

Beyond Ziplock Baggies.....

Creative Ways to Hand out Badges and Patches

Leaderfest 2008

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We gathered these ideas from leaders across the U.S....and put in a few of our own ideas, too. The key is to allow yourself to be inspired from these ideas and go off in your own direction that works with the theme, the season, or the décor of your Court of Awards ceremony. The girls love pomp and circumstance, they love momentos, they love to be showered with attention, and the parents love seeing their little darling honored, too. Making their achievements special really means a lot to the girls.

We've left the names in of contributors we knew from GSCNC. Enjoy celebrating the achievements of your girls!

Gretchen and Barb

Get 1 helium balloon per girl. Tape or staple try-its/patches to the end of the streamer on the balloon. OR, put patches/badges INSIDE the balloon before you inflate it! They provide just enough weight to prevent the balloon from floating away yet still remain airborne! Make sure you have a name on the balloon somewhere!

Cut a huge trefoil out of green poster board (it's really not that hard!) Put green crepe paper streamers behind the trefoil -- 1 streamer per girl w/ try-its and patches attached.

Get a cheap clay pot (1 per girl). Sponge paint/decorate it. Attach one try-it or badge to a paper cupcake cup, then to a green chenille stem (in other words, make each patch/try-it into a flower...add leaves, etc.) "Plant them" in florist foam in the clay pot.

Do a Hawaiian theme (great in the winter!) Order cheap Hawaiian decorations from Oriental Trading or buy at your local "party and paper" store. Put each try-it/badge on a lei and present the lei to the girl. (Check out the Hawaiian Court of Awards script at the end of this handout).

Do a "Make new friends but keep the old" theme ceremony. Decorate everything in silver and gold (grab those 70% off decorations right after Christmas!) Buy cheap silver and gold metallic material and make little drawstring bags big enough to hold patches/try-its. Give the gold to the "old", graduating, flying up, or returning scouts and silver bags to the "new" ones (or you can be random with the colors).

Spa theme – Raid the local Dollar Store for cheap scented candles, lotions, loofas, etc. and include them with the badges. We made 2 “spa buckets” filled with goodies for our door prizes, too. (Older girls especially loved this!)

From: Barb Hunter Mahan and Gretchen Thompson, GSCNC

Place tryits and badges inside the waterproof pool containers.....Attach them to Junior vests made for 10 inch stuff dogs donated from BK.....Have the girls make decorative thumb tacks from flower and heart fun foam and then tack the awards around the larger foam flower room decorations.....Attach around the cardboard used for overhead slide projectors - the centers were pictures of the year's events.....Attach as ornaments on the ends of a popsicle Christmas tree in a small clay flower pot.....Place inside small jewelry boxes (with a bracelet inside as well from the Dollar Store)....Attach to cardboard tents (party invitation pattern in one of the American Girl Books).....Attach on bandannas.....Place inside crazy socks (girls all painted the bottom of a pair of socks with puffy paint - they kept one of their own that I used for awards and we mixed the mates all up - girls went home with 2 different socks).....Place inside cd jewel cases.....Place inside small book/diaryPut inside change purses that looked like stuff animals (check Oriental Trading for a source!).....Attached to ball caps.....Attach to homemade cloth backpacks.....Place on clothes or t-shirts pinned to a rope.....Put inside the lid of a box of chocolates.

From: Diana Pethtel, Field Director (dpethtel@gscnc.org)

One year our theme was gardening and I gave girls small bags of potpourri and the adults these real neat garden glove memo pads for lending me a hand with our garden! (ha-ha) I stapled the girls recognitions they earned since the last presentation on a themed cotton ribbon 3-4 inches wide (the kind you use for wreath bows) and cut nice on the bottom. I know many parents don't get around to sewing the badges and patches for a few months, so this long ribbon was sure not to get lost in the shuffle during the summer months. I guess you could even put a magnetic strip on it so it could be hung on the fridge! I have used sunflower, daisy (always appropriate), hats, etc., ribbon. Frank's usually has it on sale, so I just bought a few bolts.

Karen Yoho, Nation's Capital

I had a vision of a Christmas tree decorated with Try-It "ornaments". Perhaps out of green posterboard. You could also add tinsel or draw lights etc. with metallic marker.

Kelly Groff, Brownie Troop #1106, Olney, MD

Here is an idea I have used to present badges to a troop of Junior Girl Scouts. Get one of those straw wreaths (one for each girl) wrap the wreath in fabric, you can have the girls bring in fabric they like. It takes about 1/2 yard. If there is material left over a bow can be added. Use straight pins to attach the badges to the wreath. The size of the wreath depends on how many badges they have earned. Also, cut out of poster board a sash the correct color and attach the patches/badges on them.

We studied Egypt all year as our country for Thinking Day so I made pyramids with posterboard and had the badges and patches inside of it. At our year end bridging/court of awards we had earned our Sign of the Satellite so I did a shooting star. The star part had everything that went on the front of the vest/sash and the shooting part had all of their patches. Our girls loved neon green and yellow so I did the stars in those colors.

One of the girl's favorites when they were brownies - I got pinwheels and attached streamers to it and on each streamer was a try it or patch. I have made chocolate kiss roses and attached to each leaf a JR badge. I bought needlework ornament start frames and last year when my girls earned their leadership pin. I covered the cardboard with fabric and put the leadership in the center and then from the junior green and cadette blue ribbons I attached badges and patches. When Walgreen's had their sidewalk sale I picked up 10 for a \$1 little crystal plastic boxes - they are all different shapes and I put their badges in that one year.

I used to present the badges to the girls (Juniors) during their meeting time a couple of times a year. I found that this was much more tangible to the girls -- they didn't earn something in Sept and not have it to wear until May. Also, helped to make other girls more aware of things they had "almost" completed and encouraged them to get the final requirement done.

At the end of the year during our "awards program," I would present each girl a ribbon with small cards attached saying the name of the badge or patch the girl had received and verbally acknowledge her accomplishments. Some ribbons were quite long!

