

Girl Scout Ceremonies 1

Important Ceremonies in Girl Scouting

Bridging ceremonies mark a girl's move from one level of Girl Scouting to another.

Flag ceremonies can be part of any activity that honors the American flag.

A **Fly-Up** is a bridging ceremony for Girl Scout Brownies bridging to Girl Scout Juniors. Girls receive the Girl Scout pin along with their Brownie wings.

Founder's Day or Juliette Low's Birthday, October 31, is a time to remember the important role Juliette Low played in the development of the Girl Scout movement in the United States.

Girl Scout Birthday ceremonies can be held on or near March 12, the date Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Scouting in the United States of America.

A **Girl Scout Bronze Award ceremony** honors Girl Scout Juniors who have earned the Girl Scout Bronze Award and is usually held at the troop/group level or combined with council recognition.

A **Girl Scout Silver Award ceremony** honors Girl Scouts who earn the Girl Scout Silver Award and is often combined with the Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony at the council level.

A **Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony** honors Girl Scouts who have earned the highest award in Girl Scouting and often takes place at council level.

Girl Scouts' Own is a girl-planned program that allows girls to explore their feelings around a topic, such as friendship or the Girl Scout Promise and Law, using spoken word, favorite songs, poetry, or other expressions. It is never a religious ceremony.

Investiture welcomes new members, girls or adults, into the Girl Scout family for the first time. Girls receive their Girl Scout, Girl Scout Brownie, or Girl Scout Daisy pin at this time.

Journey ceremonies honor Girl Scouts who have earned the final award along a Journey. The ceremonies are usually held at the troop/group level and invite the girls to develop a themed celebration of their Journey, often including friends and family.

Opening ceremonies start the Girl Scout meeting.

Pinning ceremonies help celebrate when girls receive grade-level Girl Scout pins.

Rededication ceremonies are an opportunity for girls and adults to renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Tips for Holding Ceremonies

1. **Devote sufficient time to planning the ceremony.** Good ceremonies have a clear purpose and enrich the meaning and mood of the ceremony.
2. **Use Journey adult guides and *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*** to help girls plan their ceremonies.
3. **Take safety precautions** when using candles or fires, or when the girls construct bridges or platforms. Refer to *Volunteer Essentials* and the *Safety Activity Checkpoints* (available through your council) for specific advice.
4. **Add personal elements to traditional ceremonies.** Use favorite poems, songs, stories, and sayings, or have the girls write something new.
5. **Consider the role of colors and symbols** that the girls might use in their ceremony.
6. **Observe flag etiquette** when the girls hold flag ceremonies.

Ceremony Planner

Purpose:

Theme:

When:

