

Girl Scout Ceremonies

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

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.

Types of Ceremonies:

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 Gold Award ceremony](#) honors Girl Scouts who have earned the highest award in Girl Scouting and often takes place at council level.

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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.

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.

Planning Ceremonies

Girl Scouting operates on the principal 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, not the adults, to express themselves. Girls should have a part in making their own memories.

Planning should include the girls' ideas and input. As the girls get older, their responsibility for planning should expand. Keep in mind that different levels and/or groups will have different abilities. Be flexible—let the girls make mistakes and learn from them. It is your function to guide the group and provide an environment for creativity. The Ceremony Worksheet will help with troop planning.

Daisy	Brownie	Junior	Cadette	Senior/Ambassador
Choose a favorite song to sing	Choose a favorite song to sing	Decide on a theme	Decide on a theme	Plan and put on an area ceremony
Decide who they want to invite	Decide who they want to invite and make invitations	Decide who they want to invite and make invitations	Find songs and readings	Select site and make arrangements
	Setup before ceremony	Find songs and poems	Work with Junior sister troop to plan bridging	Contact Participants
	Serve refreshments	Make and serve refreshments	Make own props	Choose what to put in ceremony
	Help clean up	Clean Up	Clean Up	Conduct ceremony
				Clean Up

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CEREMONY WORKSHEET

Name of the ceremony _____

Purpose of theme _____

Date of the ceremony _____

Place of the ceremony _____

Length of the ceremony _____

Who will attend? _____

How will the ceremony begin? _____

What songs, poems, quotations will be included? _____

What will the main section consist of? _____

What formations will be used in presenting the ceremony? _____

How will the ceremony end? _____

Who will do each part? _____

Who will record the ceremony for your troop archives? _____

What decorations or props do we need? _____

Who will bring the needed items?

Item _____ Who will bring _____

Will refreshments be served? What will they be? Who will bring them? How much? Cost?

When will a rehearsal be scheduled for the ceremony? _____