

BRIDGING: ACTIVITIES, AWARDS AND CEREMONIES


girl scouts
of eastern missouri



Perfectly Effortless Programs

Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri

Emerson Resource Center
2300 Ball Drive
St. Louis, MO 63146
314.592.2360

What is Bridging?

Bridging is the progression from one level of Girl Scouting to another.

Bridging involves several processes:

1. Bridging Activities: begin when girls are in their last year of one grade level to prepare them for the next level.
2. Bridging Awards: when girls have completed specific bridging activities, described in the handbook section of the *Girls Guide to Girl Scouting*, they may receive a special patch that recognizes their preparation for the next level.
3. Bridging Ceremony: celebrates the completion of activities done in one level and welcomes girls into the next level.

Bridging Activities

Planning for bridging begins at the start of the last year of the troop program. The bridging troop leader makes contact with a “sister” troop and together they plan activities that will eventually climax with a Bridging Ceremony at the end of the year. Bridging is a part of the Girl Scout program and it is up to the troop leader to arrange for activities that will provide girls an opportunity to participate in the bridging experience. Don’t forget to include the cost of bridging activities and the Bridging Ceremony in your troop budget.

How can I find a “Sister Troop?”

- Contact someone in your neighborhood and find out what troop your bridging girls will be joining next year; or if you plan on moving up as a group and forming your own troop, ask for the name of a leader at the next level
- Call the leader and ask her troop to work with your girls on some bridging activities during the year
- Have a couple dates available, to negotiate a visit to their troop or for their troop to visit yours

If there is no troop, ask your Neighborhood Chair about contacting another Neighborhood Troop Organizer for a “sister” troop to do activities with. Or, ask if there are any neighborhood or district events planned that would bring together the grade levels you are bridging to and from, then sign up your troop to attend.

What kind of Bridging Activities can we do?

Bridging Activities are defined in the Bridging Recognitions section in the handbook section of the *Girls Guide to Girl Scouting* for each grade level.

I have a multi-grade troop, what do the younger girls do while we bridge the older girls?

During meetings when older girls are planning their ceremony or learning about the next level, have a special corner for younger girls to work on a “surprise” for the bridging girls or provide a special activity just for the younger girls. Younger girls could help with decorations, invitations, etc. During the ceremony they will rededicate themselves to another year of Girl Scouting by saying the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Overview of Bridging Steps at the Six Grade Levels

Daisy Girl Scouts Bridge to Brownie Award

- Step One** Pass It On: Inspire younger girls by sharing what it's like to be a Girl Scout Daisy
- Step Two** Look Ahead: Find out what Girl Scout Brownies do
Plan a Ceremony

Brownie Girl Scouts Bridge to Junior Award

- Step One** Pass It On: Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts something you learned to do as a Girl Scout Brownie
- Step Two** Look Ahead: Find out what Girl Scout Juniors do
Plan a Ceremony

Junior Girl Scouts Bridge to Cadette Award

- Step One** Pass It On: Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts something you learned to do as a Girl Scout Junior
- Step Two** Look Ahead: Find out what Girl Scout Cadettes do
Plan a Ceremony

Cadette Girl Scouts Bridge to Senior Award

- Step One** Pass It On: Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts something you learned to do as a Girl Scout Cadette
- Step Two** Look Ahead: Find out what Girl Scout Seniors do
Plan a Ceremony

Senior Girl Scouts Bridge to Ambassador Award

- Step One** Pass It On: Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts something you learned to do as a Girl Scout Senior
- Step Two** Look Ahead: Find out what Girl Scout Ambassadors do
Plan a Ceremony

Ambassador Girl Scouts Bridge to Adult Award

- Step One** Pass It On: Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts something you learned to do as an Girl Scout Ambassador
- Step Two** Look Ahead: Find out what Girl Scout Adults do
Plan a Ceremony

Bridge to Girl Scout Brownie Award

To earn the Bridge to Girl Scout Brownie Award, complete the two bridging steps. These steps will help you pass down something you learned as a Girl Scout Daisy and look forward to what's waiting for you at the next level.

Bridging Step One: Pass it On

Inspire younger girls by sharing what it's like to be a Girl Scout Daisy.

Spend time letting younger girls know what you've enjoyed about being a Daisy. Do at least one of the following activities when you get together:

- Teach younger girls the Girl Scout Promise, then take them through the Girl Scout Law. Share a story about how you learned to put the Promise and Law into action
- Tell the younger girls about Amazing Daisy, Lupe, Tula and the other flower friends, then share a story about your favorite. Why is she your favorite? What did you learn from her about making the world a better place? What did you learn about yourself?
- Play a game together! Is there a special game you loved to play as a Daisy that you could teach the younger girls?
- With your Daisy sisters, make a little something you can give to the younger girls that shows them what Girl Scout Daisies are all about. Maybe a little "ticket" to Girl Scout Daisies? Or a picture of a flower friend with her line from the Girl Scout Law? Whatever you make, be sure to explain what it means when you give it to the girls and offer them a great big welcome into Girl Scouts

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead

Find out what Girl Scout Brownies do.

Spend time with some Brownie sisters. After all, they know about the fun and adventures Brownies can have together! Do at least one of the following activities:

- Say the Girl Scout Promise together. Then find out if your Brownie friends have a favorite part of the Girl Scout Law. Were they friendly and helpful, or courageous and strong? Then, ask the Brownies if they can teach you a favorite game they learned to play as Brownies
- Ask the Brownies to teach you their favorite Brownie song, then sing it together
- Ask your Brownie friends to help you make special "tickets" into the world of Brownies. Your Brownie friends can write down the three things they had the most fun doing as Brownies, then help you decorate the tickets. Take your ticket home as a reminder of all the fun that is in store for you as a Brownie
- Ask the Brownies to show you their Journey awards and tell you what they did to earn them. How did they make the world a better place? What new friends can the Brownies introduce you to in their Journeys?
- Start exploring how you and your Daisy sisters can help your community when you become Brownies. Ask the Brownies to help you decorate a box or jar that will become your "Take Action

Idea Bank.” Get ideas by asking the Brownies how you can help your community. Get more ideas by talking to an adult who works in the community such as at a firehouse, hospital, library or mayor’s office

Plan a Ceremony

Congratulations! You have earned your Bridge to Girl Scout Brownie Award. Celebrate with a favorite ceremony you learned on your Daisy Journey, or make up a new one. Then proudly add your bridging patch to your new sash or vest.