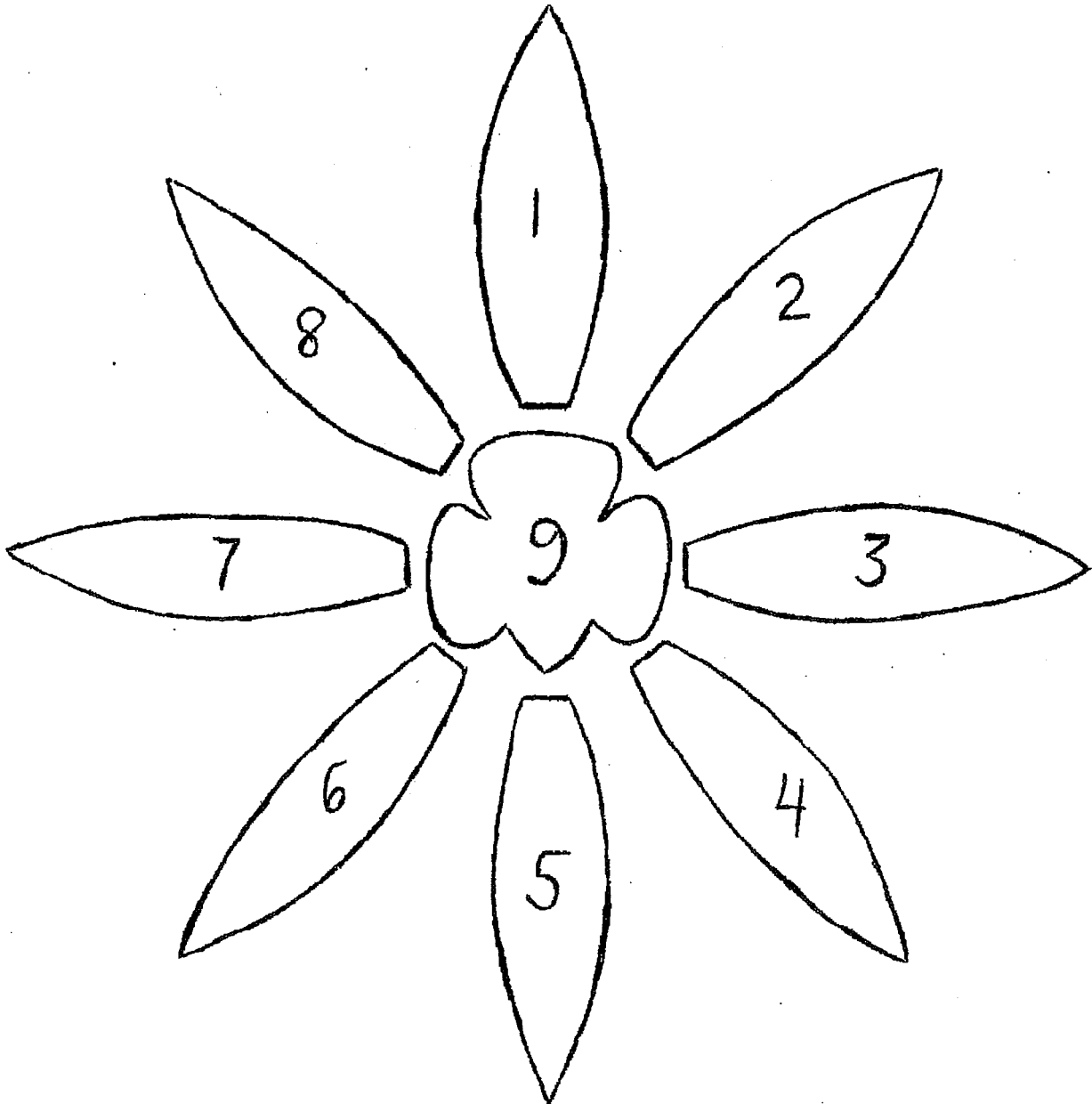
Where:

Guests:

	Activities	Props	Who's Responsible
Before Ceremony:			
Opening:			
Main:			
Closing:			

Evaluate:

ALL OCCASION CEREMONY



May be used for such ceremonies as: history of Scouting, Scout's Own, closing of troop meeting, collecting of Juliette Low funds, or others troops may have.

Directions on other side.

One girl may be used for each segment. Other members of group may participate in other ways such as singing, arrangements, and the like.

1967

EXPLANATION OF ALL OCCASION CEREMONY

We will form a daisy that will tell us the story of Girl Scouting.

- #1. Juliette Gordon Low was the founder of Girl Scouting in the United States. She was fondly known as Daisy to her friends.
- #2. She started the first troop in Savannah, Georgia which was her home. Her birthplace may be visited if you go to Savannah.
- #3. The birthday of Girl Scouting in America is March 12, 1912. Every year Girl Scouts celebrate that day with parties, special ceremonies or service projects.
- #4. Juliette Low learned about Scouting from Lord Baden-Powell, the Founder of Scouting, whom she met in England. Inspired and enthusiastic with this youth program, she led three Girl Guide companies in England and Scotland. Then she returned to America with "something for the girls" and a dream of world peace and friendship through a program that would unite the young people of all lands.
- #5. The first group of girls decided to change the name of Girl Guides to Girl Scouts. The very first camp was held the same year, 1912.
- #6. Daisy Low worked endlessly and even sold her jewelry to spread the exciting idea of Scouting. Even her deafness in later years did not hinder her.
- #7. Millions of girls have made the promise since then, and the promise is the very same as Daisy Low made to herself when she first brought Girl Scouting to America over 50 years ago.
- #8. Juliette Low wished Girl Scouts could know Scouts and Guides in other countries. When she died, the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund was established in her memory to help her dream come true. Each year Girl Scouts make a voluntary contribution to this Fund and by so doing they help young people of other lands meet and know each other at the World Centers and other International gatherings.
- #9. Complete our "Daisy" with the Trefoil, the symbol of the Promise made by Scouts everywhere.