One thing we did last year at our Bridging ceremony was to make paper flowers with a cardboard backing in the shape of the trefoil behind, with streamers in the colors of the world hanging from it. We had little wooden pieces for the girls to hold on to. The badges and pins were then put on the streamers and given to the girls as they crossed the bridge. This went over very well. The year before we had large trefoils in plastic with the badges stapled on and the girls names on them. Of course we are looking for another different idea for this years bridging.

Make Daisies out of construction or poster board. Attaching badges to petals, also attaching to ribbons that can be pinned onto the girl's uniform during ceremony. These are very basic so you may have these already but sent your way anyway-just in case

How about stapling the badges/try-its to a thin ribbon and then tying the ribbon very tightly to a lollipop stick? Take assorted lollipops and stick them in Styrofoam and then have the Styrofoam spray painted brown already and precut to fit small clay flowerpots. Now you have a flowerpot full of flower- lollipops!! You could do one of the flower ceremonies and then hand these out as each girl says her part or at the end of the ceremony!!!

One of the neatest ideas I've seen is to take those small clay flowerpots and fill with Styrofoam. Hot glue your patches, badges, etc., to pipe cleaners and arrange with silk leaves or flowers as an arrangement. You can paint the girl's name on the pot and hand out as a bouquet of flowers.

Have you done the paperbag vest yet? We did this for our Bridging to Brownie, Daisies ... who weren't sure if they would continue so didn't make the vest with the rest of the troop.

We cut the vest from a plain brown grocery bag, then attached the one year star, Try-It, and Bridging patch, they had earned during Bridging steps then traced and colored on the Strips and such.

With TryIts you could make a mini Pizza Pan and mount them with a dab of hot glue on the back, to form a portion or whole Pizza. With Junior Badges perhaps a mounted on a funfoam Ice Cream dish, like scoops of Ice cream (if that is not too childish). Then for the IPP's you could build a Pyramid, as they are the 'Building Blocks of Life'.

Take a small terra cotta pot and paint it (we used silver and blue since several of the girls earned their silver award). Put Styrofoam into each pot. Take pieces of coated floral wire in varying lengths (4" up to 10"). Wrap one end of the wire tightly around the end of a pencil, then slide the wire off the pencil. You should have something that looks like this **O-----** Be sure the coil of wire is coiled tightly. Take each piece of wire and stick it into the Styrofoam in the pot. These will be standing up looking like flower stems. Take the badge or patch and wedge it into the coil. Now you have a pot full of patches and IP's. Once the girls take the patches out to be sewn on their vests, they can still use the pot and wire to display their favorite pictures.

Have the leaders write down something ahead of time to say about each girl, something fun-outstanding memory of the activities, etc. This keeps the ceremonies from being dry no matter what props are used in handing the girls their badges, patches, and other awards.

Tell them to invite parents and relatives, having the girls make invitations each time. The leaders should pencil in prospective dates on their troop planning calendars so they and the parents are not caught off guard. Parents deserve plenty of notice and troop information in a timely manner. This keeps them on your side, no matter what mistakes happen during the year.

Another idea is varying the location of the ceremonies from time to time. Having a lawn party where everyone brings their own blankets or chairs would be a nice change of pace, esp. for younger siblings. Have parents in charge of getting refreshments.

Put a notice in the newspaper afterward. Try to include a group picture.

A way to thank troop parent volunteers is to give each one a small plant for their garden. The girls can decorate Styrofoam cups or small pots. Baskets can be made of paper. Or the girls can present their parents with a flower- live or homemade.

Have the girls take turn with parts or running the ceremony. The busier they are, the less fidgety they are during the ceremony. Start and end on time! Everyone's time is valuable!

Do not wait until the last minute to plan the meeting or buy the supplies. A rushed leader takes a while to settle down and everyone wants the leader's attention as soon as she gets there.

Keep a notebook of ceremonies and evaluate them. Keep notes on each one you have used.

At bridging last year, we had silver and gold ribbons tied to the flowers and silver and gold rings (found in the wedding section of our local craft store). They represented the make new friends but keep the old... We thought this worked because some girls were bridging away from girls they had been with for awhile.

I use Microsoft Greetings Workshop to make up presentation certificates. I use the borders option to border the certificate. For the space explorer try-it, I used little planets. For the Christmas Parade patch, I used Christmas trees. Then, I type the try-it or patch name, the date, a Congratulations, and the girls name. I make the certificate about 3 inches by 8 inches, so I can get about 3 or 4 on a page. I print out about 4 pages, cut them out with pinking shears and staple the patch or try-it to the certificate. We have not lost a try-it yet.

My girls have also earned a lot of patches in the three months since our last ceremony. For our holiday themed ceremony next week, I made wreaths out of construction paper (all I had to work with, although I would've preferred felt or something) and I'm taping the girls try-its and patches around the wreath and I put a red bow at the top with their names on it.

One of the ideas we used was to make "Brownie" angels - our Court of Awards was in December (I think this idea came from Pack-O-Fun) - the leaders cut and glued the angel and the girls decorated them -

Materials: Brown grocery bags toilet paper tube doll hair in various shades
markers or crayons 1/4" or 1/2" wide ribbon hot glue

Using brown grocery bags - cut out 2 angel shapes for each angel using "pinking shears" (they looked like paper dolls with long skirts) - the leaders cut and glued the angel except for the bottom of the skirt. cut a toilet tube in half and glue into opening of shirt to make it stand up.

Girls added details like doll hair, faces and decorations on dress area with markers.

We took them home and then glued a piece of ribbon between the angels hands and stapled the Try-Its and other awards to it. At our COA they were all lined up on a table looking so festive. The girls later got to put them on their Christmas tree as a decoration.

Our latest COA we cut green trefoils - about 4" size and wrote each girls name on them - we stapled to this a gold wire edged ribbon (about 2 1/2" wide) and stapled all the Try-its and membership stars to each one - the girls pinned this to their vest using the star pin (this was great because they didn't lose it before the end of the meeting !)

We always give out try its earned the first half of the year at our annual Christmas Party. In the past I have put them little stockings, and last year I put them in a Christmas card.

