

# Ceremonies - Time to Celebrate Girl Scouting

Ceremonies mark special Girl Scout events throughout the year. They can celebrate major transitions, such as bridging to another level or getting your Girl Scout pin, commemorate your accomplishment when you earn awards, or simply make the beginning or end of your group's meeting special. You can also plan a ceremony around a theme, such as friendship or nature, which you wish to explore in thought, words or song. Whatever its purpose, every Girl Scout ceremony enables girls to share in a special part of Girl Scout history and create their own special memories.

Here are 10 different types of ceremonies – in alphabetical order – that you might consider working into your troop experience at some point or another..



## HINTS FOR 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 *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting* and the Ceremony Planner** to help plan your ceremony.
- 3. Take safety precautions** when using candles or fires, or when constructing bridges or platforms. Refer to *Volunteer Essentials* for specific advice.
- 4. Add personal elements to traditional ceremonies.** Use favorite poems, songs, stories and sayings, or write something of your own.
- 5. Consider the role of colors and symbols** that you might use in your ceremony.
- 6. Observe flag etiquette** when doing flag ceremonies.

### Bridging

- Completing the steps to learn about the next level of Girl Scouts. Found on VTK or in the Girl Scout handbook for each level. (i.e.: when Brownies bridge to Juniors, the steps are in the Brownie Handbook or Leader's Guide.) The patch for all levels is a rainbow, but differently shaped for each level.

### Campfire

- Gathering around the fire for songs, fun and inspiration.

### Court of Awards

- Awarding of Girl Scout Badges or Journey Awards and other recognitions or event patches.

### Flag Ceremony

- Done with respect and proper handling of the U.S. flag. Can also include state, troop, Girl Scout Council or WAGGGS flags.

### Friendship Circle

- Ring of people crossing or holding hands. Usually a closing for Girl Scout events or meetings. There are a variety of Friendship Circle styles.

### Fly-Up

- Girls who are Girl Scout Brownies "fly up" to GS Juniors and receive their "Brownie Wings." This is different than Bridging. The Wings are because Brownie leaders used to be called Brown Owls. At the Fly-up ceremony the Brown Owl gives the girls wings to carry them on to the next level of Girl Scouts.

### Investiture

- A welcome into Girl Scouting; say the Girl Scout Promise, receive the Pin, and become a member of Girl Scouts.

### Opening / Closing

- Used at troop meetings or other gatherings of Girl Scout groups.

### Rededication

- Reaffirm your commitment to Girl Scouts.

### Scouts' Own

- Inspirational time expressing the spirit of Girl Scouts in whatever way seems appropriate to the girls; Not an entertainment or religious time. It may consist of readings, songs, poetry or a time of silence or sharing. Usually has a theme: Friendship – Honor – Peace – Camping – or even "what I liked best about the weekend" or "what I learned."