DAISY INVESTITURE CEREMONY

In preparation, make enough petals out of poster board for each girl to add to assemble the troop Daisy. The yellow center is the leader, for without her, there would be no troop!

This ceremony can be adapted to the number of girls you have in your troop by omitting or combining "petal" readings. Older scouts or moms can help Daisies read their "petal". Girls should add their name to their petals before adding them to make the troop Daisy.

- Leader: First we will start with the center of the flower.
- The First thing to know about being a Daisy is that you make a promise.
- 1st Petal: Saying "On My Honor" means that you are giving your word that you will do your best to do something.
- 2ND Petal: When you give your word to try to live by the Girl Scout Law, you're saying that you are going to help make the world a better place.
- 3rd Petal: The Woman who started Girl Scouts was Juliette Gordon Low. Her nickname Was "Daisy". That's why this level of scouting is called Daisies.
- Together we will learn more about Girl Scouting.
- 4TH Petal: "Be Prepared" is the Girl Scout Motto. Girls learn to be ready to do things so they are ready for bigger and better adventures, so they are ready to help, so they are Ready to lead, so they are ready for anything!
- 5th Petal: "Do a good turn daily" is the Girl Scout Slogan. Good turns are the kind of things you do without being asked. You do not receive a reward, but you feel good inside.
- 6th Petal: All Girl Scouts are sisters. We learn there are many likenesses in all people, but where there are differences, we gain exciting opportunities of understanding.
- 7th Petal: We will become better citizens and learn how we can be better neighbors to all people and countries worldwide.
- 8th Petal: Our Daisy pin has an outline of the Trefoil around it. The Trefoil is the symbol of the Promise made by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere.

9TH Petal: The birthday of Girl Scouting is March 12th 1912. Each year we celebrate another year of scouting. 2012 was special because this was the year we celebrated 100 years of Girl Scouting in the United States.

10th Petal: Daisy Low worked endlessly and even sold her jewelry to spread the excitement of Girl Scouting. Even her deafness in later years did not hinder her!

11th Petal: Millions of girls have made the Girl Scout Promise since then, and the ideals are the same today as when Daisy Low had the first meeting 100 years ago.

12TH Petal: Most of all, we have fun!

The troop can say the GS Promise together, or each girl can say individually.

Leaders pin each girl with a Daisy Girl Scout Pin.

Brownie Investiture/Rededication Ceremony, Poem and Story

Brownie Girl Scout Investiture

(Can be adapted for indoors or outdoors)

Supplies: Brownie Girl Scout pins for new members, a "pond" (mirror or covered foil) to be set on the floor surrounded by leaves/plants - real or artificial.

Procedure: Members to be invested are outside the meeting room. They knock on the door. Leader opens it and asks:

LEADER: "Who comes to these woods?"

GIRLS: "We do!"

LEADER: "What do you want?"

GIRLS: "We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts."

LEADER: "Please come in."

(Brownies enter and stand in orderly line)

LEADER: We all remember the Brownie Girl Scout story from our handbook. We, too, will perform a little magic of let's pretend. Close your eyes. (While leader is reciting the poem, the older Brownie Girl Scouts set up the "pond".)

LEADER:

"Cross your little fingers,
Stand upon your toes
That's a bit of magic
Every Brownie Girl Scout knows.
Now we all are standing in a forest glade.
Listen very carefully
See the magic made.
Open your eyes
Here we are in the big woods

Before you is a pond
You can almost hear the Wise Old Owl
And the friends of whom you're fond."
*(Assist each girl to the pond and while turning her -
repeat :)*

"Twist me and turn me and show me an elf,
I looked in the water and saw.
(Girl says, "Myself".)