We just had our first Court of Awards for this year at our Christmas Mother/Daughter Tea and used candy canes - double-sided sticky tape (make your own) with one try-it on one side and one on the other - we used small canes because of just 2 try-its, but if more, then could use larger, longer canes and attach down stem - we stuck to curve of cane, both sides.

I made felt flowers, and attached the badges to the centers of them when we earned the Plants and Animals badge. We attached the Frosty Fun badge to the center of paper snowflakes. I made envelopes out of Girl Scout wrapping paper for the Girl Scouting in the USA badge. We attached the badges to heart doilies in February. We don't like to just hand the girls a badge in a baggy or something.

Last year I made a copy of the Brownie membership pin (it was in the GS Uniforms, Insignia, and Recognitions book). Then I blew it up on the copier until it was about 4 inches square. Once I had it the size I wanted, I copied it onto heavy card stock paper. Then I cut out each "pin". I stapled a ribbon to the "pin" and stapled all the badges/Try-Its for the girl on the ribbon. I wrote the girl's name on the back of the "pin". Separately I did a program listing each girl and the badges she had earned. Another time I did the same basic thing only it was a green trefoil cut out of that foam stuff that looks like felt.

By handing out the badges and stuff this way, they don't get lost. And the girls have a little memento to remember the ceremony.

I've heard of leaders doing sashes made from ribbon with the awards stapled to the sash. It seemed a little to "Miss America" to me, but her girls seemed to like it.

The key seems to be stapling the awards to something so they don't get mixed up with someone else's or lost!

I have one very creative leader in my Service Area who in the past two years has: hot glued them to florist wires and used them as flowers in clay pot - garden theme (I used this at our leaders party and used decorated paper cups as the pot)....Made paper bag angels and glued them to ribbons on her robe - holiday theme....put them on a paper fan....posted them in a folder cut into the shape of a Trefoil that opened like a book, with the girls name on the front....Made rosette buttons with wide ribbons (badges on the ribbons) - everyone's a winner

I have just finished cutting out 13 green construction paper vests. I just folded the edges over to the middle, and cut arm holes, and the neck in a V shape. I will be hot gluing the badges and patches to the front or back, in proper position, to help the parents figure out what goes where. My co leader is also leader for a Brownie troop. She is making brown "vests" for her Brownies, and hot gluing the recognitions on.

At our Court of Awards last June for my Brownie troop, I cut a large trefoil from posterboard. Then I outlined it with puffy gold paint, let it dry overnight, then a spot of hot glue for each patch or try-it. I wrote each girl's name in the center with a gold pen. The girls and their parents just raved over them.

Our first awards ceremony was around Christmas time. I combined the presentation of the badges with a little Christmas gift from myself - a heart-shaped pumpkin bread, wrapped in purple plastic wrap. It was tied up with curly ribbon, and I'd sewn a thread through the badges they earned, and also included one of those little gift decorations things. (You know, those cheap, tiny doo-hickeys that you can put on a present to jazz it up) All the girls had earned the same two badges that time so I didn't personalize the awards.

The next Court of Awards was in the spring. I did ziplocs, but I had the girls at the meeting before the Awards ceremony, write their name on and decorate their bag. I also enclosed in each bag a picture I'd taken of each of them on horseback while we'd worked on the Horse Lover badge.

The last Court of Awards was in June, and I made a picnic out of it. I took green cardboard and cut it into the shape of a sash. This time, most of them had earned the Junior Aide badge, and the sign of the rainbow, in addition to a few badges, so I placed them on my cardboard sash approximately where they'd go on the girls' sashes.

I made each girl a snowman using paper plates. I used try-its for the eyes and nose. I used a half circle patch for the mouth. Other try-its and patches decorated the snowman.

On the meeting before an awards ceremony the girls decorated clay pots with paint pens. Then we stuck Styrofoam circles inside (painted green) the rim so it was pretty much flush with the top of the pot. I painted Popsicle sticks and cut out leaves from green construction paper and attached the leaves to the stick. I glued their patches on the sticks and handed them to the girls this way. I brought their pots to the ceremony and as the girls came up and received their badges (called out by badge, not girl). They stuck their green sticks into their pot and made a flower arrangement of badges.

More Ideas for Presenting Awards

Wrap recognitions in festive packages

In a plastic egg for a springtime ceremony

On leafy branches or pine boughs

On a natural wood plaque

Attached to international flags

On tongue depressors

Attached to pencils or rulers

Put recognitions on pipe cleaner stems in a flower pot

Attached to paintbrushes or sheet music

In a bandana on a stick

On a paper doll chain

On cardboard hearts

On paper airplanes

In crayon boxes

Bouquets of Badges

Present badge Daisies at your next Court of Awards. Use or adapt the pattern shown on page 6. Cut "daisies" from colored construction paper. Use double sided tape or staple badges to the center of each flower. The girls' name, troop number, etc. can be written on the daisy petals. Girls who have earned several badges can be awarded "bouquets." Add a wire stem and leaves and place in a vase and you have a table decoration for your ceremony.

Cut a trefoil (with or w/o Brownie depending on age level) template about the size of the GS cookie cutter. (A dry cleaner's shirt board works great for the template.) Use this to cut a trefoil for each girl out of heavy yellow construction paper. Cut two lengths of 1" grosgrain ribbon (again, the color depends on the age level) to accommodate all their Try-its/Badges, bridging patch, wings, Jr. Aide patch, etc. Attach the two lengths of ribbon to the back of the trefoil to resemble a "blue ribbon". I use hot glue for this, as well as to attach the patches to the ribbon. You could always use a stapler as well. The year pin (star) and any other pins, like the GS pin if they are bridging to Jrs. or their leadership pins, etc. (here in Hawaii we also have honor troop pins) are pinned right through the trefoil. The girls name and, if there's room, a list of the patches, is written on the back of the trefoil. A nice way to present these to the girls, especially at a more formal court of awards ceremony.