Bridge to Girl Scout Junior Award

To earn the Bridge to Girl Scout Junior Award, complete two bridging steps. These steps will help you pass down something you learned to a younger Girl Scout and look forward to what’s waiting for you at the next level.

Bridging Step One: Pass it On

Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts something you learned to do as a Girl Scout Brownie.

Here are a few ideas to get you started. You only have to do one to complete this step.

- Teach a group of Girl Scout Daisies a song, game or craft, especially one you loved doing on your Brownie Journey. Share with your Daisy sisters your favorite parts of being a Brownie. Explain all they have to look forward to when they become Brownies. Inspire your Daisy sisters to climb the ladder of leadership
- Help the Daisies create and decorate small books (you can make these easily by stapling blank pages between two pieces of construction paper). Make sure each Daisy writes her name on the cover of her book. Pass the books around and write messages to the Daisies, telling them what makes them special, why you’re glad they’re your sister Girl Scouts and what they can look forward to as Brownies
- Invite Daisies to attend one of your meetings to find out what being a Brownie is all about. Maybe you can demonstrate a cool skill you learned on an outdoor adventure. Or show them photos of your trip to the aquarium. Or teach them what you learned about taking care of your bicycle. When you are done, tell the girls all about Girl Scout Juniors and why you are excited to “fly up”

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead

Find out what Girl Scout Juniors do.

The best way to find out what it really means to be a Girl Scout Junior is to talk to girls who already are Juniors. To complete this step, get together with your Junior friends and do one or more of the following activities, choose whatever sounds like the most fun to you and other Brownies.

- Ask your Junior friends what activities they loved doing as Juniors and why. Maybe they can tell you stories about their favorite memories of working as a team – and maybe you and your Brownie friends can tell your own stories about what you loved doing as Brownies. Maybe your Junior friends can teach you a game or a special Girl Scout activity. If any of the girls were also Girl Scout Brownies, ask them how being a Junior was different from being a Brownie
- Talk to one or more of the Girl Scout Juniors who earned her Girl Scout Bronze Award. That's a big accomplishment. How did she choose her project? Who was on her team? What did she learn? Ask what advice she would give to someone who wants to earn their Bronze Award

Plan A Ceremony

Congratulations! You've earned your Bridge to Girl Scout Junior Award. Celebrate with a favorite ceremony you learned on your Brownie Journey, or make up a new one. Then add your bridging patch to your Junior sash or vest. Some girls receive their Brownie Wings at this ceremony, too.

Bridge to Girl Scout Cadette Award

To earn the Bridge to Girl Scout Cadette Award, complete two bridging steps. These steps will help you pass down something you learned to a younger Girl Scout and look forward to what's waiting for you at the next level.

Bridging Step One: Pass It On

Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts something you learned to do as a Junior.

As a Cadette, you'll have the power to create an amazing impact on the world around you! Here are some ideas for taking everything you've learned and energizing younger girls to jump up to Junior. Use one of these ideas to start you off, or come up with your own. You only have to do one to complete this step.

- Show your Girl Scout Brownie sisters why being a Girl Scout Junior is so great. Make short videos of everyone in your group speaking for one minute about your favorite memory from your time as a Junior and screen them for a group of Brownies. Don't forget to tell them why you can't wait to climb up to Cadette
- Invite Brownies to attend one of your meetings and demonstrate a skill that will make them look forward to being a Girl Scout Junior. For example, you could show them photos from your group's favorite camping or canoe adventure and demonstrate how to pack a backpack for a longer trip. Get them excited to spend time outdoors with their Girl Scout sisters
- Invite girls your age who aren't Girl Scouts to join you in a fun activity like learning martial arts,

sign language or building a parade float. If you're doing a Take Action project, ask your buddies to tag along! Maybe you'll inspire them to pitch in

- Team up with the girls in your group who earned a Girl Scout Bronze Award and hold a question and answer session for interested Brownies. Describe how you chose your project, your planning process and how you overcame obstacles along the way. Inspire them to go for the Bronze Award too

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead

Find out what Girl Scout Cadettes do.

As a Cadette, you'll set your sights on the world outside your local area. Find out what lies beyond your neighborhood. Make a list of all the places you'd like to visit. But, there's no better way to find out what you have to look forward to than to talk with your Cadette sisters.

Use one of the ideas below to get you started, or come up with your own. You only have to do one to complete this step.

- Ask a Cadette to talk to you about her experiences so you know what you can expect. Does she have a favorite experience from her time as a Cadette? If she mentions a special activity or new skill she learned as a Cadette, ask her to teach you how to do it
- Do you want to work on your Girl Scout Silver Award? Find the Cadettes that earned this honor and ask them for tips. Find out how they formed their teams, how they selected a project and what they learned along the way. If you have some ideas for your own project, be sure to ask them for advice
- What Journeys did Cadettes go on? What did they enjoy about the experience? Ask them how they helped their community and to share their best moments from their Journey with you

Plan a Ceremony

Congratulations! You've earned your Bridge to Girl Scout Cadette Award. Celebrate with a favorite ceremony you learned on your Junior Journey, or make up a new one. Then add your bridging patch to your Cadette sash or vest.

Bridge to Girl Scout Senior Award

To earn the Bridge to Girl Scout Senior Award, complete two steps. In the process you'll pass down something you learned to a younger Girl Scout and look forward to what's waiting for you at the next level.

Bridging Step One: Pass It On

Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts one thing you learned to do as a Cadette.

Think about your most memorable moments as a Cadette and find a way to share them with others. Use one of these ideas to start you off, or come up with your own. You only have to do one to complete this step.

- Take a group of Juniors to your favorite local hiking spot, demonstrate something you've learned about outdoor safety and talk to them about Leave No Trace. Or, tell them about your group's most memorable adventure and teach them your favorite Girl Scout tradition. Inspire them to climb up to Cadette
- Did you earn the Girl Scout Silver Award? Make a PowerPoint Presentation or build a website and talk a group of Juniors through your project. Be sure to let them know how you or your team got through the tough times and how much fun you had along the way
- Organize a workshop for your community center, library or local Council using what you've learned on a Journey. Invite Juniors to the presentation. Make sure you save some time so they can ask you questions and you can tell them about all the great things waiting for them if they become Cadettes

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead

Find out what Girl Scout Seniors do.

