



Girl Scout Ceremonies

Ceremonies help Girl Scouts mark special events throughout the year, such as bridging to another level, earning a National Leadership Journey award, or getting a Girl Scout pin.

Ceremonies can commemorate accomplishments or simply make the beginning or end of a group's meeting special. Girls can plan a ceremony around a theme, such as friendship or nature, and express themselves in thought, words, or song. Whatever its purpose, every Girl Scout ceremony enables girls to share Girl Scout [history](#) and [traditions](#) and create their own special memories.

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.

If you need a little help planning your ceremony, this chart might give you some ideas! Mix and match one idea from each column.

Setting	Opening	Middle	Closing	Refreshments
Park	Flag ceremony	Skit	Moment of silence	Tea & cookies
Mall	Greeting from volunteers and girls	Poetry or stories	Final moment of sharing	Fruit salad, chees, and crackers
Playground	Thought of the day	Present Membership Pins	Light or put out candles	Sandwiches and juice
Living room	Form a Circle	Present Take Action project or artwork	Girl Scout motto or slogan	Pizza
Backyard or Patio	Song or dance	Personal thought	Special reading	S'Mores

Taken from <http://www.girlscouts.org/program/basics/traditions/ceremonies> .. The highlighted areas are links that can be additional help for you.