uniform purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These emblems signify that we are members of GSUSA, GSOFCT, and a specific troop/group.</li> <li>Troop/group volunteers may offer to collect monies and purchase materials for parents/guardians.</li> </ul>
Girl Scout Brownie Membership Pin	Emblem	Troop/Group	Investiture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pin signifies that you are a member of Girl Scouting in the USA.</li> <li>Girls in grades 2-3 wear the Girl Scout Brownie Membership Pin.</li> </ul>
World Trefoil Pin (WAGGGS)	Emblem	Troop/Group	Anytime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pin shows we are members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.</li> <li>Thinking Day Celebrations are a good time to present this pin.</li> <li>Pin will be transferred to the girl's new sash/vest when she bridges to the next level.</li> </ul>
Membership Stars with Disc (Green)	Emblem	Troop/Group	End of the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Girl Scout receives a star and disc to indicate she has been a member of Girl Scouting for that year. Discs are color-coded by level.</li> <li>All the stars and discs will travel with the Girl Scout to the next level's sash or tunic.</li> </ul>
Journey Leadership Awards	Earned Grade-Level	Troop/Group	As earned or Court of Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awards coincide with the Leadership Journey's: It's Your World – Change It!, It's Your Planet-Love It!, and It's Your Story-Tell It!.</li> </ul>
National Proficiency Badges	Earned Grade-Level	Troop/Group	As earned or Court of Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Badges are symbols that you've learned something new.</li> <li>Four types: Legacy, Financial Literacy, Cookie Business, and Skill-Building.</li> <li>Girls have the opportunity to "Make Your Own" Proficiency Badge yearly.</li> <li>Outdoor Adventures is the Outdoor Badge for Girl Scout Brownies.</li> </ul>
My Promise, My Faith	Earned Grade-Level	Troop/Group	As earned or Court of Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A girl earns the pin by carefully examining the Girl Scout Law and directly tying it to tenets of her faith. This may be earned as a troop or individually.</li> <li>Earned once a year, it complements existing religious recognitions (P.R.A.Y.).</li> </ul>
Bridge to Girl Scout Junior Award	Earned Grade-Level	Troop/Group	As earned or Court of Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows you were once a Girl Scout Brownie and bridged up to Juniors.</li> <li>All requirements must be completed prior to earning this award.</li> </ul>
Brownie Wings	Emblem	Troop/Group	Bridging From Brownies to Juniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These "wings" show you were once a Girl Scout Brownie; placed on Junior uniform.</li> <li>Transferred to the girl's new sash/vest when she bridges to the next level.</li> </ul>
Girl Scout Safety Award: Brownie	Earned Grade-Level	Troop/Group	As earned or Court of Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can be earned yearly for learning how to be safe during Girl Scout activities.</li> </ul>
Cookie Activity Pin	Earned Grade-Level	Troop/Group	As earned or Court of Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can be earned yearly for selling Girl Scout Cookies.</li> </ul>
Girl Scouts Global Action Award	Earned Grade-Level	Troop/Group	As earned or Court of Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls learn in a fun and educational way about serious global issues affecting girls, young women, and their communities.</li> </ul>
World Thinking Day Award	Earned Grade-Level	Troop/Group	As earned or Court of Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls participate in activities and projects with global themes to honor their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in other countries.</li> </ul>
President's Volunteer Service Award	Earned Grade-Level	Troop/Group or Parent/Guardian	As earned or Court of Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls can earn this award in recognition for the valuable contributions they are making in our communities.</li> <li>Community service hours over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime; Bronze, Silver, and Gold categories.</li> </ul>

For more information on Girl Scout Brownie Insignia and Awards, visit [girlscouts.org/en/our-program/uniforms/insignia-list.html](https://www.girlscouts.org/en/our-program/uniforms/insignia-list.html)

## Tips For Working With Girl Scout Brownies

These tips can help with situations that can arise whenever a group of girls get together:



### **Focus on the talents and skills of each girl.**

*If a girl is very organized, but is very shy about speaking in front of others:*

- Try to give her tasks that use her organizational skills. Her confidence in a job well done will help build her confidence to speak up.
- You could also structure some activities in which she would need to speak in front of a small group of girls.

*If a girl is very active:*

- Try to involve her in tasks that require movement rather than more passive “sitting still” types of activities.



### **Offer help in small doses.**

- Girls often need less help than you think. Ask a girl the best way to do something. She usually knows.
- Make full use of the “Buddy System” and rotate buddies so that everyone gets a chance to know one another.
- Girl Scout Brownies may need some extra help in sharing and taking turns.
- If a girl becomes frustrated at not being able to use the materials she desired at the moment, suggest an equally attractive substitute.



### **Encourage respect for differing religious, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.**

- Help each girl express pride in their own heritage and value the diversity of others.
- Be a role model in never saying prejudiced words and in never taking prejudiced actions.
- Discover ways for girls to find accurate information and have positive experiences with girls and adults different from themselves.