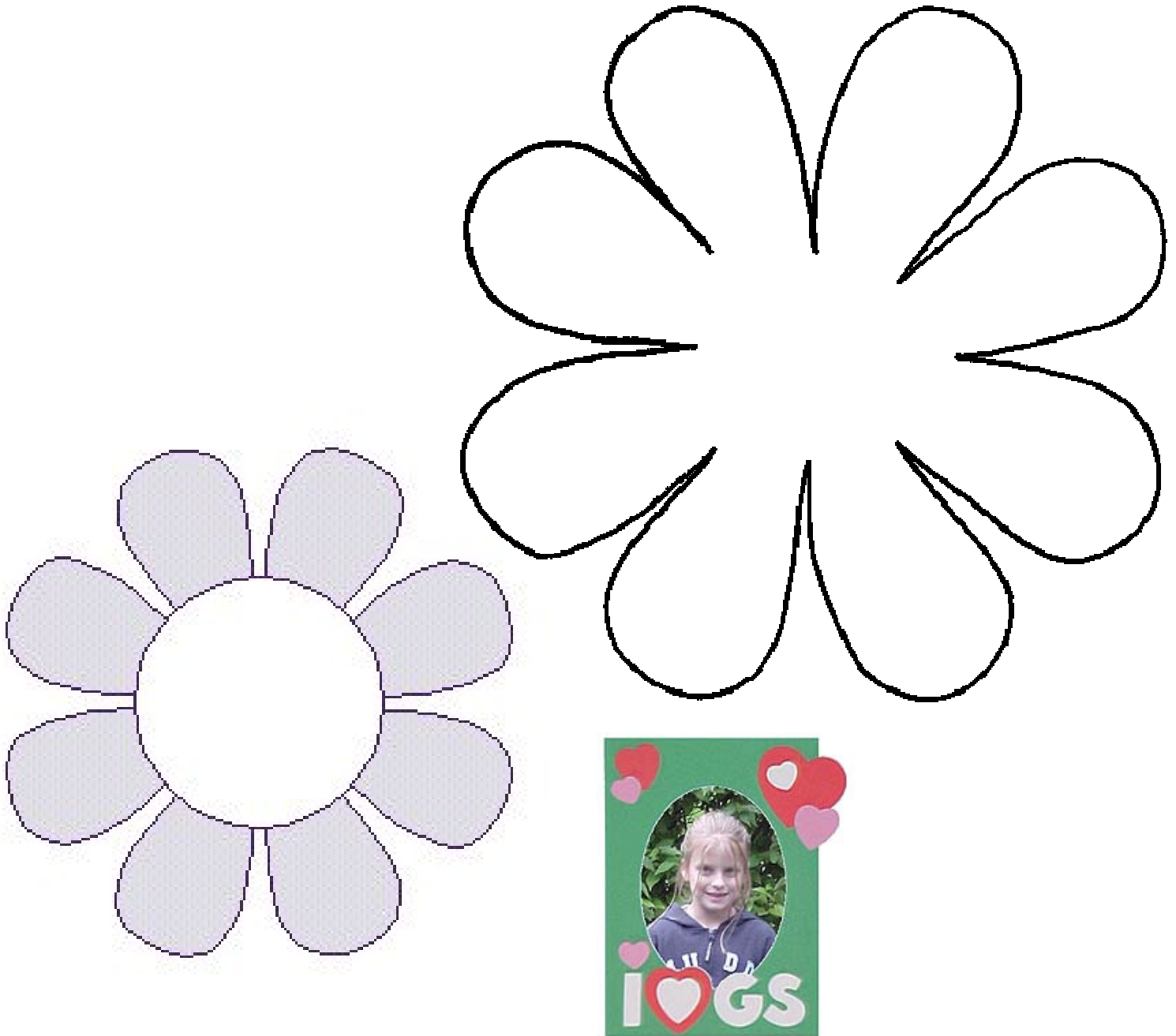
We have used Construction Paper and titled our colorful sheet "Badge Recognition Awards", attaching the Badge to the construction paper by using a stapler. To make the paper more fancy, we used special scissors on the edges. And on the computer made a label with the proper badge name. Below that was a brief description of activities done and date completed. It allowed parents to see it took many meetings to accomplish the requirements.

We also have made pockets on our construction sheet for the badge to slip in to. Put the Contemporary Logo on the pockets and made an envelope style for closing and seal with mini bow.

All sheets had the Girl Scout Name and we printed various Girl Scout slogans and sayings. Also to make the event more special we have fancy ceremonies.

We used a scanner and put the Contemporary Logo and the words Girl Scout on a sticker and glued to the flower pot. The flower pots were painted white and the top rim we used a sponge and Green paint to match sticker design. The bottom saucer was also painted white with Green sponge painting on the rim. We modge podged them to give a gloss touch. At the end of the year we put Peace plants and gave them out with bows and attached a gold and silver ring with a date to their parents. They were very neat and beautiful. The badges were presented on a Girl Scout Tree design. Using the Circle of Life theme and bringing Native American ceremonies.

We try to plan in the summer months and get the supplies together and have them in containers and Ziploc baggies dated for the meetings. The girls work on them and then they put them away. Then several months later at our Court of Awards they see their material being apart of the special ceremony, bridging, and religious awards.



Let girls make a craft for a Try-It or Badge, then keep it and use it as part of the ceremony. In the example above (a fun foam frame), leaders could slip in a photo of the girl at the time of the ceremony and use a second piece of fun foam to attach the try-its or badges. (Frame source and idea: www.makingfriends.com)



Above: Invites to a ceremony. Images can be obtained by “right clicking” on any website that has badges, try-its and patches. Note that vest “folds open” to reveal details of the ceremony. OR...take a photo of a vest on a dark surface so you can cut out the details and paste onto a cardstock or paper with formal invite info.

Barb and Gretchen’s Favorite Web Sites for Ceremonies and Ideas:

<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/> (the best – has EVERYTHING!)

