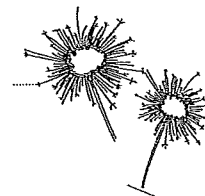


Get Ready to Celebrate!



At Girl Scouts, we believe every experience should be wow-worthy. In everything we do, we encourage girls to follow the fun, do what they love, and never back down from a big adventure.

What better way to celebrate these big moments, than to get her involved? Encourage her to find her inner party-planner, embrace our Girl Scout history – rich in traditions, and make memories to last a lifetime.

We have a few special dates and traditions and endless possibilities to make an ordinary day be an extraordinary celebration. Let the girls decide what is important to them and what sounds like a good excuse to have a gathering with friends and family. So, let's start brainstorming around some dates to consider:

Annual Girl Scout Dates:

October 1 – New membership year begins
October 31 – Juliette Gordon Low's birthday
February 22 – World Thinking Day/WAGGGS awareness
March 12 – Girl Scout Birthday
March – Girl Scout Week
April 22 – Leader Appreciation Day
June – Year End / Bridging Ceremonies
Every 3 years – National Girl Scout Convention

Fun Dates to consider: (web search for a ba-zillion more!)

August 10 – National S'mores Day
November 24 – Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day
January – National Thank You month
February 27 – National Girl Scout Cookie Week
May 15 – International Day of Families
June 14 – Flag Day
June 27 – National Campout Day
July 30 – International Day of Friendship

Q: Oh My! Do we have to do all of these?

A: Do what the girls feel is important or fun to them. Every troop is different and diverse.

Q: We are a new troop with no money to spend yet, now what?

A: Find ways to reuse or repurpose supplies to make your event amazing and relevant to the girls.

Q: We have never been in Girl Scouts before and don't know how to have a ceremony.

A: You have your local Service Unit team, your local network of leaders, and the internet as resources to help.

Now let's look at a few simple Girl Scout traditions that make our ceremonies a bit more meaningful and connect us with our Girl Scout sisters around the world:

Girl Scout Traditions

GS Handshake	GS Friendship Circle & Squeeze	Investiture/Rededication Ceremony
GS Promise Sign	Good Deed Tradition	Flag Ceremony
GS Quiet Sign	SWAPS	Bridging Ceremony
GS Motto: "Be Prepared"	GS Slogan: "Do a good turn daily"	Girl Scout Promise & Law

Okay, we have a few dates in mind and several traditions we can work in to the ceremony so let's talk about the structure of the actual ceremony. The ceremony can be as elaborate or simple as the girls decide, so have fun with the themes, activities, parent involvement, food, etc.

Three Basic Parts to a Ceremony:

Opening: Welcome your guests, state your purpose, and set the mood.

Main Part: Celebrate with speeches, poetry, songs, skits, etc.

Closing: Saying good-byes and thank-you's to the guests.

Resources:

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

Flag ceremony training for your troop from our own council staff member Beth Osborne: bosborne@gssn.org

Ceremony Ideas: http://www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts/forms/RC04_Guidelines_for_Planning_GS_Ceremonies.pdf

Scouting Web: <http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/ceremoniesgirl.aspx>

Web searches galore!

Youtube – videos of songs with someone actually singing them.

Ceremony Planning Worksheet

Name of Ceremony

Date

Time

Length

Setting

Purpose

Theme

Audience

Introductory Remarks

Songs, poems, quotations included

Props needed

Formations used

Opening Section

Main Section

Closing

Participants

Decorations

Troop archivist/photographer

Media or Publicity

Invitations

Refreshments

Budget

Rehearsal