### **Encourage girls to solve their problems, to go to each other for support and assistance, and to take turns being the leader of the group.**

- Intervene only if needed. **Girls learn best by doing.**
- However, intercede immediately if a child’s safety is at risk.
- Encourage girls to discover things on their own and to try new things.
- Do not expect every Girl Scout Brownie to participate in every activity.
- If a girl does not wish to participate, suggest a quiet activity that will not disturb the group.




### **Girls need to feel positive about themselves.**


- At this time, when girls are reaching beyond their families, getting positive affirmation from others is critical.
- Accept each girl, as she is – strengths and weaknesses – so that she can learn and accept you and your guidance.
- Remember to use her name when speaking to her.
- Praise often; never criticize..
- Girls can understand that certain behaviors are unacceptable without being criticized. They need to be told clearly and shown which behaviors are acceptable.




### **Be supportive of and interested in the girls’ ideas and interests, rather than being an entertainer for them.**

- Rejoice with a girl when she achieves something important to her, no matter how small it may seem.
- Don’t hold all girls to a uniform standard of performance.
- Vary the amount of help and support given in a situation according to a girl’s physical, intellectual, and emotional status.

- 
- Keep directions simple and direct.**
- Be sure the girl understands you.
  - Try to meet her at eye level if giving complicated instructions or if working through a problem.
  - Speak in quiet, pleasant tones; Girls listen better to someone speaking softly and calmly.
  - Phrase directions positively: “Put your cup in the waste basket, please” rather than “Don’t leave your cup on the table.”

- 
- Be reasonable about time with the girls.**
- Start projects the girls can finish.
  - Give plenty of advance warning when an activity is going to end or begin. Girl Scouts Brownies may become frustrated or confused when hurried.
  - Watch for signs of fatigue. Girls at this age can tire easily.
  - Limits should be clearly defined and maintained.
  - Girl Scout Brownies need consistency.
  - They usually have a highly developed sense of fairness and will be quick to feel hurt if they believe you “play favorites.” Be especially careful of this if your daughter is a member of your troop.

- 
- Involve each girl’s family members as much as possible.**
- Send notes home and spend some time speaking to family members that drop off or pick up the girls.
  - Always be certain that any discussion you have with another adult about a girl cannot be heard by any of the other leaders or girls.
  - Share resources and ideas.





## Girl Scout Ceremonies

Ceremonies in Girl Scouting are used to honor special occasions, to celebrate accomplishments, or begin and end a meeting. Girl Scout ceremonies come in many shapes and sizes. They can be formal or informal, large or small. They are typically short in duration but can be quite impressive when the girls are in full uniform, complete with white gloves. Ceremonies provide a means of expressing feelings and values of friendship, patriotism, and service. They allow girls to express themselves through spoken word, artwork and/or song.

All ceremonies share three common components:

- **Opening:** Welcome guests, state the purpose of the ceremony, and set the mood for the occasion.
- **Main Part:** Develop the theme or main idea of the ceremony using dialogue, poetry, choral reading, dramatics, candle lighting, etc.
- **Closing:** Summarization of the ceremony. Lets the audience and the participants know the event is over. It may include forming a friendship circle, saying goodbyes or thank-you to special guests, singing a song, etc.

The most rewarding and inspiring ceremonies are those you plan and develop together. Girls are an essential part of the planning process. Engage them in planning and executing at all levels to ensure for a meaningful outcome.

All ceremonies have certain elements in common. The best ceremonies use a combination of all:

- **Purpose:** the reason, the motivation for, or main idea
  - Welcome new members
  - Celebrate accomplishments
  - Express Girl Scout values
- **Mood and Atmosphere:**
  - Pleasant surroundings appropriate to the purpose/theme
  - Music, songs
  - Readings – poetry, stories
  - Dramatics – dance, skits
  - Use symbols – archway, bridge, candles, Trefoil, etc.
- **Characters:** Bring out the characteristics of the girls involved
  - Allow the girls to take on roles that express who they are as individuals
  - Highlight the personal qualities of the girls
  - Allow the girls to flourish at their own level; personal growth
- **Setting:** Held at a special location that impacts the ceremony
  - Time - impacts attendance; can be mood setting
  - Place - location relevant to the purpose and mood and atmosphere desired (outside in the woods, inside on a stage, part of the meeting, etc.)
  - Group size – accommodate for activities planned
  - Think safety first!
- **Theme:** Focuses on developing the purpose
  - The subject, topic or idea is expressed through the activities, decorations, invitations, refreshments, etc.

Note: Plan for rehearsal time no matter how short and simple the ceremony is.

Girl Scouts have ceremonies that mark their special events and feelings throughout the year, and no matter when or where these ceremonies take place, they are always steeped in the traditions of Girl Scouting!

