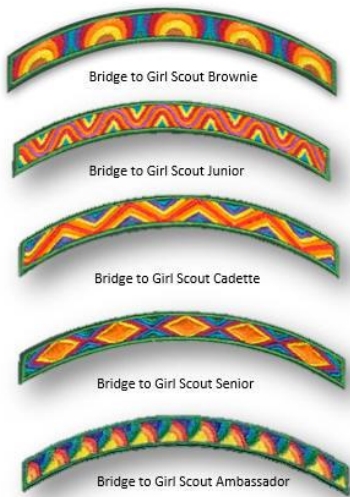


Tradition Tips & Tricks: Ceremonies

Learning to do things the Girl Scout Way!

Bridging Ceremonies

Moving On to New Adventures!



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. Most of all, it should be designed by the girls in true partnership with adults.

Bridging Ceremonies usually take place at the beginning or end of the Girl Scout year and can have three parts: (1) Opening: Guests are welcomed and the tone is set. (2) Main Section: The ceremony is explained and the girls celebrate moving from one level to the next. (3) Closing: Girls can participate in friendship circles and thank their guests.

Each of the ceremony's parts offers plenty of room for girls' creativity and individuality. The ceremony should always focus on paying tribute to Girl Scouts as they move forward.

Fly-Up

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. Brownie Girl Scout Wings show that a girl has completed her years as a Brownie. She is ready to "fly up" to Junior Girl Scouting.



Investiture, Rededication, and Pinning Ceremonies

Investiture welcomes new members – adults and girls – 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. Adults receive their Girl Scout pin, Insignia Tab, and Volunteer Position Pin.



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

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

Court of Awards

Court of Awards is a special ceremony recognizing girls' accomplishments. Girls are presented with their badges, year pins, and other recognitions earned during the year. Volunteers may also be recognized during the ceremony. The Court of Awards can be held anytime during the year, at any location, and as often as the troop wants.

Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award Ceremony

Highest Awards Recognition!

A Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award ceremony honors Girl Scouts who have earned these special awards and is usually held at the troop/group level or combined with council recognition.

GSMW holds a Highest Awards Ceremony annually where the council recognizes the hard work of these inspiring girls!



Girl Scouts' Own Ceremony

A Scouts' Own is a quite type of ceremony with a theme. It is called Scouts' Own because girls and their volunteers plan it themselves. It is not a religious service or ceremony and does not take the place of attending religious functions. It is an occasion in which girls express their deepest feelings about subjects that are meaningful to them. A Scouts' Own can be held at any time, indoors or out, at a troop meeting, inter-troop gathering, or in camp. It is difficult for Daisies and Brownies to plan a Scouts' Own. However, in being present at one, Brownies may begin to sense the deeper values of Scouting as they hear girls express their feelings, aspirations, or ideals.

Flag Ceremony

A flag ceremony honors the American flag as the symbol of our country and all the hopes, dreams, and people it represents. If your group includes girls from other countries, invited them to honor their flags too, and together conduct an international flag ceremony. Flag Ceremonies may take place indoors or out. The American flag is carried by a color guard for protection during a flag ceremony. All flag ceremonies share one thing – respect for the flag.

Flag ceremonies may be used for:

- Opening or closing meetings
- Opening or closing special events
- Beginning or closing a day
- Honoring a special occasion or special person
- Retiring a worn flag