Go straight to the source! Ask your friends in your local area or go online and connect with Seniors around the country to learn what you can do when you step up to Senior. Use one of the suggestions below, or come up with your own. You only have to do one to complete this step. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- As a Senior, you can take part in all global travel opportunities offered by the Girl Scouts. Find out through your local Council if any Seniors in your area have traveled internationally or to a national conference. Ask them the best way to learn more about the opportunities Girl Scouts offer, across the country and around the world
- Plan a weekend or overnight trip with some Seniors and ask them to take you to their favorite canoeing or horseback riding spot. Make sure you find out what they have enjoyed most about being Seniors and ask them to share their favorite Girl Scout traditions
- If you're interested in earning your Girl Scout Gold Award, connect with Seniors already working on a project and get some advice on how to choose from among all your great ideas
- Find out about Council and national delegate opportunities for Girl Scouts. What does it take to represent your Council as a national delegate? How do you become a member of your Council Board of Directors?

Plan A Ceremony

Congratulations! You've earned your Bridge to Girl Scout Senior Award. Celebrate with a favorite ceremony or invent a new one. Then add your bridging patch to your sash or vest.

Bridge to Girl Scout Ambassador Award

To earn the Bridge to Girl Scout Senior Award, complete two steps.

Bridging Step One: Pass It On

Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts one thing you learned to do as a Senior.

Whether you started Girl Scouts as a Daisy or joined as a Senior, you've learned a lot to get here! It's time to inspire others with what you know. Use one of these ideas to start you off, or come up with your own. You only have to do one to complete this step.

- Just as you're looking ahead to what it means to be an Ambassador, Girl Scout Cadettes are right behind you, ready and eager to take their next big step up the leadership ladder. Inspire them by giving them a glimpse of life as a Senior. Invite them on a camp out, overnight trip or other fun event and talk about your experiences. You can even continue the conversation on social media or by email
- Take something you've learned in Girl Scouts and share it with others. Did you travel on a *destination*? Hold a slide show for Cadettes? Did you complete a Take Action project through one of the Journeys? Blog about it. Did you attend the Girl Scout National Convention? Report back to your Council

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead

Find out what Girl Scout Ambassadors do.

Explore what it's like to be an Ambassador. What's the best way to do that? Connect with girls who are already there. Girls who have attained the highest level will be happy to share their experiences and give you a leg up in framing your next step. Here are ideas for making your get-together fun and inspiring. Or, come up with your own. You only need to do one to complete this step.

- Invite Ambassadors to a round table. Start with some tasty snacks and a few "getting to know you" games. Ask your Ambassador sisters about their achievements and challenges. Find out about their most surprising, funny or moving moments as Girl Scouts. Get their tips on how to make the most of your Ambassador experience
- Meet with Girl Scout Ambassadors online by establishing a Wiki community. Or, start a Facebook or Google Group. Tap the widest network you can to find how others chose their Girl Scout Gold Award projects, how they connected with mentors, what outdoor adventures and trips they went on, or anything else that interests you. Start a list of what you would like to do as an Ambassador
- Find out about how Girl Scouting in the United States strive to effect change around the world. Look into Girl Scout *destinations*, travel to the World Centers and other opportunities and forums open to Ambassadors. If you've already traveled through the Girl Scouts, reflect on how your experience might help promote social change
- Join a Council event, camping trip overnight or Take Action project that involves Ambassadors. See what you can learn about expanding your current interests as you move into your next step in Girl Scouting. For example, if you were totally jazzed by the Senior Sow What? Journey, develop a Gold Award project promoting locally grown food and healthy food production for the planet as you travel the Ambassador Justice Journey

Plan A Ceremony

Congratulations! You've earned your Bridge to Girl Scout Ambassador Award. Celebrate with a favorite ceremony.

Bridge to Girl Scout Adult Award

To earn the Bridge to Girl Scout Adult Award, complete two steps.

Bridging Step One: Pass It On

Share your talents and skills by teaching young Girl Scouts one thing you learned to do as an Ambassador.

As a Girl Scout Ambassador bridging to Adult, you've no doubt felt a lot of inspiration. Dig deep and find a way to share your knowledge, skills, enthusiasm and spirit. To complete this step, donate your time to a special project within Girl Scouts, your community or the world. Use one of the ideas below, or come up with your own. Here's some ways to get started:

- Spend some time with Seniors bridging to Ambassador and share your favorite parts of your Ambassador Journeys, your Take Action projects, trips, outings, friendships and leadership lessons learned. As you help Seniors define what leadership means to them, reflect on how others helped you along the way
- Inspire younger girls! Help them earn badges or complete a Journey activity. Hold a fitness clinic or dance class. Teach them rock climbing, graphic design, cooking, karate or another special skill you learned as a Girl Scout
- Volunteer time helping your Council, a community group or a global organization. Work on the Council website, join a community beautification project in your town or create a flier promoting an international relief effort. Your actions will show others what you learned from being a Girl Scout. As Gandhi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world"

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead

Find out what Girl Scout Adults do.

More than 900,000 adults empower girls to become leaders through Girl Scouting. Talk to Girl Scout Adults and find out what inspires them. Reflect on how Girl Scouting has influenced your life. Use one of these suggestions, or come up with your own. You only have to do one to complete this step. Here's some ways to start:

- Get together with a Girl Scout adult or group you admire. This doesn't have to be formal. You can start a conversation at a pizza party, movie night or camping trip. Ask about the endurance of the Girl Scout legacy or the highlights of volunteering. What do they embrace about being adults in Girl Scouting
- Hold an appreciation breakfast or lunch for Girl Scout Adults who have supported you. Share your memories, photos or even a poem to tell them how much their help meant to you

- Create a slideshow of your best moments in Girl Scouts. Add some music and gather your friends, family and the Girl Scout Adults who influenced you to share your walk down memory lane

Plan A Ceremony

Congratulations! You've earned your Bridge to Girl Scout Adult Award. Celebrate with a favorite ceremony you've learned in your time as a Girl Scouts.

Note: Once you have bridged, you may register as an Adult. A special lifetime membership, at a reduced cost, is offered to registered Girl Scout Ambassadors at the time of their high school graduation, provided they apply for lifetime membership before their current annual membership expires.

Bridging Awards Given At the End of the Year

Girls can earn bridging awards by carrying out bridging activities; requirements for bridging insignia are in the grade-level handbooks.

At the end of the year, usually in the spring, bridging awards and other pins and insignia may be given to the girls during the Bridging Ceremony.

Daisy Girl Scouts



Bridge to Brownie Girl Scout Award, earned by first-grade Girl Scout Daisies, encourages them to interact with Brownie Girl Scouts and learn more about the Brownie Girl Scout program.

At Bridging Ceremony, all girls receive the following insignia:

- One-year membership star with blue disc

First Graders Receive:

- Bridge to Brownie Girl Scout Award, if earned
- Brownie Girl Scout pin

Note: Daisy Learning Petals, can be given in a Court of Awards Ceremony during the year as earned.