# TYPES OF CEREMONIES

*There is no absolute way to conduct ceremonies.  
Use your imagination!*

## Parts of a Ceremony

- A. **Opening:** *welcome, purpose, setting*
- B. **Main Part:** *theme, story, light candles, songs, poems, flags*
- C. **Closing:** *song, thank-you, dismissal*

## Investiture

A ceremony held when one or more persons join Girl Scouting for the first time. The girl or adult makes the Girl Scout Promise and receives the appropriate membership pin (Daisy, Brownie, traditional or contemporary Girl Scout) and is welcomed to Girl Scouting. Pins are pinned on upside down and are righted after a good deed is done.

## Rededication

This ceremony is held at special times when Girl Scouts want to renew their Girl Scout Promise and review what the Girl Scout Law means to them. Troops often hold a rededication ceremony at the beginning or the end of a troop year.

## Candlelight Ceremony

Candle lighting can be part of many Girl Scout ceremonies. It is often used as part of an investiture, rededication, or Court of Awards ceremony. Three center candles represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. Five candles on either side, a total of ten, represent the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law. In buildings where candles may not be used, small flashlights may be substituted.

## Flag Ceremony

A ceremony to honor the American flag may be used in troops on special occasions, such as investiture, rededication, a bridging, or Court of Awards. Sometimes a flag ceremony can be part of an opening for a troop meeting. An American flag can be displayed alone or with a troop flag.

## Court of Awards

A ceremony to present honors and awards. Girl Scout Daisies through Ambassadors receive earned recognitions: Leadership Journey awards, proficiency badges, bridging patches, etc. The setting and type of ceremony will vary with troops/groups, as well as, when they are held.

## Girl Scouts' Own

This is a quiet ceremony created and planned by girls to express their feelings on a variety of topics such as friendship, nature, or Girl Scout values. It is neither a religious ceremony nor entertainment. Communicating the theme may be done through poetry, songs, narration, or essays.

## Bridging

This ceremony signifies the advancing from one program level to another in Girl Scouting. Girls may cross a real or symbolic bridge as part of the ceremony.

## Brownie Fly-Up

A Girl Scout Brownie bridging ceremony where girls renew their Girl Scout Promise and receive their Girl Scout pin (contemporary or traditional). Girl Scout Brownies also receive their Brownie wings to show they have "flown up."

### Recipe for a Creative Ceremony

#### Ingredients:

1 Purpose	2 Cups Imagination	Art
1 Theme	5lbs. Patience	Dance
3 Cups Thoughts	Songs	Season to Taste
3 Cups Feelings	Poems	

#### Directions:

1. Begin with one purpose, stated and understood by all "cooks."
2. Add one theme. You may have to try several themes before you find one just "ripe" enough but all "cooks" should be in the selection.
3. Sift thoughts and feelings on them together.
4. Fold in imagination to come up with ways to express those thoughts and feelings.
5. Blend in songs, poems, readings, etc. that reinforce the theme. Remember the "cooks" are capable of creating their own masterpieces when given a chance.
6. Study all ingredients and decide the order each will be served and by whom. PRACTICE IT!

## Incorporating Girl Planning

Girl Scouting operates on the premise 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 are opportunities for the girls to express themselves. Girls should have an active part in making their own memories.

Planning should include the girl's ideas and input. Keep in mind that, at different levels, girls will have different abilities. As 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 troop/group and provide an environment for creativity.

Use the following questions as guidelines when planning your ceremony:

### ❖ What kind of ceremony do we want?

- Bridging?
- Flag Ceremony?
- Investiture/Rededication?
- Court of Awards?

### ❖ Where and when will it be held?

- Indoors or outdoors?
- In the morning or night?
- During a Troop/Group meeting or another time?

### ❖ Who should be invited?

- Parents?
- Siblings?
- Special Friends?
- Another Girl Scout Troop/Group?
- Adults in Girl Scouting?
- Adults in the community?

### ❖ What can we use to personalize the ceremony?

- A theme?
- Symbolism?
- A favorite song, dance, skit, or poem?
- Girl Scout Promise and Law?
- Candles, lights, or a campfire?
- Flags?
- A bridge?
- Other props?

### ❖ How will we do it?

- Who will start the ceremony?
- Should we sit or stand?
- What formations will we use?
- Where will the guests sit?
- Should we speak together or separately?
- Do we want/need to learn something new?
- Will we serve refreshments?
- Do we need to purchase Additional Activity Insurance?
- Do we need to rehearse?

## Personalizing a Ceremony

The ceremonies that are remembered the most often have been personalized to express a clear purpose and theme, which gives continuity and cohesion to the ceremony. A theme can be expressed through symbolism, music, songs, stories, poetry, skits, dance, or light.

### \*Common Themes

- Earth Day
- Friendship
- Gifts of Girl Scouting
- Heritage
- Story of Juliette Gordon Low
- Moment of Remembrance
- Nature
- Presenting an Award
- Service to Others
- Women to Remember

\*Ideas from *Let's Celebrate! Girl Scout Ceremonies* GSUSA publication.

