

# Helping Girls Plan Their Own Ceremony

With a little help, Girl Scouts (even Daisy Girl Scouts) can learn to plan meaningful ceremonies. You may use the questions below to guide them in the planning process. Remember, the possibilities suggested here are meant to stimulate thought; the final decision about what goes on in the ceremony should rest with the girls.

What kind of ceremony do we want?

A flag ceremony?

An investiture?

A Scouts' Own?

Where will it be held?

Indoors or outdoors?

On the side of a hill or a place with a view?

In a park or on a high building?

By the water or on a boat?

When will it be held?

Early in the morning or at night?

During troop meeting time?

Any other time?

Who should be invited?

Family – including brothers and sisters?

Another Girl Scout troop?

Friends?

Adults in Girl Scouting?

Adults in the community?

What could be used in the ceremony?

Girl Scout Promise and Law

A song, poem, dance, dramatization?

Candles, lights, campfire?

A flag, Girl Scout pins, World Trefoil symbol?

Footsteps (to show how far we've come), stair steps, a bridge?

A mirror (Brownie Pond)

How will we do it?

Who will start the ceremony?

Should we sit or stand?

Should we speak together or individually?

Do we need to learn something new?

Do we need to rehearse?



# Types of Ceremonies and What They Do

Ceremonies in Girl Scouting may be used to:

- Honor special occasions
  - Juliette Low's Birthday
  - Girl Scout Week
  - Investitures
  - Patrol Leader Installation
  
- Recognize accomplishments
  - Fly-up and Bridging
  - Court of Awards
  - Special Events
  
- Provide means of expressing feelings and values
  - Thinking Day (world friendship)
  - Flag (patriotism)
  - Rededication (beliefs)
  - Tree Planting (service)
  - Scout's Own
  - Campfires
  
- Open or close a meeting
  - Flag
  - Friendship Circle
  - Scout's Own
  - Taps
  - Girl Scout Handshake

A ceremony should have a theme:

Themes can be expressed using music and songs, poetry, stories, dance, creative movement, quotations, original writing, lighting candles, thoughts expressed by individuals, choral readings, dramatizations, etc.

Suggested themes: Promise and Law, citizenship, friendship, international understanding, loyalty, service, honor, making and keeping a promise, our country, its different peoples, forests, rivers, mountains, sound in nature, and the spirit of a special day.

Based on the theme, the ceremony should have an opening, a main part and a closing. Symbols are often used in ceremonies.