Brownie Girl Scouts



Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts Award, earned by third-grade Brownie Girl Scouts encourages them to interact with Junior Girl Scouts and learn more about the Junior Girl Scout program.

At Bridging Ceremony, all girls receive the following insignia:

- One-year membership star with green disk

Third Graders Receive:

- Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts Patch, if earned
- Brownie Wings (This is not an earned award; it is given to all girls “flying up” to Girl Scout Juniors)
- Girl Scout contemporary or traditional membership pin

Junior Girl Scouts



Bridge to Cadette Girl Scout Award, earned by bridging fifth-grade Junior Girl Scouts to encourage their continued participation in Girl Scouting.

At Bridging Ceremony, all girls receive the following insignia:

- One-year membership star with yellow disc

Fourth graders can earn the Junior Aide patch by helping Brownie Girl Scouts with their bridging activities.

Fifth Graders Receive:

- Bridge to Cadette Girl Scout Award, if earned
- Girl Scout Bronze Award, if earned

Cadette Girl Scouts



Bridge to Senior Girl Scouts Patch, earned by bridging eighth-grade Cadette Girl Scouts to encourage continued participation in Girl Scouting.

At Bridging Ceremony, all girls receive the following insignia and awards:

- One-year membership star with white disc

Eighth Graders Receive:

- Bridge to Senior Girl Scout Award, if earned
- Girl Scout Silver Award, if earned. This is the highest earned award at the Cadette Girl Scout level. The troop purchase and presents this award. Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri holds a special ceremony in the spring, called Reflections, honoring Silver Awardees by presenting them with a certificate.

Senior Girl Scouts



Bridge to Ambassador Girl Scouts Patch, earned by bridging tenth-grade Senior Girl Scouts to encourage continued participation in Girl Scouting.

At bridging ceremony, all girls receive the following insignia and awards:

- One-year membership star with red disc

Tenth Graders Receive:

- Bridging to Ambassador Patch, if earned
- Girl Scout Gold Award, if earned. This is the highest earned award in Girl Scouting. This award can be earned as a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout and is presented by the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri as an awardee at the Council-wide spring Reflections Award Ceremony

Ten-Year Award, presented upon completion of ten years in Girl Scouting as a girl.

Ambassador Girl Scouts



Bridge to Adult Girl Scout Pin, earned by graduating Senior Girl Scouts to encourage continued participation in Girl Scouting as an adult.

At Bridging Ceremony, all girls receive the following insignia and awards.

- One-year membership star with Navy Blue disc

Twelfth Graders can receive:

- Bridge to Adult Pin, if earned
- Girl Scout Gold Award, if earned. This is the highest earned award in Girl Scouting. This award can be earned as a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout and is presented by the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri to an awardee at the Council-wide spring Reflections Award ceremony.

Bridging Ceremonies

A Bridging Ceremony is held when girls, who are already Girl Scouts, move from one level of Girl Scouting to another.

A Bridging Ceremony is held to recognize and welcome these girls to the next level.

There are many types of Bridging Ceremonies:

- Girl Scout Crossing
- Girl Scout Fly-Up
- Graduation from Ambassador Girl Scouting to Adult Girl Scouting

It is important that girl/adult planning be involved in a Bridging Ceremony. The ceremony can be a formal presentation or a very casual happening. Whatever a Bridging Ceremony includes, it should be up to the group doing it and be a means of expressing their feelings and values.

Symbols of Bridging

Bridging ceremonies represent a girl's growth and development from one stage of life to another. The "bridge," or crossing over into a new program level, can be symbolized in different ways.

Use your imagination, some examples include:

- Stepping Stones: Representing the "Three Parts of the Girl Scout Promise"
- Circles of Friendship: Girls join a circle or horseshoe made up of girls in the next level

- Bridges: A “make-believe” bridge, can be as simple as laying down strips of masking tape for girls to walk between, or using a large cardboard box, painted to look like the side of a bridge. Some districts have handcrafted wooden bridges that can be borrowed for a school or neighborhood bridging.

White plastic “bridging posts” with white plastic chain can be borrowed from the Emerson Resource Center to simulate a “bridge” for ceremonies.

Rainbows: Girls can pass under a “rainbow” representing the six grade levels in Girl Scouting, using the colors of the Membership Star grade-level discs.

- Blue for Daisy Girl Scouts
- Green for Brownie Girl Scouts
- Yellow for Junior Girl Scouts
- White for Cadette Girl Scouts
- Red for Senior Girl Scouts
- Navy Blue for Ambassador Girl Scouts

Samples of Bridging Ceremonies

There is no right or wrong way to do a ceremony.

There are, however, some Girl Scout traditions you might want to incorporate into your ceremony:

- Brownie Girl Scout “Twist Me and Turn Me” rhyme
- Tradition of pinning on a new Girl Scout Pin, upside down, and wearing it that way until the wearer has performed a “Good Turn”

Then, there are ways of celebrating that only your troop or group will create to make your own traditions and memories in Girl Scouting. The following samples of ceremonies are offered only as a starting place, to use your own imagination and creativity.

Tentative Agenda for a Bridging Ceremony

1. Inter-Troop Bridging

- Opening, Flag Ceremony
- Welcome
- Main part of ceremony: grade-level bridging
- Special awards to parents and sponsors
- Skit or song
- Closing
- Refreshments

2. District/Neighborhood/School Multi-Level Bridging

- Opening, Flag Ceremony
- Welcome
- Order of Ceremonies:
 - Girl Scout Daisy Crossing
 - Girl Scout Brownie Fly-Up
 - Girl Scout Junior Bridging
 - Girl Scout Cadette Bridging
 - Girl Scout Senior Bridging
 - Girl Scout Ambassador Graduation
- Leader awards and/or special awards
- Closing
- Refreshments

Progression in Girl Planning for a Bridging Ceremony

Daisy Grades K-1	Brownie Grades 2-3	Junior Grades 4-5	Cadette Grades 6-8	Senior Grades 8-10	Ambassador Grades 11-12
Choose a favorite song to sing	Choose songs and poems related to the theme	Decide theme	Plan their celebration theme	Plan their celebration theme	Plan and put on a neighborhood Bridging Ceremony
Decide who they want to invite	Decide who they want to invite and make invitations	Decide when they want the ceremony	Decide where and who to invite	Decide where and who to invite	Select site and make arrangements
	Set up before ceremony	Find songs and poems	Work with Junior sister troop to plan bridging	Plan songs/poems/video etc.	Contact participants
	Serve refreshments	Make and serve refreshments	Make own props	Make own props	Choose what to put in the ceremony
	Help clean up	Clean up	Clean up	Clean up	Conduct ceremony

Daisy Girl Scout Crossing

The essential parts of this ceremony are:

- Daisy Girl Scouts receive awards and membership star with blue disc
- Daisy Girl Scout is invested into the Brownie Girl Scouts and receives her Brownie Girl Scout pin from the Brownie Leader Pin, which is usually purchased by the Girl Scout Daisy troop.