### \*Common Symbolism

- Archway
- Bridge
- Colors
- Flag
- Flowers
- Friendship Circle
- Handshake
- Planting a Tree
- Trefoil
- Wishing Well

\*Ideas from *Let's Celebrate! Girl Scout Ceremonies* GSUSA publication.

## Bridging Moving On to New Girl Scout Adventures



A bridge crosses a gap and makes it easy to get from one side to another; so it is in Girl Scouting. **“Bridging”** is the term used to describe the process of advancing from one level to another in Girl Scouting. Bridging is an important transition in a Girl Scout’s life. It’s a defining moment when a girl becomes aware of her achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities. Celebrating this change should be fun, personalized, and memorable for everyone involved. Bridging ceremonies usually take place at the beginning or end of the Girl Scout year. Remember to include the girls in both planning and implementing the ceremony.

Bridging activities have been designed to emphasize the continuity of one Girl Scout program, to introduce girls to what lies ahead, to encourage girls to reflect on their personal growth and previous accomplishments, and to give older girls a sense of personal responsibility for younger girls. Bridging activities will take time, but careful planning and continued reinforcement of the idea that girls are getting ready to move onto the next program level in Girl Scouting will make the experience meaningful for them.

The bridging process for each program level is outlined in *The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting* book. Once the bridging activities have been completed, a bridging ceremony can be held to recognize the girls and welcome them into the next Girl Scout program level. It is important to note that completing any earned bridging award is optional. If a girl chooses not to earn the award, she can still bridge to the next program level.

An actual bridge is not necessary to hold a bridging ceremony. The bridge, or crossing over into a new program level, can be symbolized by walking across a stage, walking on steppingstones, walking under an arch, or simply walking from one area in the room to another.

Areas in the room can be decorated using flags, banners, and balloons to represent the two Girl Scout levels involved in the bridging ceremony. Let the girls use their imaginations to come up with some other ideas to make their bridging ceremony special.

### In preparation for the Bridging to Girl Scout Junior Ceremony, consider:

- Planning at least one month ahead
- Prepare invitations
- Prepare decorations
- Refreshments - juice; water; cake or other snack; when planning for refreshments, remember to consider allergies.

Your **opening** may include:

- Welcome Guests
- State Purpose of Event – Girl Scout Brownies Bridging to Girl Scout Juniors
- What the girls did to earn the Bridging Award

The **main part** of ceremony may include:

- Have girls recite the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law
- Have girls sing favorite song
- Have Girl Scout Juniors help them bridge – Leader may read girl’s name and she can “bridge over” – walk across a real or interpreted bridge, etc. – Juniors may help Brownies put on new vest/sash

Your **closing** may include:

- Form Friendship Circle
- Sing Song – Make New Friends
- Thank guests
- Enjoy Refreshments!

There is a basic difference for a bridging Girl Scout Brownie. Brownies also “Fly-up”. They are the only program level that does – they receive their Brownie Wings when they cross over from Daisy Girl Scouting. Girls can receive their Brownie Wings even if they join the troop/group the day before the fly-up ceremony. If they want to receive their Bridge to Juniors award, however, they MUST complete the required steps.

The Appendix of this handout has several ceremonies that you can use with your Girl Scout Brownies. For additional information and more sample ceremonies you can refer to the GSUSA Publication *Let’s Celebrate! Girl Scout Ceremonies* book, *The Girls Guide to Girl Scouting* book, or visit the web at [girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/traditions/ceremonies.html](http://girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/traditions/ceremonies.html).

# APPENDIX



**Celebrate! Girl Scout Brownie Ceremonies**

**Games**

**My Promise, My Faith FAQs**

**Girl Scout Terms**

**Service Project Suggestions**

**Additional Resources**



# Celebrate!

## Girl Scout Brownie Ceremonies

### Girl Scout Brownie Investiture Ceremony - #1

#### Supplies:

1. Girl Scout Brownie pins for new members.
2. Copies of the Girl Scout Law – one Law for each girl

#### New Brownies:

**Say:** “Knock Knock” (motion as if they are knocking)

#### Experienced Brownies:

**Say:** “Who’s there?”

#### New Brownies:

**Say:** “We are little girls”

#### Experienced Brownies:

**Say:** “What do you want?”

#### New Brownies:

**Say:** “We want to be Girl Scout Brownies”

#### Experienced Brownies:

**Say:** “Well, come on In!” (New Brownies walk over to stand next to the experienced Brownies.)

#### Experienced Brownies:

**Say:** “If you want to become Girl Scouts you must first promise to live by the Girl Scout Law”

#### Experienced Brownies:

**Say:** “Are you ready to make the Girl Scout Promise?”

#### New Brownies:

**Say:** “Yes”

#### Experienced Brownies:

**Say:** “Then let’s say it together” (All Brownies say the Girl Scout Promise together)

#### Experienced Brownies:

**Say:** “Are you ready to live by the Girl Scout Law?”

#### New Brownies:

**Say:** “Yes”

#### Leader:

**Say:** “Let’s tell our families and guests the Girl Scout Law so they may help us remember to live by them every day”

**All:** (Each girl recites her part of the Girl Scout Law)

#### Experienced Brownies:

**Say:** “Now that you are ready to be Girl Scouts are you ready to become Brownies?”

#### New Brownies:

**Say:** “Yes”

#### Experienced Brownies:

**Say:** “Well Brownies are helpful little persons, so if a Brownie you will be, then follow my actions and recite with me.” (All the New Brownies form a half circle around the mirror)