<http://home.cfl.rr.com/scoutingseasons/>

<http://www.orientaltrading.com/>

<http://www.makingfriends.com/>

<http://www.pack-o-fun.com/> (use this website to subscribe to a GREAT magazine)

Court of Awards Ceremonies, from Troop 5002's Ceremonies Collection

A Court of Awards ceremony is a special time to honor and present girls with badges and awards, such as Cookie Awards, that they have earned. Often parents, family members and friends are invited so that they too can share in recognizing a job well done. It can be held at any time during the year and as often as the girls would like. The last Court of Awards is also a good time to recognize all of the adults that helped during the year with troop activities. Ceremonies should (but don’t have to) begin with a flag ceremony, the promise & law, welcoming remarks, and introductions. Girls should run as much of the ceremony as possible.

Brownie Try-It Ceremony

Decorate the ceremony site with samples of the activities girls did to complete Try-Its. Begin and end with flag ceremony.

Leader: We are celebrating the earning of Try-its. To complete a Brownie Try-It, girls choose and complete four activities in one of the Try-Its. Today we are celebrating the completion of the _____ Try-It(s). Let’s tell about what we tried and learned.

Each girl names one thing they tried to do as part of a Try-It activity. Girls may hold up samples of their work, etc. Present each girl with her Try-Its. Present either by doing each Try-It individually, or by recognizing each girl individually.

Tree of Knowledge

Equipment needed: Tree trunk with multiple limbs. This can be a real tree, or a tree drawn on poster board and hung on the wall. You will also need construction paper leaves with activities girls have done to earn awards written on them.

Leader: This is the Tree of Knowledge. The tree trunk represents all of Girl Scouting. Each limb/branch symbolizes one of the areas of Girl Scouting (outdoors, science, crafts, etc.). The leaves represent the knowledge and skills we acquire as we branch out and explore each area.

At this time, girls can come forward and place on the tree leaves representing different activities they did to earn awards. Then each girl can receive her awards. These might be presented on real or construction paper branches.

Junior Court of Awards

Leader: A badge is a symbol of accomplishment. Each girl who is honored here today has increased her skill and knowledge in a particular subject and has earned her right to wear the proficiency badge symbolizing her special interests and activities.

Speaker #1: The Sign of the Rainbow gives you a full variety of colorful choices and is a symbol of hope for your future. You have gained new skills in many ways and are able to work with girls in other troops.

Speaker #2: The Sign of the Sun is a symbol of great energy. It provides us with light to see and understand better. You have become a good leader in your troop and have made this year a successful one for the troop.

Speaker #3: The Sign of the Satellite shows that you were guided into exploring way to help yourself, you neighbors, and your community. Satellites were made to view and explore new horizons. They aid communication in many ways. You adventured into new worlds which are opening up to you.

Speaker #4: The Sign of the World shows that you got to know yourself better, increased your understanding of your own values, and gained experience in working with others. Millions of people live on this earth - and everyone can contribute, in some way, toward making our world a better place.

Call each girl individually and present their awards.

The Spelling of Girl Scouting

Equipment needed: Cardstock with letters G-I-R-L S-C-O-U-T-I-N-G on them. Hint: put letter on the front & script on the back.

Speaker #1: G is for the Gracious way we all proclaim our birth.

Speaker #2: I points up the ideas shared and those we'd like unearthed.

Speaker #3: R is for the respect we have for every race and creed.

Speaker #4: L is for our loyalty to promises we heed.

Speaker #5: S is for sincerity of deed and word and mind.

Speaker #6: C is for the countless ways in which theses are combined.

Speaker #7: O is obligation that we owe to fellow man.

Speaker #8: U means that it's you who must be first to lend a hand.

Speaker #9: T is for the teamwork which has evidenced our growth.

Speaker #10: I is for integrity which backs the Girl Scout oath.

Speaker #11: N is for the noble way we remember days of old.

Speaker #12: G is for the Grateful thanks for efforts toward our goal

Speaker #13: Each of these is Girl Scouting
What work! What fun! What pride!
To recall with admiration
And seek with greater stride

Speaker #14: Receiving all these badges
For all that we have done
Shows the pride we carry
What pride! What work! What fun!

Junior Court of Awards

Equipment needed: posterboard with letters on it.

Speaker #1: B Stands for Badges to be given today. What is a badge? An outward sign of an inner accomplishment. A scrap of colored material is not nearly as important as the job that was done to earn it.

Speaker #2: A Awards given at the Court of Awards. Here we are not rewarded for the badge itself but for what the badge represents. It means new knowledge, new skills learned, discipline required to complete requirements, and new opportunities to be of service to others.

Speaker #3: D Stands for Deeds. Good deeds to be done now and in the future for family, friends, and the community. Good deeds done with the knowledge and skills acquired through the badges.

Speaker #4: G Is the Girl in Girl Scouts. And most of all the earning of badges shows Growth. Growth as an individual in becoming an increasingly worthwhile person through living the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Speaker #5: E Is for Eagerness and Energy. These are necessary to earn badges. Badges do not come easily and they should not, or their value would be small. Badges present challenges and difficulties to an individual and satisfaction in accomplishment.

Speaker #6: S Stands for Many Things. Service to others should be one aim in life. Another aim is Self-development for the life you now lead and for the future. Most important, perhaps, is Self-respect: the way you feel about yourself as a person. Self-respect comes from setting high goals and ideals and striving ever to reach them.

Speaker #7: And so we have badges to be given today in this Court of Awards. Your leaders know the work you have done to receive them. We know how eager you are to wear them, and it is with great pride and feeling of accomplishment that we present them to you today.

Indian Awards Ceremony

Equipment needed: tripod lashed at top with hook for kettle, large canning kettle with small coffee can inside, several chunks of dry ice (if possible and if age appropriate), 2 small baby food jars with colored water (1 green, 1 yellow). Awards are placed inside the coffee can in the kettle to keep them dry, along with a green tab with Girl Scout pin on it. Chief sits by the kettle.