Formation:

Daisy Girl Scouts stand with their leader on one side of a “brook.” The Girl Scout Brownies and their leader are on the other side of the brook, standing in a circle. One end of the circle facing the brook is open to the Girl Scout Daisies.

Order of Ceremony:

1. Daisy Leader Says:

“For a year, you’ve been Daisy Girl Scouts
Learning and growing;
Daisy Petals you have earned, and
On to Brownies, you are going.”

2. Brownie Girl Scouts Chant Together:

“Stepping stones are for you Daisy Girl Scouts
Cross them while we sing;
Your Daisy days are over now
Come and join our Brownie Ring.”

3. As Daisy Girl Scouts approach the stepping stones, the Daisy Leader gives each girl an award pouch.

4. After they cross the last stone they are greeted by a sister Girl Scout Brownie and led into the Brownie Ring.

5. In the middle of the Brownie Ring is a “Magic Wishing Well” or a “pond.” When all of the girls are in the ring, the Brownie leader asks if they are ready to become Brownie Girl Scouts.

6. Each bridging Girl Scout Daisy is turned by her “sister” Girl Scout Brownie while they chant:

“Twist me and turn me and show me an elf
I looked in the water and saw....(myself)”

7. Girls now join in the Brownie Ring, where they repeat the promise and receive the Brownie Pin from a sister Brownie Girl Scout or the leader.

8. The Brownie Leader says:

“Your Brownie pin has been turned upside down.
You must wear it this way until you have done a “Good Turn” for someone.
A Good Turn means doing something nice for someone without being asked to do it.”

9. Then everyone sings the “Brownie Smile Song” or “Make New Friends”

Brownie Fly Up Ceremony

The essential parts of the Fly-Up Ceremony are:

- Wings are received by the bridging Brownie Girl Scout from her leader
- The bridging Brownie Girl Scout rededicates herself to Girl Scouting by making the Girl Scout Promise and receives the Girl Scout Girl Scout pin, contemporary or traditional, from the Junior Girl Scout Leader. Brownie troop usually purchases the Girl Scout pin

Formation:

- Brownie troop and leaders form a ring at one side of the room
- Junior troop and leaders form a horseshoe at the other side, with open end toward the Brownie Girl Scouts. The space between may be used to symbolize the transition

Order of Ceremony:

1. Brownie Leader says:

“In the Brownie ring we have shared many good times together, learning new songs and games, going on hikes, working on badges (leader adds appropriate activities or events). I would like for our bridging girls to share with us what they have enjoyed most about being a Brownie Girl Scout.”

Fly-up girls step into the center of the Brownie Circle as they tell what they enjoyed most.

2. Brownie Leader says:

“Since this is the last time we will be together as Brownie Girl Scouts, let’s sing our “Brownie Smile Song,” one more time.”

Girls sing song.

3. Brownie Leader says:

“Brownies, you are just about,
To become Junior Girl Scouts.
In the troop you soon will find
Junior Girl Scouts are true and kind.
So now I give you Brownie wings
That you may fly to bigger things.”

Leader presents wings to the Fly-Up girls. Leaders may also present badges earned during the year, and the membership star with green disc, and Bridge to Junior Girl Scout patch, if earned.

Note: “wings”, could be stapled to a ribbon, along with other recognitions and then placed around the neck of each Fly Up.

4. Brownie Leader says:

“Now it’s time to say good-bye
Break the ring, and out you fly.”

The ring breaks just long enough to let the fly-up girls and leader out. Fly-ups cross over the bridge, or some symbol of transition. Each girl is met by a Junior Girl Scout who conducts her to the horseshoe formation.

5. Junior Leader says:

“You have now entered a new level in the wide world of Girl Scouting. Please join me in repeating the Girl Scout Promise and presentation of the Girl Scout Pin.”

Brownie Fly-Ups and Junior Girl Scouts repeat the Girl Scout Promise

6. As Brownie Fly-Ups are “pinned” by a sister Junior Girl Scout the following poem is read:

“My Scout Pin”

My Scout pin is a little thing

That is to say, in size.

But it holds a wealth of many things

Tucked within its sides.

To me it means honor, trust worthy and true

For my neighbor there is nothing I would not do.

It means I am a friend to all that I know,

Courteous and cheerful where ever I go.

To be useful and help others is what I like to do.

Being kind to animals should be included, too.

“Do a good turn daily” is my aim.

Our law and God’s are almost the same.

That is what my Scout pin means to me.

If everyone would follow the Girl Scout way,

Wouldn’t we have a wonderful U.S.A.?

7. When every Fly Up has received her pin, the Junior Leader says:

“This pin tells everyone you are a Girl Scout, we hope you will wear it with pride. And now, welcome to Junior Girl Scouts.” (applause)

8. End with song, “When E’re You Make A Promise,” or “Make New Friends”.

Bridging From Junior to Cadette Girl Scouts

The essential parts of this ceremony are:

- Junior Girl Scout receives bridging recognitions, if earned
- Junior Girl Scout rededicates herself to Girl Scouting by making the Girl Scout Promise

Formation:

- Junior Girl Scout troop forms a horseshoe at one side of the room. Cadette Girl Scout troop forms a horseshoe at the other side of the room. The space between may be used to symbolize the transition

Order of Ceremony:

1. Junior Leader Says:

“We present to you (number) Girl Scouts who have finished their last year in Junior Girl Scouting. Diligently they have worked on badges, signs and in service. They now dedicate their lives to follow the Girl Scout ways and wish to join the ranks of Cadette Girl Scouts.”

“Girls, dedicate the coming years with all it brings to see,
Not asking for a path of ease
But one of victory.

The bridge into Cadette Girl Scouting is long, and its span reaches high,
But the handshake of welcome awaits you
With opportunity as high as the sky!”

2. Girls, one by one, cross bridge as leader calls each name. Cadette Girl Scout Leader greets them on the other side with a Girl Scout handshake and a Cadette Girl Scout escorts the bridging Junior into the Cadette horseshoe.