**All:** “Twist me, Turn me, show me the elf, I looked in the water and saw ... MYSELF”.

The girls then join hands and sing “The Brownie Smile Song” and then “Make New Friends”

**Leader:** Congratulations new Girl Scout Brownies! As Girl Scouts these girls are to “Do a Good Turn Daily.”

As I give each new Girl Scout Brownie her Brownie pin, it will be pinned on upside down. After she has done a “Good Turn” she may then wear it right side up.

The new Girl Scout Brownies may now go see their parents/guardians and guests.

## Girl Scout Brownie Fly-Up Ceremony - #1

Traditional Girl Scout Brownie Fly-Up ceremonies tend to follow this basic flow:

### Supplies:

1. Girl Scout membership pins
  2. Membership stars/green discs
  3. Brownie "Wings"
  4. Bridge to Junior patches (if earned)
  5. Girl Scout Junior sashes/vests (Place all of her pins, badges, etc. on the sash/vest ahead of time. This eliminates girls struggling with putting the pins on making for a more efficient and timely ceremony.
- Girl Scout Brownie troop/group stand in horseshoe on one side of bridge; receiving Girl Scout Junior troop/group on other side.
  - Girl Scout Brownie Leader says a few words, then calls the girls forward one-by-one.
  - Girl Scout Brownie takes off her sash/vest and gives it to the Girl Scout Brownie Leader who presents her with a flower.
  - Girl Scout Brownie starts across the bridge, stops at apex to say something:
    - Make a wish for the world and dropped "wishing dust" into the "well"
    - States what she is looking forward to as a Girl Scout Junior
    - Reflects on her Girl Scout Brownie experience
    - Reflects on a girl-determined theme, such as friendship
  - Girl Scout Brownie continues across the bridge and is greeted by one or two Girl Scout Juniors who give her a Girl Scout handshake welcoming her to Juniors. Girl Scout Juniors present her with her new vest/sash.
    - Sometimes the sash is made from ribbon.
  - All Girl Scouts together sing a previously selected song.
  - Refreshments (optional)



## Girl Scout Brownie Fly- Up Ceremony - #2

A Girl Scout Brownie “flies up” to Junior Girl Scouting in the spring or at the end of the Girl Scout year. During this special ceremony, she receives her Brownie Wings. If possible, have your Fly-Up ceremony with a Junior troop/group in your Service Unit. Don’t forget to get the girls’ parents/guardians involved!

### Supplies:

1. Girl Scout membership pins
2. Membership stars/green discs
3. Brownie “Wings”
4. Bridge to Junior patches (if earned)



### Set-Up:

- Brown construction paper, cut to represent stones, or paper bags cut the same way. Write a Girl Scout Law on each one.
- The Girl Scout Brownies sit on one side of the room in a Brownie Ring, and the Girl Scout Juniors sit in a horseshoe on the other side of the room (always make the open end toward the audience).
- Place your Stepping Stones between the two groups and tape them down to the floor.

**Everyone:** Sings "**Girl Scouts Together**" (may be found in the Girl Scout Pocket Songbook)

### Girl Scout Brownie Leader #1:

**Say:** You've been a Girl Scout Brownie and thus you've earned your “wings” of sunlight gold.  
Now you're ready for Girl Scout Juniors; new adventures you've been told.  
*(The girls all stand)*

### Girl Scout Brownie Leader #2:

**Say:** Girl Scout Brownies, you are ready to fly-up to the next level of Girl Scouting.  
I would like to present you with your Brownie Wings and Bridge to Girl Scout Juniors’ patch.  
As I call your name, please come forward (as they come forward, pin on their wings and Bridge to Juniors patch).

### Girl Scout Junior Leader #1:

**Say:** Each step of Girl Scout Juniors can be filled with fun and adventure. As a troop/group, we would like to welcome you.

The Girl Scout Brownies walk on the stepping stones that were prepared ahead of time, as noted above, and enter the horseshoe. With the Brownies facing the Juniors, the Girl Scout Sign is made, and the girls recite the Girl Scout Promise.

Pairs of Brownies and Juniors face one another. The first pair walks forward to the stepping stone with the first Girl Scout Law printed on it and together they recite that Law.

Now the next pair of girls come forward and stand on Law #2; continue until all the Girl Scout Laws have been said. If there are not enough girls in the two troop/groups, they may have to do this as single girls instead of in pairs.

