

New volunteer conference calls

Jan. 22 – Let's Get Global – World Thinking Day and other Girl Scout traditions

What is World Thinking Day and when is it?

When you became a Girl Scout, you joined a very large family, one that has members all around the world. Our “family” is called the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS); your World Trefoil Pin shows you are part of this global family.

- Our Girl Scout/Girl Guide family celebrates a special day every Feb. 22: World Thinking Day. On this international holiday, Guides and Girl Scouts send friendly and peaceful thoughts to their sisters around the world. These thoughts are translated into action when girls take part in international friendship activities and through contributions to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. Each year WAGGGS chooses a theme for World Thinking Day, and troops often use that theme for a ceremony or event. (To find out the current theme, go to www.waggs.org, or to www.girlscouts.org. Both of these Web sites have a Spanish version)
- World Thinking Day is also when Guides and Girl Scouts take time to honor the memory of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the Founder of the world-wide Scout and Guide Movement, and his wife Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, who was World Chief Guide. Lord and Lady Baden-Powell shared the same birthday, Feb. 22, so that date was chosen for World Thinking Day. It was Lord Baden-Powell who introduced Juliette Gordon Low to the Girl Guides and inspired her to bring Girl Guiding – soon to be known as Girl Scouting – to America in 1912.

What can my troop do to observe WTD?

Learning more about Guides in other countries through international friendship events, service projects, ceremonies, and exchanging greetings through cards, the internet and amateur radio are just a few of the many ways Girl Guides and Girl Scouts celebrate the day:

- Set up World Thinking Day and WAGGGS displays in libraries, schools, shopping malls and other appropriate places. Ask permission to fly the WAGGGS flag at your school or other public buildings and raise it with a special ceremony.
- Host a party, cookout or indoor feast with foods from a variety of WAGGGS member countries, or with an emphasis on food from a particular country or region. Include music/songs/games from the country or countries featured.
- Have a musical event with songs from other countries -- Girl Guide/Girl Scout songs as well as national music, pop music and folk songs. Maybe some folk dances, too!
- Show the video Sisters all ... Friends forever or the DVD Girls Worldwide Say...(available for checkout from the Girl Scout Resource Centers). Follow with a World Thinking Ceremony or World Trefoil pin presentation.
- Make up a quiz with questions about WAGGGS, the four World Centres, Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in other countries, then challenge other troops to a game of “World Trivia.” You could play some of the games below as well!

- Take an imaginary world trip to a WAGGGS member country in each of the five regions. Girls can make passports and stamps, and prepare games, songs or folk tales, traditional foods or folk crafts, and special challenges or projects in each of the countries "visited." Girls dressed in a home-made version of Guide uniforms from that country welcome the visitors.
- Encourage girls to choose and work on Try-Its, badges and Interest Projects with an international theme.
- Have a dawn meeting and become part of the chain of World Thinking Day thoughts and greetings, which begin at dawn in the Pacific on Feb. 22 and end at dusk in the West Coast of the Americas or Hawaii.
- Plan and carry out ceremonies:
 - Candle ceremonies or similar ceremonies with oil lamps/torches
 - Ceremonies with paper doves, symbolizing peace
 - Ceremonies involving "chains of friendship" (hand chains, paper chains)
 - Reflections, readings, quotations, pictures, music drawn from the cultures and traditions of other countries
 - Music, dance, drama illustrating the Movement; use "The World Song" and/or "World Thinking Day Song"
 - Use discs, tapes, CDs of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting music from other countries.

***Remember to HELP GIRLS CHOOSE AND PLAN** the beginning, main part, and closing of any ceremony or event they decide to do. Planning a ceremony or event makes it their own...*

Someone at my service unit meeting mention Juliette Low World Friendship fund donation being collected during the SU WTD, what is this about?

The Juliette Low World Friendship Fund (JLWFF) was established in 1927, the year Juliette Gordon Low died, to honor her dream of spreading Girl Scouting and Guiding around the world as a contribution toward world peace and goodwill. Girl Scouts in the USA often give money to the JLWFF as part of their World Thinking Day celebrations.

Where does the money go? What does it do?

- Part of the money goes to the World Thinking Day Fund, where it helps start or support Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in countries that want to become part of the Movement; for example it might pay for an experienced trainer to go to that country to work with the adults trying to start or re-start Guiding.
- WAGGGS runs projects around the world such as the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS and the Healthy Adolescent Project in India. The World Thinking Day Fund also provides disaster relief for Girl Guides in countries caught up in war or affected by natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes.
- The Juliette Low World Friendship Fund provides international friendship links in several ways. It helps fund Juliette Low Seminars at the World Centres, where young adults from member countries come together to discuss the challenges of life in the 21st century and ways to meet those challenges through Guiding/Girl

Scouting. The Fund helps pay the way for Senior Girl Scouts in this country to attend international events abroad and for Ranger Guides in other countries to attend destinations here. Our council has benefited from the Friendship Fund when girls and adults were selected for events in Kenya, Finland and Sangam (the World Centre in India); and when Girl Guides attended our three council-sponsored *destinations*.

My troop wishes to have guest speakers come to our meeting to present information on foreign places they have lived or are from, do they have to complete a volunteer application?

No.

What are swaps?