3. As the last Junior girl joins the Cadette horseshoe, a Cadette Girl Scout or leader says:

“You’ve crossed one bridge and you’re on your way.
Cadette Girl Scouts have a challenge that’s true
With laws to live by and Promise to say
There’s work in this world to do.

So eagerly take up each challenge
And to meet many needs, prepare
In your home, in your town, in your country
Your skills and your vision do share.
Please join with me in repeating the Girl Scout Promise.”

4. After the Girl Scout Promise, all sing, “On My Honor”

5. Cadette Leader says, “We would like to congratulate and welcome the new Cadette Girl Scouts.”
(applause)

Note: This ceremony could be ended here or combined with the following as a rededication ceremony.

6. After the new Cadette Girl Scouts have been welcomed, the Cadette leader or girl says: “These flowers represent the spirit of Girl Scouting. Join with me now as we rededicate ourselves to living the Girl Scout Law.”

7. A Cadette Girl Scout goes around the inside of the horseshoe carrying a basket of flowers. She hands out a flower to each of the girls she passes. With each flower handed out, the group says a part of the Girl Scout Law (if there are more girls than laws, then use two different flowers, i.e. daisy flowers to represent the “Girl Scout Law”, roses to represent the motto and the slogan).

8. End with a song: “Girl Scouts Together.”

Bronze Award Ceremony

Supplies:

- Three tall white or green candles
- One candle for each girl receiving the Girl Scout Bronze Award
- Individual girl candles surround the three tall candles
- Candle holders: candle log for the three tall candles
- Individual holders for girl candles

Formation:

Troop stands in horseshoe. Place a long table at open end of horseshoe with candle holders and candles.

Order of Ceremony:

Begin with a flag ceremony, Pledge of Allegiance

Leader:

Today we are honoring _____(names of girls to receive the award) for earning the highest award in Junior Girl Scouting, the Girl Scout Bronze Award. Each of these girls has achieved the high ideals and goals expressed by Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of the Girl Scout movement in 1912.

Speaker #2:

The three tall candles symbolize the threefold purpose of Girl Scouting as expressed in our Promise.

Speaker #3:

“On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country...” (light a tall candle)

Speaker #4:

...To help people at all times...” (light second candle)

Speaker #5:

...And to live by the Girl Scout Law.” (light the third candle)

Leader:

_____(Names of girls) have served their country, community and God with their hard work and skills. Each will speak about her Girl Scout Bronze Award project and receive her award. (Call first girl by name)

Award Recipient #1: (Stepping forward)

My Girl Scout Bronze Award project was _____. I learned _____.

(She walks to the leader who gives her the Girl Scout Bronze Award. Then she goes to the table, picks up a candle, lights it from one of the tall candles and puts it back down in a holder.)

This is repeated until all receive their awards.

Leader:

An award is a symbol of achievement. It means that you have learned something new and provided service to others. With each new award, a Girl Scout takes on new responsibilities. More is expected at home, in Girl Scouting and in your community. Strive always to be worthy of the symbols you wear, and wear them with pride. Best wishes to each of you.

Bridging From Cadette to Senior Girl Scouts

The essential parts of this ceremony are:

- Cadette Girl Scout receives bridging recognitions, if earned
- Cadette Girl Scout rededicates herself to Girl Scouting by making the Girl Scout Promise

Formation:

Cadette Girl Scout troop stands in horseshoe on one side of the room. Senior Girl Scouts stand in horseshoe on other side of the room. Place a long table between the troops to hold the props for this ceremony.

Order of Ceremony:

1. Cadette Girl Scout Leader or girl says: "Have you come here tonight (today) with a desire to be bridged into the Sisterhood of Senior Girl Scouting?"

Bridging Girls say: "Yes, we have."

2. Cadette Girl Scout Leader or girl says: "Do you understand that by entering Senior Girl Scouting you are joining a sisterhood in which you will be expected to live your life according to Girl Scouting ideals and traditions and in which you will be trusted to obey the promise and law and carry out the motto of being prepared?"

Bridging Girls say: "We do."

3. Cadette Girl Scout Leader or girl says: "It will be your duty as Senior Girl Scouts to go ahead and prepare the way for those who are following you. Daisy, Brownie, Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts will be looking to you as leaders to set a worthy example. Are you prepared to undertake this responsibility?"

Bridging Girls say: "We are."

4. Cadette Girl Scout Leader or girl says: "Are you ready to lead your new life of leadership, to be honorable and fair in all your dealings. To recognize and give service where needed and to open your eyes and mind to the world around you?"

Bridging Girls say: "We are."

5. Cadette Girl Scout Leader or girl says "Understanding these things then, we ask you to see your responsibilities and endeavors in Girl Scouting, not from a girl's point of view, but that of young leaders. Will you do this?"

Bridging Girls say: "We will."

6. Cadette Girl Scout Leader or girl says: "We trust you, on your honor, to do your best to keep these promises. Do your best to keep your honor bright and the spirit of Girl Scouting in your heart."

(Pause)

"As your name is called, come forward and accept this key as a symbol of your advancement into Senior Girl Scouting. Use it to unlock all the wider opportunities available to you as new young leaders in the Girl Scout community."

Note: A "Golden Key" for each Bridging Cadette Girl Scout could be cut from poster board or purchase uncut keys from a store. Attach each key to a ribbon or a daisy.

7. At one end of the table the Cadette Girl Scout Leader stands and calls the name of each girl. The girl walks up to the table, is offered the Girl Scout handshake by her Cadette Leader and is presented with her earned awards, membership star with white disc and bridging patch, if earned.

The bridging girls then go to the other end of the table and are greeted by the Senior Leader and presented with a “Golden Key to the Future” and escorted to the Senior horseshoe by a Senior Girl Scout.

8. End with a song: “On My Honor.”

Bridge From Senior to Ambassador Girl Scouts

Materials:

One per girl: candles, flowers, bandana

Each girl provides a token gift for their parents/guardian

Girls form a horseshoe: facing their families and friends. Give each girl a candle

Leader: Do you, as a Girl Scout, accept the challenge this candle represents, to shed your light as a Girl Scout in all that you do, say and think? Do you accept the challenge of being a guiding light to your peers and following the ideals exemplified by this candle of an unwavering flame of truth and goodness?

Girls: Yes (or we will, we do)

Leader: (Give each girl a flower) “Do you as a young woman accept today’s responsibilities to seek knowledge, to explore careers and accept the challenge of an active role in this changing world?”