### Girl Scout Junior Leader #2:

**Say:** With the help of (Brownie Leader's Name) we would like to present our new Girl Scout Juniors with the Girl Scout membership pin. (pin on Girl Scout Pins).  
At this time you may also wish to give the girls their Membership Stars and green disc.

### Girl Scout Brownie Leader #1:

**Say:** We will now all sing "**Make New Friends**".

### Girl Scout Junior Leader #1:

**Say:** Girl Scout Juniors you'll be for a few short years  
Make the most of each day that goes by  
Be cheerful and helpful and do a good turn  
And greet each Girl Scout with a **Hi!**

**Refreshments** (optional)

## Girl Scout Brownie Fly- Up Ceremony - #3

### Supplies:

1. Girl Scout membership pins
2. Copies of the Girl Scout Law – one Law for each girl



**Set-Up:** Girl Scouts form two horseshoes facing each other, Juniors in one, Brownies in the other with the bridge separating them.

### Girl Scout Brownie Leader:

**Say:** "Brownies, you are just about  
To become Junior Girl Scouts.  
Next year you will find  
That Juniors are true and kind.  
So now I give you Brownie Wings  
so you may fly to bigger things."

She pins the Brownie wings on each Girl Scout Brownie. Girl Scout Brownies then all take a few steps forward.

### Girl Scout Junior Leader:

**Say:** "Hello there. Who are you all dressed in brown with such cheerful smiles and not one frown?"

### Girl Scout Brownies:

**Say:** "We are the Brownies and we like to have fun.  
Girl Scout Juniors we'd like to become."

### Girl Scout Junior Leader:

**Say:** "By what right do you ask?"

### Girl Scout Brownies:

**Say:** "By the right of our wings." [Girls point to their wings]

### Girl Scout Junior Leader:

**Say:** "We welcome you to Girl Scout Juniors. Please cross the bridge one at a time."

As each girl crosses, she is met by the Girl Scout Leader and a Girl Scout Junior. She is given her Girl Scout membership pin and is lead to the Junior horseshoe by the Girl Scout Junior. After all the Girl Scout Brownies are in the Junior horseshoe:

### All Girl Scout Juniors:

**Say:** "Welcome to Junior Girl Scouts  
you're a Brownie nevermore.  
We'll have lots of fun and lots of games  
as we teach you Girl Scout lore.  
Welcome new Girl Scout Juniors!"

**All:** Sing "Make New Friends"

## A Closing Magic Tunnel

When hats and coats are on, the Girl Scout Brownies stand in two lines, making arches with their arms. The two farthest from the door go under the arches, then the next two, and so on, so that the tunnel diminishes and the last two go out under the arms of their adult leaders.

## Games for Girl Scout Brownies

### Water Penny:

Put a penny on a stable table. Provide girls with a cup of water and an eyedropper. Count how many drops you can put on the penny. Introduce the concept of surface tension, but don't expect them to totally grasp the idea.

### Sniff Game:

Soak cotton balls in different strong smelling liquids and place each in an individual plastic bag or film container. You might try cologne, coffee, lemon juice, vanilla extract, etc. Let each girl smell each fragrance and classify its scent. Suggest descriptive words: It smells like a flower; medicine; food; fruit.

**Caution:** Be aware of girls with allergies. Emphasize the danger of putting your face into a plastic bag.

### Categories:

Have sheets of paper available. A word such as B R O W N I E is written down one side. Across the top are five categories like: flowers, food, animals, color, girl's name, etc. Girls think of an item to go with each letter.

### Leaf Rubbing:

**Supplies:** paper, leaves, crayons with no paper on them.

Place leaf on table (face down works best). Place paper over leaf. Rub the side of the crayon over the paper to get the design of the leaf underneath. Use other colors. Overlap leaves.

### Name Game Toss:

As girls arrive have them join you in a circle. Begin by saying your own name and toss a beanbag to a girl. She says her name and tosses the bag to another girl. After all the girls have arrived and had the chance to hear each other's names, vary the game by saying your own name and the name of the girl you are tossing it to.

### Animal Antics:

Give each girl a name of an animal or insect from the following list (create your own list):

Donkey, Kangaroo, Elephant, Butterfly, and Grasshopper. In a group of 20 there would be four of each animal assigned.

Have them act out their animal's sound and motions. Each girl is to find all others in the group who are the same animal.

### Animal Relay:

Players form teams with equal numbers on each team. The first player on each team is one animal, the second a different animal. Have girls draw from a container for which animal they will be (#1's are the same animal, #2's are the same animal, #3 the same, etc.)

On the word "go," the first team members act like the animal they represent; they run, hop or crawl to a given place and back. The following players then acts like their animals and so on, until one team is finished and all sitting down. Use animals such as kangaroos, bunnies, dogs, cats, etc.

