**Girl Scout Traditions**

As Girl Scouts, you will do many fun things and get to learn about people, places, the environment, and most of all, yourself.

Juliette Low knew how important it was to use special signs and words to help girls feel like they

were a part of a group. Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world use special signs to

communicate in the same language. The following definitions will help you understand more

about some of the words we use and how and when each sign is used. We also celebrate special

days in Girl Scouting and these are listed, too.

**Handshake**

A formal way of greeting other Girl Scouts or

Girl Guides. Shake left hands and give the Girl

Scout Sign with the right hand.

**Sign**

The Girl Scout Sign is a symbol of the Girl

Scout Promise. Hold up the right hand with the

first three fingers up – each finger stands for

one part of the promise. Use the Girl Scout

Sign whenever making the promise.

**Quiet Sign**

A way to let girls and parents know it is time to

be quiet. A leader raises her hand and keeps it

raised until each person sees the sign, stops

talking, and raises their hand until everyone is

quiet.

**Girl Scout Promise**

The pledge made by each member, both girls

and adults, promising to try to live up to the

ideals of Girl Scouting.

**Girl Scout Law**

The credo of Girl Scouting. A girl lives the 10

parts of the Girl Scout Law to fulfill the Girl

Scout Promise.

**Motto**

“Be Prepared.”

**Slogan**

“Do a good turn daily”

**Friendship Circle**

A circle formed by Girl Scouts standing and

clasping hands. Before they reach for each

other's hands, girls cross their right hand over

their left. The circle represents the unbroken

chain of friendship among Girl Scouts and Girl

Guides all over the world.

**Friendship squeeze**

A hand squeeze that travels around a

friendship circle from one person to another

after someone starts it.

**Kaper Chart**

A grid system, wheel, or table showing the job

assigned to each girl or group of girls for any

given project. Useful for meetings, campouts

and special events.

**Sit-upon**

A "cushion" often made by Girl Scouts to use

when the ground is damp or to keep their

clothes clean.

**Swaps**

Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately

Pinned Somewhere. These often are made

and traded by troops at events and activities.

**Buddy System**

A safety practice in which girls of equal ability

are paired to help and to keep track of each

other.

**Tagalong**

A nonregistered child attending a Girl Scout

event.

**Investiture**

The ceremony at which a girl becomes a Girl

Scout by making the Girl Scout Promise and

receiving a membership pin.

**Rededication**

A formal ceremony at which a girl or adult, who

previously was invested, renews her Girl Scout

Promise.

**Bridging**

Activities that prepare girls to move to the next

grade level in Girl Scouting.

**Court of Awards**

A ceremony that can be held any time during

the year at which badges, recognitions and

awards are presented.

**World Thinking Day**

Celebrated on Feb. 22, the birthday of both

Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. This day is

celebrated all over the world as Girl Guides

and Girl Scouts think about, learn about and

greet each other.

**Girl Scout Week**

The week containing March 12, the Girl Scout

birthday, the anniversary of the first Girl Scout

troop meeting in the United States in 1912.

This observance is celebrated each year,

starting with the Sunday on or preceding

March 12.

**Girl Scout Birthday**

The official birthday of Girl Scouting, March 12,

is celebrated during Girl Scout Week, and

marks the first meeting of a Girl Scout troop

held in 1912.

**Juliette Low Birthday**

Oct. 31, 1860. Girl Scouts celebrate the

birthday of the founder of the Girl Scout

movement in many ways.

**Girl Scout Leader’s Day**

A day of appreciation for adult volunteers in

Girl Scouting held on April 22 every year.

**GSUSA**

Girl Scouts of the United States of America

**National Centers**

Two national centers are owned and operated

by GSUSA. They are the Juliette Gordon Low

Girl Scout National Center and the Edith Macy

Conference Center.

**Girl Guides**

Girl Scouts in many other countries are called

Girl Guides.

**WAGGGS**

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl

Scouts. It was established in 1928 to promote

the movement worldwide. The World

Association's mission is to enable girls and

young women to develop to their fullest

potential as responsible citizens of the world.

Your World Trefoil Pin shows that you are a

part of this worldwide movement.

**Program Activity Centers**

Our Cabana in Mexico, Pax Lodge in England,

Sangam in India, and Our Chalet in

Switzerland. These are owned by WAGGGS.

**Juliette Low World Friendship Fund**

A Girl Scouts of the USA fund that supports

educational programs, service projects, training

and international travel to foster friendship

among girls from the 144 countries of

WAGGGS.