Narrator: Once there was an Indian tribe known throughout the nation. The chief wanted to create a symbol for all the members of the tribe to wear. The Chief called two trusty braves to the fire circle and told them to go forth and find a symbol to be used for all the people of the tribe. *Two braves go to the Chief while motions for them to go throughout the land to find things for the symbol.*

Narrator: The first brave returned bearing the green of the grass and the tree. *Brave gives Chief a jar of green water which the Chief pours in the kettle over the dry ice.*

Narrator: The second brave returned to give the chief the gold of the sun. *Again the yellow tinted water is poured in the kettle.*

Narrator: The Chief then fashioned a symbol for all the members of the tribe to wear. *The Chief reaches into the coffee can and brings out a Girl Scout pin attached to the green felt and holds it up for everyone to see. Chief continues the Court of Awards by removing the badges and signs earned by the girls and awards them.*

Junior Court of Awards

Each girl is presented her badges. After each girl receives her awards, it is customary for the leader and the girl to share a Girl Scout handshake while the leaders makes appropriate congratulatory remarks, or girls could make a comment about what they did to earn an award.

A Badge Is adapted from Glendyl Walton

A badge is a symbol
of something earned
For doing things nimble
while a skill is learned.

A badge is a token
of a service rendered
With no praise spoken
for assistance tendered.

A badge is a goal
for which girls work hard
To accomplish a role
and meet with high regard.

A badge is not to be taken lightly
Its possession is quite a feat
It must be earned rightly
And all requirements meet.

Four-Winds

Speaker #1: North Wind - I am the North Wind. People say I am cold, but to [girl's name] I will always bring the warmest weather because she has been true to the Girl Scout Promise and has lived up to the Girl Scout Law.

Speaker #2: South Wind - I am the South Wind. I wish you all success in Girl Scouting. Over hill and dale I have carried stories of [girl's name] and her experiences. As a Girl Scout she has been happy, willing, and fair-a credit to her troop and community.

Speaker #3: East Wind - I am the East Wind. I wish you well. I have spread the story of [girl's] fun and happiness in Girl Scouting with her troop, and of how she lived up to the Girl Scout Promise and was fair and helpful.

Speaker #4: West Wind - I am the West Wind. I would like everyone present to know that [girls name] did not walk the trail to the [award] alone. She had the wonderful help and guidance of her parents, [mothers name & fathers name]. Parents, continue to help your girls achieve and grow into young womanhood!

Sample Court of Awards

*Equipment needed: red, white and blue chips, stars.
Troop walks in and forms a horseshoe. The Color Guard is in position.*

Speaker #1: We are going to fix for you a treat that is really grand,
and make for you a recipe – the greatest in the land.

Speaker #2: First we put in a heaping cup of Red for courage true.

Speaker #3: And then we will add for loyalty, a dash of heavenly Blue.

Speaker #4: For purity, we will now sift in a layer of snowy White.

Speaker #5: We will sprinkle in a pinch of stars to make it came out right.

Speaker #6: We will stir and stir and then you will see -- that what we have made is this--

All: Old Glory. *Pull out folded flag from bottom of pot and hold up for pledge of allegiance.*

Speaker #7: Will the audience please stand. Thomas Jefferson said, “The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time.” As we repeat the Pledge of Allegiance, let us remember that our flag is a symbol of this precious liberty.

Speaker #8: Our flag is the most beautiful flag in the world; let us always be loyal to it. Will the audience please be seated? Girl Scouts, take your positions.

Girls stand around table that has candles with ribbons on it. As they light the appropriate candle, they say the parts of the Girl Scout law.

Leader: Girl Scouts, let us recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

On my honor, I will try
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

All: I will do my best to be

Speaker #1: Honest and fair

The purple ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of honesty and fairness. A Girl Scout works honestly and keeps her promise. She is fair in all she does and those she meets.

Speaker #2: Friendly and helpful

The blue ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of friendship and thoughtfulness. A Girl Scout is amiable and loyal to her friends. She helps others wherever and whenever she can.

Speaker #3: Considerate and caring

The orange ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of kindness and warmth. A Girl Scout works well with others and looks out for the well-being of others.

Speaker #4: Courageous and strong

The red ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of adventure and independence. A Girl Scout attempts new tasks and braves new endeavors. She is confident and self-assured in her actions.

Speaker #5: Responsible for what I say and do

The gold ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of ownership and pride in her work. She readily admits her strengths and weaknesses and is aware of the consequences of her actions. A Girl Scout is up front with her intentions.

Speaker #6: Respect myself and others

The white ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of integrity. A Girl Scout directs her thoughts and deeds to encompass her own beliefs and to be sensitive to, and respectful of the beliefs of those around her.

Speaker #7: Respect authority

The yellow ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of regard for another's position. A Girl Scout understands the importance of having a leader of a group to make final decisions. She works with that leader to make the best decisions for the good of the group.

Speaker #8: Use resources wisely

The green ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of being careful with resources. She uses her materials, money, time, and energy wisely. A Girl Scout does not waste the Earth's resources.

Speaker #9: Make the world a better place

The brown ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of improvement. A Girl Scout strives to conserve, and enrich the world around her. She believes it is important to leave a place better than when she found it.

Speaker #10: Be a sister to every Girl Scout

The silver ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's loyalty to sisters all over the world. A Girl Scout is always ready to accept more friends into her ever widening circle. She treats all of her sisters with kindness, acceptance, and warmth.

Co-Leader: We would like to welcome all the parents, family and friends that have joined us for this very special Court of Awards. Today the girls will receive recognitions that they've earned these past few months. They have worked very hard to earn the badges and would like to tell you a little about what they did to earn each of them.

Girls take turns talking about each of the badges and the activities completed.

Leader: Juliette Gordon Low once said as she awarded badges to a group of Girl Scouts: Every badge you earn is tied up to your motto "Be Prepared." Badges are not awards for something you have done once or for an examination you have passed. They are not medals to wear on your uniform just to show what a smart girl you are. A badge is a symbol that you have done the thing it stands for often to be prepared to give service in it. You wear the badge to let people know that you have earned it, can show someone else how to do it, and are proud of your accomplishments.

Each girl is called up individually and presented her awards.

Co-Leader: Remember that with each new badge, a Girl Scout takes on a new responsibility. A little more is expected at home, at troop meetings, and in your community. Strive always to be worthy of the symbols you wear and wear them with pride. Congratulations to each of you.