### People to People:

All girls get into pairs, except for one – she becomes the leader. The leader yells out, "Toe to toe," "knee to elbow," "head to knee" etc. Partners touch these body parts together until the leader yells out "People to people." That's the signal for everyone to run around and find a new partner. The leader gets lost in the shuffle and finds a partner too. The extra player becomes the new leader and continues the chant. (In the event of an even number of girls, an adult can be the first leader and participate in the game thereafter.)

### Japanese Balloon Game:

The group stands in a circle. The leader has half a dozen balloons. Into each a message has been inserted before the balloon was blown up. One at a time, a balloon is passed from player to player around the circle, until the leader blows a whistle. The player holding the balloon when the whistle blows must go to the centre of the circle. She must sit on the balloon until it bursts, then read the note, and perform the action or answer the question contained in the message.

Please note: Be aware of latex allergies!

### Kim's Compass Game: (A variation on the original Kim's Game)

When teaching compass points (sitting inside a tent) use a cardboard mock-up of a compass and on each radius place an item. Candy gets their attention, and so does different currencies of cash! Cover up the board and start asking questions. What was sitting on North-North East? What did you see at South? This can be adapted in many ways!

## ***My Promise, My Faith***



### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Is Girl Scouts teaching religion through the My Promise, My Faith award?**

No, Girl Scouts is a secular organization. The Girl Scout Promise and Law are in alignment with many faith organizations' teachings. The My Promise, My Faith award and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience provide girls with an opportunity to strengthen their faith journey as they grow their leadership skills.

#### **How does the My Promise, My Faith award relate to the other religious recognitions?**

The My Promise, My Faith pin complements faith-based religious recognitions. A girl can choose to earn one or both awards in any order at the appropriate grade level. More information about religious recognitions is found at [praypub.org/partner\\_gsusa.htm](http://praypub.org/partner_gsusa.htm) or by contacting the faith organizations.

#### **How often can a girl earn the My Promise, My Faith award?**

Every year she is a Girl Scout. She is encouraged to select a different line of the Girl Scout Law each year. If a girl chooses to repeat a portion of the Law at a different program level, the specific activities she does needs to be different or reflect a different level of understanding of the Law or her faith. A girl does not have to have earned the award at a younger grade level to begin earning it, nor is she required to earn it every year.

**Where are the My Promise, My Faith pins worn?** See *The Girl Guides to Girl Scouting* or visit [gsfct.org/join/girls.php](http://gsfct.org/join/girls.php).

#### **Where can a girl wear her faith's religious recognitions?**

Religious recognitions can be worn alongside the My Promise, My Faith pin or anywhere else she chooses below the My Promise, My Faith pin.

#### **How much time does a girl have to complete the award?**

Girls can complete the My Promise, My Faith requirements any time during the membership year.

#### **When is it appropriate to present the My Promise, My Faith award?**

These awards can be presented to girls at any time once they have completed the requirements, but it is more fun and meaningful if they are presented in a special ceremony or Court of Awards. Also, many faith organizations acknowledge religious recognitions earned by girls in their faith community during GS Sunday or GS Shabbat. The My Promise, My Faith recognition can be incorporated into these ceremonies.

## Girl Scout Terms

- **Age Level:** There are six age levels in Girl Scouting: Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador
- **Baden-Powell:** Lord Baden-Powell was the founder of the Boy Scout movement, Agnes Baden-Powell, Lord Baden-Powell's sister, was the founder of the Girl Guide movement
- **Bridging:** The process of moving from one age level of Girl Scouting to another
- **Brownie Ring:** Form of government commonly used in a Brownie Troop/group.
- **Buddy System:** A safety system where two girls stay together and watch out for each other
- **Court of Awards:** A ceremony to present earned recognitions at any level
- **Court of Honor:** Part of the Patrol System form of government where patrol leaders gather together to share information and make decisions
- **Daisy Circle:** Form of government commonly used in a Daisy Troop/group
- **Founder's Day:** October 31, the birthday of Juliette Gordon Low
- **Girl Scout Birthday:** March 12, 1912 - the date of the first Girl Scout meeting in the U.S.A.
- **Girl Scout Handshake:** Execute the Girl Scout Sign with the right hand and shake hands with the left
- **Girl Scout Motto:** Be Prepared
- **Girl Scout Sign:** Three middle fingers of right hand raised shoulder high with thumb over little finger, given when saying the Girl Scout Promise or when doing the Girl Scout Handshake
- **Girl Scout Slogan:** Do a good turn daily
- **Girl Scouts' Own:** An inspirational ceremony with a theme planned by and for Girl Scouts
- **Girl Scout Week:** The week containing the Girl Scout Birthday
- **Gold Award:** The highest award a Girl Scout may earn (this is done as a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador)
- **GSUSA:** Girl Scouts of the United States of America
- **Fly-Up:** The ceremony in which a Girl Scout Brownie becomes a Girl Scout Junior.
- **Investiture:** A special ceremony to welcome a girl into Girl Scouts where she receives her pin and officially makes her Promise for the first time
- **JLWFF:** Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, a voluntary fund that benefits guiding throughout the world
- **Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low:** Founder of Girl Scouting in the U.S.A.
- **Kaper Chart:** A chart showing all jobs available and who is responsible for each job generally on a rotating basis
- **Patrol System:** A form of government used in Junior, Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador troop/groups
- **Quiet Sign:** Right hand raised above head - it means stop talking
- **Rededication:** A ceremony when Girl Scouts reaffirm their belief in the Promise and Law
- **Silver Award:** The highest award that a Girl Scout Cadette may earn
- **Sit Upon:** A cushion to sit on outside generally made by Girl Scouts
- **Thinking Day:** February 22; the birthday of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, designed as a day to think about Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide
- **Trefoil:** The international symbol of Girl Scouting. Our pins are in the shape of a trefoil.
- **Troop/group Committee:** Adults who assist the troop/group in some way either at the meetings or by taking on jobs such as Telephone Chair, etc.
- **WAGGGS:** World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the worldwide organization to which Girl Scouts belong
- **World Trefoil Pin:** A pin worn by members of WAGGGS