Girls: Yes (or we will, we do)

Leader: (Give each girl a bandana) “The versatility of this bandana, a tradition in Girl Scouting, is your reminder of the meaning of our motto: “Be Prepared.” Do you accept the challenge that this bandana represents?”

Girls: Yes (or we will, we do)

Leader: I congratulate you on your step forward in Girl Scouting and I look forward to seeing your progress and the good work that you do both for yourself and your community. With this in mind, please join me in renewing our Girl Scout Promise to Girl Scouting.

All Repeat the Girl Scout Promise

One Girl: Mothers and Fathers, you have stood by our side to help, comfort and support us as we have grown. Now that we are becoming young women, we will need your help and support even more. Accept this small gift as our token of thanks for making us what we are and for helping us to become what we want to be.

Graduation From Ambassador to Adult Girl Scouts

The essential part of this ceremony is:

- Recognition of each girl, their achievements and years in Girl Scouting

Formation:

Troop members escort to the front Ambassador Girl Scouts about to graduate.

Order of Ceremony:

1. Narrator

“Fond parents watch their girl where she stands,
Apart from her friends tonight.
Self-confidence, poise, grace and assurance,
Produced by achievement that’s right.

It seems just a few short months have passed
Since she joined with the youngsters next door.
How proud she was of her Girl Scout pin
As she told of the message it bore.

But the years have gone as she struggled along
To learn what the Girl Scout Law’s about;
She practiced them daily, the Promise and Law
To become the perfect Girl Scout.

You may smile in your worldly wisdom at this
And say, “Why it’s only a pin.”
But I tell you no honors she’ll gain as a woman
Will mean as much, ever again.

Yes it’s only a pin, a Promise to care
But the heart that’s beneath it beats true,
And will throb to the last, for the things which are good
A lesson for me, and for you.”

2. Presentation of certificates and Bridge to Adult Pin (prepare certificates giving number of years of Girl Scouting and achievements, rolled and tied with green ribbon).

3. Narrator

“The three gold leaves the trefoil wears
And the threefold message that it bears
May they bring to you the feeling that
You are going into something deeper,
Wider and more joyful.
May the Girl Scout Promise and Law live ever in your heart,
And your lives be enriched from the standards it has set for you.
Congratulations!”

4. Song: End with a favorite Girl Scout song

District, Neighborhood or Multi-Troop Fly Up and Bridging Ceremony

Perform opening flag ceremony and sing “America, the Beautiful.”

Ceremony #1

Welcome to Girl Scout Brownies

First-grade Girl Scout Daisies bridging to Girl Scout Brownies

Girl Scout Brownie Leader: Come on girls and join our ring; here we plan most everything.

Girl Scout Brownies escort first-grade Girl Scout Daisies into their circle. They can then be presented with their bridging patch, bridging certificate, membership star and disc and their Brownie pin, if earned.

Third Grade Girl Scout Brownies Fly-Up

Third-grade Girl Scout Brownie fly-up to Girl Scout Juniors

Girl Scout Brownie Leader: “Now it’s time to say good-bye; break the ring and out you fly.”

The Brownie Ring breaks to let girls and their leaders out. She takes them to the bridge, repeats the following poem and gives them their Girl Scout Brownie Wings.

Leader: Girl Scout Brownies you are just about
 To become a Junior Girl Scout.
 In the troop you soon will find
 Girl Scout Juniors are true and kind.
 So now I give you Brownie Wings
 That you may fly to bigger things.

Girl Scout Brownies cross the bridge. Girl Scout Juniors meet them at the other end and each one take a Girl Scout Brownie to the Girl Scout Junior horseshoe. When all are in place, they recite the Girl Scout Promise together and the new Girl Scout Juniors are presented with their Girl Scout pin, bridging patch and bridging certificate.

Girl Scout Juniors Bridge to Girl Scout Cadettes

Girl Scout Junior Leader: As we say “welcome to you” we have to say goodbye too.
 The time has come for some to cross;
 The Girl Scout Cadette’s gain is our loss.

Girl Scout Junior Leader stands at the end of the bridge and says goodbye to the fifth-grade Girl Scout Juniors as they start to cross the bridge. Girls may be presented with their bridging patch, bridging certificate, membership star and disc.

Girl Scout Cadettes Bridge to Girl Scout Seniors

Girl Scout Cadette Leader: "We welcome our newest Cadettes. As you join us to help make a well-rounded troop ready to meet new challenges, we too, must say goodbye to some of our members as they progress on to Girl Scout Seniors."

Girl Scout Cadette Leader stands at the end of the bridge and gives the Girl Scout Cadettes the Girl Scout Handshake as they start across the bridge. Girls may be presented with their bridging patch, bridging certificate, membership star and disc at this time. The Girl Scout Seniors will meet them at the other end.

Girl Scout Seniors Bridge to Girl Scout Ambassadors

Girl Scout Senior Leader: "We welcome our new Senior Scouts and say goodbye to the tenth-grade girls as they move on to become Girl Scout Ambassadors."

Girl Scout leader stands at the end of the bridge and gives the Girl Scout Seniors the Girl Scout Handshake as they start to cross the bridge. Girls may be presented with their bridging patch, bridging certificate, membership star and disc. The Girl Scout Ambassadors will meet them at the other end.

Close the ceremony by singing "Girl Scouts Together."

Ceremony #2

Girl Scout Daisies Bridge to Girl Scout Brownies

You will need five stepping stones for this part of the ceremony.

As the Girl Scout Daisies step over the stepping stones, the leader says:

Stepping stones are for you Daisies,
Cross them while you sing.
Your Daisy days are over now,
Come join our Brownie ring.

Girl Scout Daisies now join the Girl Scout Brownie ring, where they repeat the Girl Scout Promise and are pinned by a sister Girl Scout or the leader. The leader now recites:

When you were a very young girl,
You wore Daisy Girl Scout Blue
You learned the joy of singing
With Daisy friends so true.
But now that you are older
You will be trying something new.
You will bring along your happy smile
To Brownies, we are welcoming you.

The Girl Scout Brownies are in the Brownie Circle and the Bridging Girl Scout Brownies are in the middle. The leader says:

Now is the time to say good-bye
Break the ring and away you fly.

Girl Scout Brownies then cross over the bridge to Girl Scout Juniors. They repeat the Girl Scout Promise and are pinned by a sister Girl Scout or the leader. The Junior leader says:

When you were a young girl
You learned through trying many things
Now you are ready for new adventures
As Juniors, your ideas can take wings.