Speaker #11: We would now like to recognize the parents that helped us this year. As we call your name, please come forward and your daughter will present you with a small token of our appreciation.

Each parent is recognized for what they did, leaving the Troop Cookie Manager for the end.

Speaker #12: Will (TCM) please come forward. This is one of the toughest jobs and we really appreciate the hard work that you did for us. This year, our troop sold the most boxes of cookies in the Service Unit. We want to thank you for keeping everything organized for us. We'd like to sing this special song just for you.

Cookie Mommy *(to the tune of Rubber Ducky)*

Cookie Mommy, you're the one
Who counts the boxes, one by one?
Cookie Mommy, we're awfully proud of you.
Do, Do, Si, Do.

We sell cookies for Girl Scouts,
But you're the reason it all works out.
Cookie Mommy, it's all because of you.

Every box we sell
Makes a little bit of money
To pay for
All the projects and
Buy the snacks for our tummy,
Cookie, Cookie Mommy!

Cookie Mommy, you get the work done.
You make selling lots of fun.
Cookie Mommy, we o-o-owe it all to you!!!

Speaker #13: We will now blow out our candles, but their meaning will glow and burn their image on our hearts and minds for all eternity. Girl Scouts, please take your positions.

Color Guard goes to the back of the room.

Leader: Girl Scout-in-Charge:

Girl Scout-in-Charge:

Will the audience please rise.
Girl Scouts, Attention.
Color Guard, Advance.
Color Guard, Honor your flag.
Color Guard, Retire the Colors.
Color Guard, Dismissed.
Girl Scouts, Dismissed.

Speaker #14: We'd like to thank everyone for sharing this special ceremony with us. Please join us for refreshments.

Paper Doll Bridging Ceremony

Equipment needed: For an invitation, or expanded to a large table centerpiece, cut a piece of construction paper into a rectangle 5" x 9" Fold paper in thirds (ends folded toward center). Trace a paper doll pattern on front of paper, and cut as indicated, leaving doll attached at arms, skirt and shoes. Open up dolls. Write message on center doll. Different colors of construction paper can be used for the different levels: Brown for Brownies, Teal for Juniors, Blue or Khaki for Cadettes (see pattern at end of handout). As each Girl Scout says her verse she stretches out her hand to the next Girl Scout to speak, until all the girls are linked like paper dolls across the front of the room. Verses may be split if you have more than seven girls bridging. Girls who do not have speaking parts could also stand up with hands linked like paper dolls.

Take my hand in friendship
 I give to you this day
 Remember all the good times
 We had along the way

Take my hand in thanking
 Our leader and our guide
 With sincere appreciation
 For standing by our side

Take my hand in helping
 Other people that we know
 The more we give to others
 The more that we will grow

Take my hand in eagerness
 To be an older scout
 We're proud to be bridging
 Is what we're going to shout

Take my hand in learning
 To camp on nature's ground
 Enjoying trails and campfires
 With new friends that we have found

So take my hand to follow
 New scouting paths in sight
 We'll join hands with each other
 And in friendship we'll unite

Take my hand in giving
 Our knowledge of true scouts
 To girls we meet and talk to
 Who have so many doubts

(In unison):
 We give our hands in promise
 To hold our country dear
 And abide by the Girl Scout Law
 Each day throughout the year

Girls step forward to say the Girl Scout Promise and receive their badges and pins.

Hawaiian Court of Awards Ceremony

The "torches" on stage are lit, and the houselights are turned down. Soft Hawaiian music playing the background fades out. Three blasts of the conch shell, from the back of the room, signals the start of the ceremony. Conch shell blower then runs to the front with the conch. (Note: we skipped the conch blowing in our troop, as no one had a shell, and I doubt anyone could have made the noise from the shell if we did!)

***Conch shell blower:** Shell is blown 4 times. The first blast is made facing east. Then there is a slight pause, a Hawaiian chant may be performed, or a tape may be played. The second blast on the conch shell is made facing west. Then another pause with another chant. The third blast is made facing south, with another pause and chant. The fourth blast of the conch shell is made facing north.*

Speaker #1: Aloha!

Audience: Aloha.

Speaker #1: I know you can do better than that - Aloha!

Audience: Aloha!

Speaker #1: Welcome to our Court of Awards. Tonight, we used the Hawaiian theme because traditional Hawaiian family life has many of the same ideas and values as Girl Scouting.

Speaker #2: Comes forward carrying a card with the word ALOHA on it. Aloha has many meanings: love, affection, compassion, mercy, pity, kindness, charity, hello, good-bye, alas, and regards. The Hawaiian family provides a ready source of

love, affection, kindness, courtesy, and hospitality. In Hawaii, aloha is shown and given not only to family members, but to all who visit.

Speaker #3: *Comes forward carrying a card with the word IKE on it.* Ike means to recognize everyone as a person. Everyone needs to be recognized, especially children. Ike can be given in a number of ways. It can be a look, a word, a touch, a hug, a gesture, and even a scolding. Children need to give ike to each other, so if the teacher demonstrates the giving of ike then the children will follow the example.

Speaker #4: *Carries a sign with the word KOKUA.* Kokua, which means help, was an important part of every household in old Hawaii. Every member helped get the work done. They did not have to be asked to kokua. They helped whenever they saw help was needed.

Speaker #5: *Carries a sign with the word KULEANA.* Kuleana. One of the most important words is kuleana, or responsibilities, of every family member was to maintain acceptable standards of behavior. Attention-seeking behavior was frowned upon, and respect for social rank and seniority was a must. Each person was taught what was acceptable and not acceptable. He or she learned to accept and carry out his or her kuleana, or responsibilities willingly.

Speaker #6: *Carries a sign with the word LAULIMA.* Laulima means many hands. Everyone in the family - the ohana - shared the workload. Whether it was planting, building a house or a fishpond, preparing a meal or fishing, each person did a share of the work to get it done. If a man wanted a house built, his ohana - his family - willingly came to help. They gathered the building materials, built the foundation, put up the frame, and installed the thatched roof. They also gathered the pili grass and other thatching materials. Children helped in whatever way they could. This kind of laulima made the work easier and more enjoyable.