## Suggested Service Projects for Girl Scout Brownies

Community Service Projects should be meaningful to the girls, part of troop/group activities, and can be in partnership with older girls. Project ideas can be also be found in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*.

- Adopt a neighborhood senior citizen and help her or him with necessary chores.
- Do secret Brownie deeds for members of your family.
- Adopt a person who is homebound and visit him or her often.
- Make tray favors, scrapbooks, napkin rings, or crafts for children in hospitals, Meals on Wheels, or senior centers.
- Plan or cooperate with existing paper drives or other recycling endeavors.
- Plant a tree or shrub at your group meeting site on Arbor Day (last Friday of April.)
- Visit a nursing home, and sing or put on a play for residents.
- Present Girl Scout Cookies to a food bank or needy family.
- Collect canned goods for local food banks.
- Donate money to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.
- Make greeting cards for people in a veteran's hospital, or other health care facilities.
- Make bird feeders for a local park or nature center.
- Participate in the adopt-a-pet program at a zoo.
- Adopt a service person stationed overseas. Collect items and send them a gift box during a holiday when they cannot be home with their family.
- Knit, crochet, or sew a blanket or afghan for a needy family.
- Help serve refreshments for sponsoring church or synagogue after morning service on Girl Scout Sabbath/Sunday.
- Become pen pals and write often to a resident of a nursing home or convalescent center.
- Have a party or special celebration and invite peers who are physically or developmentally challenged.
- Plan a party for a Girl Scout Daisy troop/group.
- Participate in a community parade or event.
- Make posters to tell other girls about Girl Scouting and give it to your Service Unit.
- Assist a Girl Scout Junior troop/group in doing a flag ceremony for a local PTA or other community group.
- Help decorate your troop/group meeting place for a holiday.
- Make signs to encourage your community to "Keep America Beautiful" and display them in your neighborhood.
- Build and erect feeding trays or other devices to feed birds in the winter.
- Collect books or other Girl Scout memorabilia and donate it to a library in your community.
- Plan and implement a bridging activity with a Girl Scout Daisy or Junior troop/group.
- Participate in a youth program at a church or community center which reflects a diverse ethnic setting.
- Visit an area pantry and helped fill personal care bags.





## Additional Resources

### Publications

GSOFACT publishes several resources promoting the many program opportunities for girls statewide. The publications/resources listed below are available at [gsofact.org](http://gsofact.org):

- **Program Resource Guide:** Released each August, this guide contains information and dates of events and other opportunities offered by the GSOFACT's Program Services Department. It also contains more in-depth information regarding available program resources.
- **Helpful Hints:** Monthly electronic newsletter for adult volunteers working with Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Girl Scouts.
- **Advisor Update:** Every-other-month electronic newsletter for adult volunteers working with Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts.
- **Bridges:** Every-other-month electronic newsletter for girls and their families.
- **Pathways:** Monthly electronic newsletter with a message from our CEO and provides highlights of activities and events around GSOFACT.
- **E-blast:** Monthly electronic newsletter sent to all volunteers that provides updates about programs, properties, product sales, and much more. It also informs you of upcoming events that your troop/group or girl will be interested in participating in as well as, links to our website and to various locations where you can find necessary documents for your work.
- **Camp Brochure:** Released in the winter, this guide details upcoming summer camp opportunities.

<b>Resources referenced:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://gsofact.org">gsofact.org</a></li><li>• <a href="http://gsofact.org/content-files/File/VolunteerEssentials/VEFullVersion.pdf">gsofact.org/content-files/File/VolunteerEssentials/VEFullVersion.pdf</a></li><li>• <a href="http://gsofact.org/content-files/File/transforming_leadership.pdf">gsofact.org/content-files/File/transforming_leadership.pdf</a></li><li>• <a href="http://girlscouts.org">girlscouts.org</a></li><li>• <a href="http://girlscouts.org/en/our-program/our-program.html">girlscouts.org/en/our-program/our-program.html</a></li></ul>