(Place Brownie Girl Scout pin on uniform upside
down, give Girl Scout handshake, and ask the new
member to repeat the Girl Scout Promise. She then
stands to the side. Repeat process for each girl.)

*NOTE TO LEADERS: At this time, all girls make the
Girl Scout sign and repeat the Promise. Call each
girl forward and place her membership pin on her
clothing upside down. Explain that the pin is upside
down because she should go home and do three good
turns ... one for each part of the Promise. When the
good turns are completed, her parent or guardian
can turn the pin right side up. Note that you hope to
see all the pins turned over by the next meeting.
(Discuss the meaning of good turns with the girls
prior to the ceremony).
(At this point, you may wish to sing a song.)*

LEADER: "Uncross your little fingers,
Down from off your toes,
Then the magic goes away,
As every Girl Scout knows."

COURT OF AWARDS

Supplies: A card for each letter in the word "badges" with the speaking part on the back.

Procedure: Each girl holds up her letter, reads her part and stays in place until the word is spelled out and the leader has spoken.

B stands for the **BADGES** to be given today. They are outward signs of an inner accomplishment. They are not as important as the work needed to earn them.

A is for the positive **ATTITUDE** we gain from knowing that the time and energy needed to complete these badges have given us new knowledge.

D is for the individual **DEVELOPMENT** we have experienced by completing these badges.

G is for the **GROWTH** we have shown by earning these badges. Each requirement has advanced us one step further in life.

E is for the **ENERGY** necessary to earn these badges. Badges do not come easily...they should not or their value would be small. Badges must present challenges and satisfaction in accomplishment.

S stands for **SELF-RESPECT**. By developing our talents and strengthening our weaknesses, we begin to take pride in ourselves.

LEADER: And so we have badges to be given at this Court of Awards. As your leader, I know the work you have done to earn them. I know you are eager to wear them and it is with great pride and feeling of accomplishment that I present them to you today. (Call each girl forward to make the presentations.)

Note: This format could be used to explain the letters in **TRY-ITS, SIGNS, CHARMS PATCHES**, etc. Simplify the wording for younger girls.

Brownie Fly Up Ceremony using 13 Candles

(Girls line up by their "candle" order)

Moms or older scouts can help Brownies read text for each candle

Leader #1: Girl Scouting is strengthened by our love and dedication to our Girl Scout code of living...the Girl Scout Promise & Law.

Leader #2: They are the cornerstones upon which we have built a program that will develop each one of us to assume the responsibilities and accept the privileges of citizenship and to develop a set of true values.

GS #1: These 3 candles represent the 3 parts of the Girl Scout Promise. Let us repeat the Promise together.

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.

GS #2: This candle represents duty of the Girl Scout to God as the Creator of all things. (Light middle candle)

GS #3: This candle shows the love of country and love of all people, regardless of their nationality, religion or color of skin. (Light 2nd candle)

GS #4: This candle shows the true code of Girl Scouting...the Girl Scout Law. A Girl Scout lives by this law. (Light 3rd candle)

Leader #1: Every time you make the GS promise you will remember it is a very personal promise. It is personal because it means you are taking a code of honor which you will try to live by.

GS #5: These 10 candles represent the Girl Scout Law. Let us repeat the Law together.