Speaker #7: *Carries a sign with the word LOKAHI on it.* Lokahi means harmony and unity. The family considered lokahi very important, not only with people but also with the universe. The members of the family showed this in their daily living by sharing goods and services with each other.

Speaker #8: The ohana, or family members, generously gave to others no matter how little they themselves had. Strangers were greeted with aloha and invited to come in and partake of food. Anyone visiting another took food or a gift as a symbol of hospitality. They established lokahi with the universe by observing the law of daily living which included homage to the gods. This kind of behavior nurtured harmony in the family - lokahi in the ohana.

Speaker #9: You may have noticed how closely the Hawaiian family life follows the Girl Scout Law. We would now like to recite our Girl Scout promise (all stand and recite promise)

Speaker #10: Wahinis, please take a seat. We will now be presenting the awards that you have earned this year.

Presentation of Awards - As the girls are recognized, in addition to their badges, they receive leis. Then the adults that volunteered for the troop, like the Troop Cookie Manager, are called forward to receive their gifts and leis.

Speaker #11: Wahinis, please take your positions. Often, Hawaiians use their hands to communicate and they use this in their dances. We would like to sing and perform for you the Hawaiian song, "Pearly Shells".

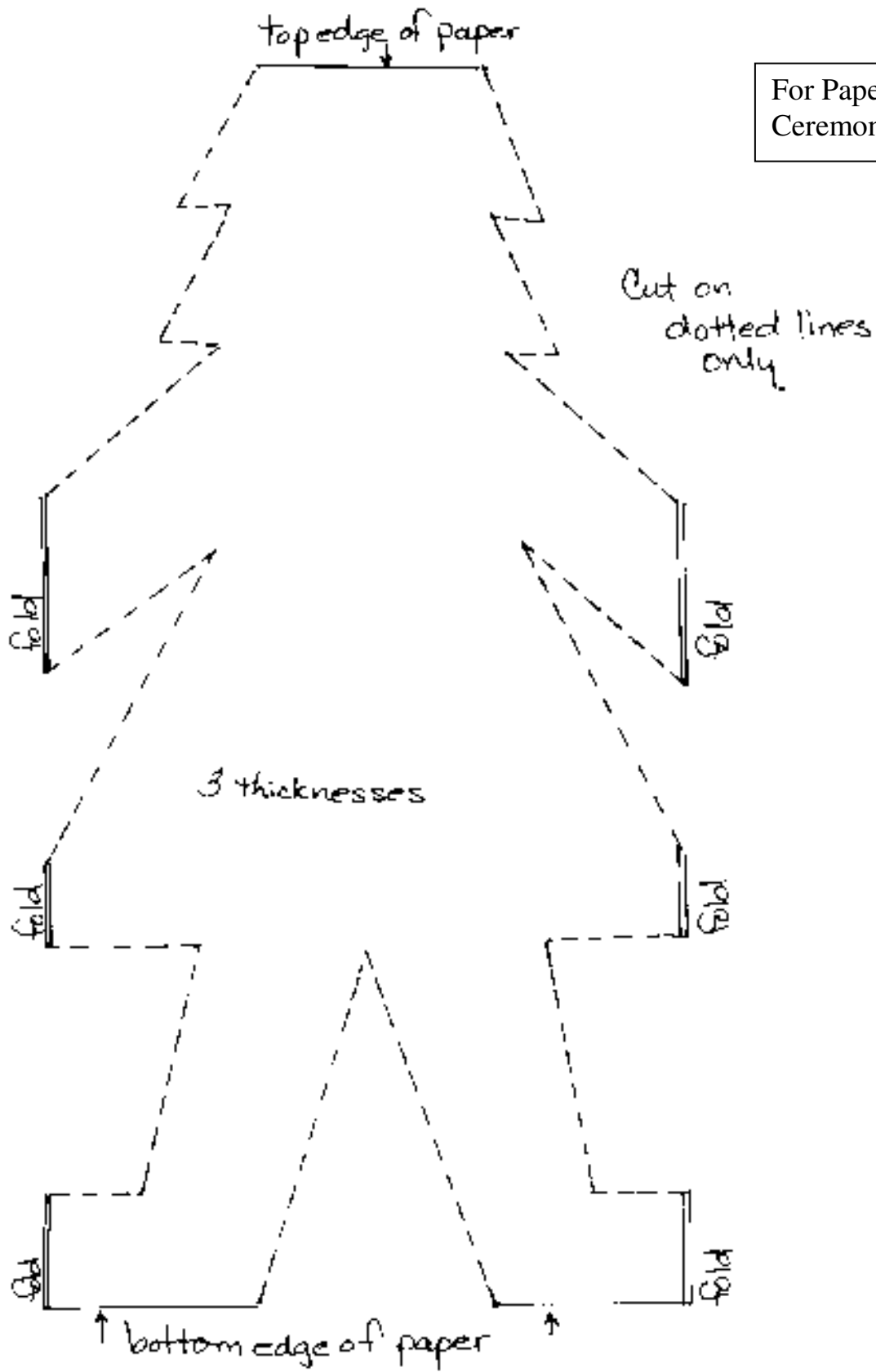
Conch Shell Blower: Comes forward with the conch and repeats the four blasts of the conch shell. This time, the directions change: first to the north, second to the south, third to the west, and fourth to the east.

Speaker #12: This concludes our Court of Awards. Mahalo - thank you - for your attendance. Aloha!

Audience: Aloha!

Refreshments served may be pineapple cake, tray of fruits, and of course, Hawaiian punch. To add to the atmosphere, play a Hawaiian tape in the background.

For Paper Doll Bridging Ceremony (pg 14)





- Cut out box pattern.
- Decorate paper with stamps, stickers, or drawings.
- Fold along dotted lines.
- Punch small holes in top of each triangle.
- Thread ribbon through holes to close up box (tie in a bow).