“Swaps” (SWAPS) are small, hand-made mementos girls create and take to events, to be exchanged with other girls (Share With A Pal.) There are many variations on swaps, but most are “crafty”, and range from very simple to complex miniatures. They usually reflect the theme of the event. Most swaps have a pin/safety pin so girls can attach their swaps to a hat, scarf, jacket, etc. For more information plus examples and directions, go to <http://www.scoutingweb.com/ScoutingWeb/Program/CraftsSwaps.htm> and <http://www.gsswaps.net/>, or visit the Atlanta Service Center.

What is an investiture ceremony?

invest: to clothe; to install in office with ceremony

At an investiture ceremony, a new member makes the Girl Scout Promise and is “invested” with the symbols of membership: the Girl Scout Membership pin* and the World Trefoil pin. It can be followed by a celebration welcoming the new member into the Girl Scouting Movement.

There is no one right way to carry out an investiture ceremony, as long as it includes an opportunity for each new member to make the Girl Scout Promise and receive her pins. It can be held indoors or out, with friends and family or troop members only – those are all decisions girls make as they plan their ceremony.

A girl or adult is only invested once, but after that, a rededication ceremony may be held to reaffirm or renew one’s belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Since the Girl Scout Promise and Law are the foundation of Girl Scouts, and since girls grow in their understanding of these values every year, it is very appropriate to hold a rededication ceremony at least once a year. It can be combined with an investiture ceremony if there is a combination of new and continuing girls within a troop, or as part of a bridging ceremony (moving from one level to the next).

* Daisy Girl Scout pin, Brownie Girl Scout pin, or Girl Scout pin (traditional or contemporary) as appropriate.

I have a Girl Scout Daisy troop and know that sometimes ceremonies are difficult or involve candle lighting, what alternatives do you suggest for this grade level?

Ceremonies are only as difficult as adults make them – and no ceremony requires lighting candles! The adult’s role is to help girls plan their own ceremony – which keeps the ceremony girl-size and simple. Explain to girls that every ceremony has three parts, the beginning or opening; the main part and the closing, or ending. Help Girl Scout Daisies plan their ceremony by giving them limited choices to start with:

1. “We need to choose a beginning for our ceremony. After Mrs. J. and I welcome your families, should we do a flag ceremony or sing a Girl Scout song to open our ceremony?”
2. “The main part of our ceremony is your investiture. That’s when you make the Girl Scout Promise and get your membership pins. Would you like to make your Promise around a pretend campfire, or would you like to take turns putting daisies in a vase while you say the Promise and Law?”
3. “Now we need to choose a closing or way to end our ceremony. Would you like to sing “Taps” to you families, or ask them to be part of a big friendship circle?”

For a Girl Scout Daisy ceremony where you want something to represent the Girl Scout Promise and Law, the girls might place silk daisies in a vase, place felt petals around a felt center on a flannel board, or use felt candles and flames on a flannel board. These are all available for checkout from the Atlanta Resource Center.

What other ceremonies are popular with girls in Girl Scouts?

- Opening and closing ceremonies, to begin and end your troop meeting, campfire or event
- Flag ceremonies (both indoors and out) can be part of other ceremonies, too
- Court of Awards, where girls receive awards they have earned
- Bridging ceremonies, which celebrate girls moving to the next Girl Scout age level (for Girl Scout Brownies, it’s called “Flying Up”)
- Troop Birthday/Membership Star ceremony
- World Thinking Day ceremony
- Founder’s Day (Juliette Low’s Birthday)
- Girl Scout Birthday
- Candlelighting/redeication ceremony – can be part of other ceremonies
- Girl Scouts’ Own, an inspirational ceremony often held at camp

What is a sit-upon?

It’s a waterproof square to “sit upon” at camp or troop meetings. Girls usually make and decorate their own, but a plastic grocery bag works just fine!

What is a service unit ingathering and does my troop have to bring our own CPR first aider?

The original “ingatherings” were Juliette Low Ingatherings, where money for the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund was presented in a ceremonial way, usually at an international festival. Today any service unit-wide event, especially a camping event,

may be called an ingathering. Your troop should have a currently certified adult first aider or the equivalent, with up-to-date CPR, at any service unit event or troop trip.

What unique traditions can I teach my girls before they go off to camp?

The great thing about traditions is that every generation of Girl Scouts creates their own! Probably the only nation-wide camp tradition is, “Girl Scouts leave a place better than they found it.” Some troops collect campfire ashes (there’s a special ceremony), some serve the leaders breakfast in bed, some do an all-night watch around the campfire, some serenade other campers, some do bark boats, some go on Snipe Hunts, have a Girl Scouts’ Own, make S’mores, run outside underwear up the flagpole...usually, whatever happens on your first camping trip will become a tradition.

What council resources are there to help me plan a ceremony?

Girl Scouts of the USA has published a ceremonies book, *Let’s Celebrate!*, which can be purchased at the Girl Scout Badge & Sash Stores. The Atlanta and Dalton Resource Centers also have ceremony notebooks and resource books (poems, skits, sayings, sample ceremonies) which can be checked out or copied. The Atlanta Resource Center has electronic copies of ceremony-planning guidelines and sample ceremonies, which can be e-mailed to you and also has candle-holders and flag sets that may be checked out.

I can not sing at all, and I know Girl Scout songs are a tradition, are there CDs or tapes to help me teach my girls?

The Girl Scout Badge & Sash stores sell all of the Melinda Carrol, “Girl Scout’s Greatest Hits” CDs and songbooks. The Resource Centers have lots of campfire/silly songs CDs and a few troop-produced CDs available for checkout. Older Girl Scouts in your service unit are also a great source of songs – ask for help! There is also a Songs and Games Workshop that will teach you a few basic Girl Scout songs.