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

- GS #6: I will do my best to be HONEST AND FAIR.
I am a Girl Scout.
You can trust me with your innermost thoughts. I tell the truth, do my work honestly and treat others the way I want to be treated.
- GS #7: I will do my best to be FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL.
I am a Girl Scout.
It shall be my personal privilege to be the kind of friend you would like to have, finding out if you need my listening ears or helping hands to help make things better.
- GS #8: I will do my best to be CONSIDERATE AND CARING.
I am a Girl Scout.
It is my deep desire to be thoughtful of others and show I care by doing little things, not just for the praise I might receive.
- GS #9: I will do my best to be COURAGEOUS AND STRONG.
I am a Girl Scout.
I will have the courage to stand up for what I believe. I will have the strength to stay physically fit, mentally awake and morally strong.
- GS #10: I will do my best to be RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT I SAY AND DO.
I am a Girl Scout.
I am true to the things I think are right and good. I will be mindful with my words and actions.
- GS #11: I will do my best to RESPECT MYSELF AND OTHERS.
I am a Girl Scout.
I will do my best in the way I behave and the way I treat others, so I may be a positive influence on those around me.
- GS #12: I will do my best to RESPECT AUTHORITY.
I am a Girl Scout.
It is my special duty to follow the directions of those responsible for me and to obey the laws of my country. By respecting authority, I set an example for others to follow.
- GS #13: I will do my best to USE RESOURCES WISELY.
I am a Girl Scout.
I will learn not to waste what we have. I will protect what nature has given us, so we may have more to share with others.

GS #14: I will do my best to MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.
I am a Girl Scout.
I will care for all living things. I will take an active interest in my environment and help make it a better place to live.

GS #15: I will do my best to BE A SISTER TO EVERY GIRL SCOUT.
I am a Girl Scout.
I think of Girl Scouts everywhere, not as strangers, not in terms of color, race, or religion, but as friends I haven't met.

Leader #2: As Junior Girl Scouts, you will live by this law. It will serve as a daily reminder of the way you would like to act at home, at school, in your community, and even when you are alone.

(Girls form Brownie Ring)

Leader #1: The time has now come for you to take wings and fly-up to Junior GS. We have enjoyed working together with you as a troop and have many fond memories of the past few years. We look forward to working with each of you in the years to come.

Leader #2: Since you have been a registered Brownie GS, you are entitled to wear the Brownie wings on your Junior Vest. It gives me great pleasure to present them to you. (Pin wings on each fly-up. Announce each one's name while doing so. When done girls go back to Brownie ring and hold hands)

Leader #1: Both leaders will be continuing with our troop (When applicable). We will cross the bridge first in order to receive the girls as Juniors.

(BROWNIE Circle – All girls should be holding hands. As a girl's name is called, say in unison **“Now it's time to say goodbye, break the ring and out you fly.”** The fly-up leaves the circle and crosses the bridge. The leader pins the Bridge to Juniors on the fly-up (if requirements have been completed.)

Leader #2: We present to you Junior Troop _____. (Insert congratulatory statement here.)

The Spelling of Girl Scouting

These can be put on pieces of posterboard or just read (or memorized) as the girls choose.

- G** is for the **Gracious** way we all proclaim our birth
points up the **Ideas** shared and those we'd like unearthed
- R** is for **Respect** we have for every race and creed
- L** is for our **Loyalty** to promises we heed
- S** is for **Sincerity** of deed and word and mind
- C** is for the **Countless** ways in which these are combined
- O** is **Obligation** that we owe to fellow man
- U** means that it's **You** who must be first to lend a hand
- T** is for the **Teamwork** which has evidenced our growth
- I** is for **Integrity** which backs the Girl Scout oath
- N** is for the **Noble** way we remember days of old
- G** is for the **Grateful** thanks for efforts toward our goal

Each of these is Girl Scouting
What work! What fun! What pride!
To recall with admiration
And seek with greater stride

More Ideas for Presenting Awards

- ◆ Wrap recognitions in festive packages
- ◆ Put recognitions on pipe cleaner stems in a flower pot
- ◆ Put recognitions in a plastic egg for a springtime ceremony
- ◆ Put recognitions from the World of the Out-Of-Doors
 - On leafy branches or pine boughs
 - In a bandana on a stick
 - On a natural wood plaque
- ◆ Put recognitions from the World of People
 - On a paper doll chain
 - Attached to international flags
 - On small U.S. Flags
- ◆ Put recognitions from the World of Well Being
 - On cardboard hearts
 - On tongue depressors
- ◆ Put recognitions from the World of Today and Tomorrow
 - On paper airplanes
 - Attached to pencils or rulers
- ◆ Put recognitions from the World of the Arts
 - Attached to paintbrushes or sheet music
 - In crayon boxes
 - Strung on balloons
 - With a photograph of something girls did

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

Girl Scout meetings should have an opening and closing. They provide a frame in which to work. An opening signals to the girls that the meeting has begun and it is time to get down to business. The closing allows the girls a special moment to end the meeting and say good-bye.

Both ceremonies are usually very short and simple. They will mean more if they are made up by the troop/group and varied from meeting to meeting.

Any of the following ideas would be appropriate for either an opening or closing. Two or three could be combined if a longer ceremony is desired.

1. Flag ceremony.
2. Reciting of Promise and Law.
3. Have each girl give an example of how they observed the Girl Scout slogan "Do a Good Turn Daily" since the last meeting.
4. Sing a song.
5. Recite a poem.
6. Friendship circle with linked hands.
7. Discuss a symbol of Girl Scouting and its meaning:
Membership Pin The Uniform
World Trefoil Pin Trefoil Shape
World Thinking Day Symbol Girl Scout Sign
8. Talk about how the program helps us live up to our Girl Scout motto "Be Prepared."

Special Closings

1. Clean-Up (Good for young girls)

The children skip about the room arranging everything neatly, singing to the tune of "London Bridge."

Weave the magic in and out, in and out, in and out,

Weave the magic in and out, we are Girl Scouts.

We have tidied everything, everything, everything,

We have tidied everything, we are Girl Scouts.

Finally, the girls line up before the leader who asks, "Is everything finished?"

The children answer: "Everything."

The leader asks: "Is nothing left?"

The children answer: "Nothing!"

The leader says: "Then be gone!"

(Leader can wave a special "good-bye wand" as girls silently tiptoe out.)

2. Magic Tunnel - When hats and coats are on, the Girl Scouts stand in two lines facing each other, raising their arms and holding hands to make an arch. The two farthest from the door go under the arch, then the next two, etc. The tunnel diminishes until the last two go.

3. Good-Bye Song - Tune: "Good Night Ladies"

Good-Bye (name of level...repeat 3 times)

It's sad to see you go.

Note: Can be sung while doing the Magic Tunnel (above).

4. Good-Night Song - Tune: "Taps"

Night has come,

Owls are out,

Beetles hum round about,

Tip-toe so,

Out they creep,

Girl Scouts go home to sleep.

5. Girl Scout Out

Stand in circle with a girl in the center. Spell G-I-R-L-S-C-O-U-T. Girl in center touches the top of a head as each letter is said. The three girls that get the letters O, U, T leave the circle and line up by the door or are given permission to leave with their designated adult. The remaining girls close up the space and the spelling begins again. Keep repeating until all are eliminated.

6. Taps

Hand motions:

Day is done - arms are held extended with palms down, shoulder level

Gone the sun - lower arms slightly

From the lakes - turn palms up, raise arms slightly

From the hills - raise arms higher

From the sky - raise arms level with top of head

All is well - lower arms to shoulder height, place right hand on left elbow

Safely rest - cross left hand to right elbow

God is nigh - bow head into crossed arms

Variations of "Taps"

Daylight:

Thanks and praise, for our days

'Neath the sun, 'neath the trees, 'neath the sky,

As we go, this we know,

God is nigh.

Evening:

So good night, peaceful night

Till the light of the dawn shineth bright.

God is near, do not fear,

Friend, good night.

Juliette: On this day, we have come
 From the North, from the South
 East and West, all your dreams
 Will live on, Juliette.

7. Spread Arm Good-bye Circle - Extend arms sideways at shoulder level, drop halfway to sides, step one pace in and hold hands not with the people on either side of you but with the person next to them. Every other person will be holding hands and the arms will make an interesting zig zag pattern. Sing a good-bye song.

8. Girl Scout Good-Bye Song

Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"

Now our Girl Scout meeting ends,
Say good-bye to all our friends
To our homes we Girl Scouts go
Singing songs to let you know,
We are happy as can be,
Working, playing, merrily.

9. Native American Benediction

May the Great Spirit - Extend right arm straight overhead
In the future - Slant arm ahead
As in the past - Slant arm behind
Be in our hearts - Right hand on heart
As in our prayer - Bring hands together at chest
Repeat, using only gestures, no words

10. Friendship Circle with Friendship Wish

Girls stand in circle with arms crossed right over left and grasping the hands of the person on either side. A designated person starts the passing of the friendship wish by thinking a silent wish and then symbolically passing the wish to the person on her right by squeezing her hand. That girl then thinks her own silent wish and continues the "squeeze". This is repeated until the "squeeze" has gone around the entire circle. When the originator receives the "squeeze" she says, "God Bless the Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere. Goodbye". The girls drop their hands and leave in silence.

Note: This could be preceded by singing "Taps".

Hint: So that the location of the "squeeze" can be identified, have each girl extend her right foot as she passes on her wish.

Flag Ceremony Guidelines

Keep it simple. Emphasis needs to be on respect for the flag rather than on the commands or techniques. Adults can ask girls these questions when planning:

1. Who will carry the flag?
2. Who will be the color guards?
3. Who will give the directions for the ceremony?
4. What song will be sung? Who will sound the pitch and start the song?
5. Will a poem or quotation be included? Who will say or read it?
6. After the Pledge of Allegiance, will the Girl Scout Promise and the Law be said?
7. In what order will the parts of the ceremony take place?
8. When will the group practice?
9. Where will the flags be placed at the end of the ceremony?

Terms Used in a Flag Ceremony

The **color bearer** (or flag bearer) is the person who carries the flag. There is one color bearer for each flag used in the ceremony.

The **color guard** is a team that guards the flags. Any even number of guards may be used, but usually four or six girls are sufficient.

The **Girl Scout in charge** (or caller) is a designated Girl Scout who announces or calls each part of the ceremony.

Possible Commands for a Flag Ceremony

"Girl Scouts, attention." Used to announce that the flag ceremony is to begin.

"Color guard, advance." This signals the color guard to advance with the flags, or advance to pick up the flags.

"Color guard, post the colors." This directs the color guard to place the flag in flag standards, or to attach the grommets to a flag pole rope.

"Color guard, honor your flag." The color guard salutes the American flag.

"Please join us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance." (Followed by an appropriate song, quotation or poem, if so desired.)

OR

"Color guard, honor your flag." The color guard salutes the American flag.

"Color guard, retire the colors." This asks the color guard to remove the flag from standards, or to lower the flag, detach from the rope, and fold prior to being dismissed.

"Color guard, dismissed." The color guard leaves in formation, with or without the flag.

"Girl Scouts, dismissed." Girls may leave in formation or be at ease where they have been standing.

Handling the American Flag

Display of the American flag is governed by law to ensure that it will be treated with the respect due the flag of a great nation. This is known as the United States Flag Code. Some of the rules most useful for Girl Scouts are:

- The American flag must be placed in the center, and higher, when displayed with a group of state, local, or organizational flags flown from staffs. It may also be positioned to the right of other flags. (If girls were to hold the flag while facing their audience, their right side would be the flag's own right.)
- When displayed from a staff in a house of worship or public auditorium, the flag of the United States must hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergy's or speaker's right as he or she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergy or speaker or to the right of the audience.
- The flag is to be hoisted briskly and lowered slowly with dignity.
- The flag should never be allowed to touch anything beneath it, nor should it ever be carried flat or horizontally—always aloft and free.
- Never use the flag as a cover or place anything on top of it.

- No disrespect of any kind should be shown to the flag of the United States. It should be kept clean.
- The flag, when carried in a procession with other flags, should be either on the marching right or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.
- When you display the flag on a wall or in a window where people see it from the street, it should be displayed flat with the blue part at the top and on the flag's own right (which is the observer's left).
- When displayed after dark, the flag should be illuminated.

Retiring a Worn American Flag

Retiring an American flag is a special ceremony that ends with burning the flag and disposing of the ashes in a respectful manner. For further information, check with council program staff.

For more information about flag ceremonies, see *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*.