Girl Scout Juniors cross over the Bridge to Girl Scout Cadettes. They repeat the Girl Scout Promise and are pinned by a sister Girl Scout or leader. The Cadette leader recites:

When you were a young girl
You learned a lot of things
By singing, badge work, and helping others
You learned what happiness you can bring.
Now you come to Cadettes
Ready to take a greater part
In Girl Scouting and your community
And Cadettes is just the start.

Leader reads to all:

When I hear of young girls
Who haven't been a Girl Scout
I think of all the wonders
That she has never seen.
We've watched you girls grow
And marveled at the sight,
Your caring, talents and abilities,
And using them just right.

Please join me in reciting the Girl Scout Promise.

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.

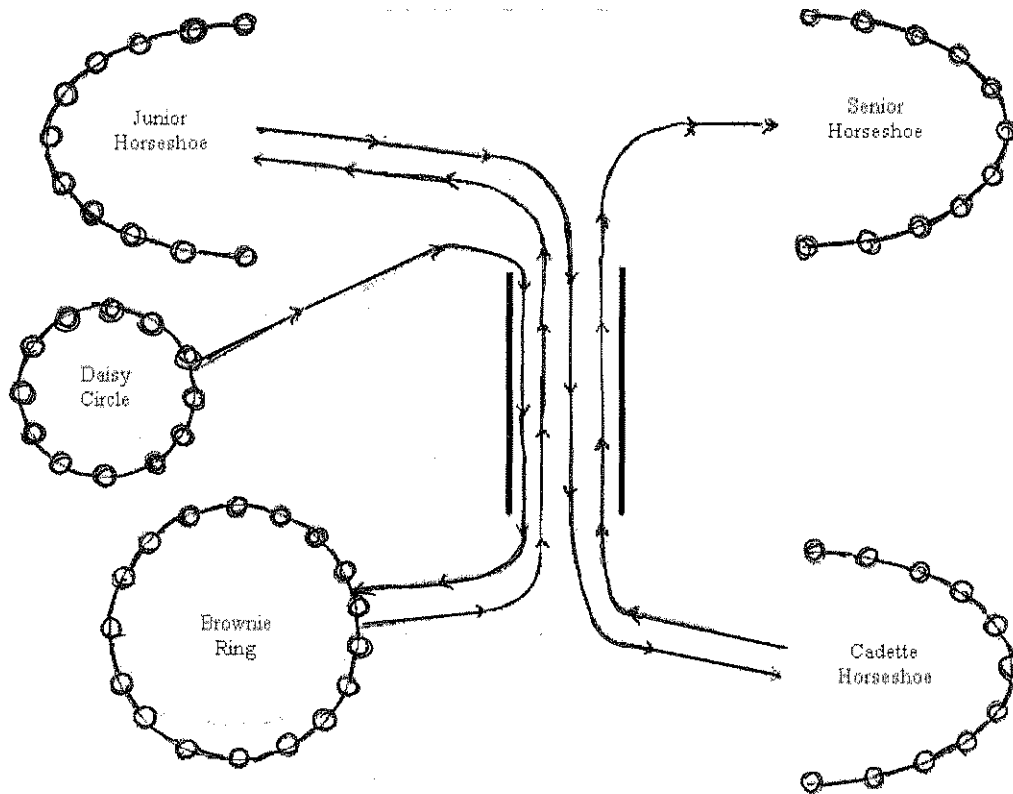
Both ceremonies should be closed with a closing flag ceremony where the colors are retired by the Color Guard.

We would like everyone to join us in a big Friendship Circle and sings "Taps" with us.

Formation for a Multi-Level Bridging Ceremony

The formation below can be used with having a multi-level bridging ceremony.

If you have Girl Scout Ambassadors participating in the ceremony, the girls will form a horseshoe next to the Girl Scout Cadettes so that Girl Scout Seniors can cross over the bridge in join them.



Court of Awards

The Court of Awards is a special ceremony that is held several times a year to give recognition for work accomplished. This ceremony usually climaxes the troop's activities and can be held any time after a Journey, Daisy Petal or Leaf, badge or other recognitions have been completed.

The Court of Awards can be used as a closing ceremony for a project the whole troop has worked on, or you might elect to invite members of girls' families, program consultants, members of their sponsoring organization, etc. It is up to the girls and their leaders to decide on what guests to have, if any.

When planning a Court of Awards, you might think about inviting a bridging group of younger girls as guests. Including exhibits of the work done toward earning awards would also give the younger girls a preview of the activities they will be able to pursue when they advance to the next level.

Order of Ceremony:

1. Formal opening ceremony
2. Demonstrations or displays of activities that helped girls earn their recognitions
3. Presentation of earned awards and insignia by leaders or special guests
4. Singing by the group
5. Formal closing

Ideas for Presenting Recognitions

1. Cut out trefoil shape, attach wide ribbon and staple each girl's awards to the ribbon.
2. Make "badge and patch" bouquets by stapling patches on the end of pipe cleaners, tie pipe cleaners together with a ribbon.
3. Make treasure chests or Badge/Patch Trees
4. Staple awards to pages of a "memory book" or "congratulations" card.
5. Staple awards to a miniature vest or sash.
6. Print girl's name and list the awards on a self-adhesive label and affix to a snack-size baggie.
7. Place girl's awards in a brown or white lunch bag. Fold down opening of bag and poke a Girl Scout pencil through bag to hold it together. Attach a special Girl Scout sticker on the bag.
8. Draw smiley face on paper plate or place special Girl Scout sticker in center of plate and staple awards around edge.
9. Make felt or tissue flower and staple awards on petals.
10. Make ribbon necklace and staple each girl's awards to ribbon.
11. Put in a plastic egg for a springtime ceremony.
12. Attach outdoor recognitions to a bandana.
13. Attach science and technology recognitions on paper airplanes.
14. Attach art and history recognitions to paintbrushes or sheet music, or strung on balloons, with a photograph of something girls did.

Sample Court of Awards

Each letter is written on a small poster or 5x8 card, and on the back is an explanation.

B Stands for **BADGES** to be given today. What is a badge? An outward sign of an inner accomplishment. The scrap of colored material is not nearly so important as the job that was done to earn it.

A Stands for **AWARDS** given at the Court of Awards. Here we do not reward you 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.

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.

G Stands for the **GIRL** in Girl Scouts. Most of all the earning of badges show **GROWTH**. Growth as an individual in becoming an increasingly worthwhile person through living the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

E Stands for **EAGERNESS** and **ENERGY**. Necessary to earn badges. Badges do not come easily and they should not or their value would be small. Badges must present challenges and difficulties and satisfaction in accomplishment.

S Stands for many things. **SERVICE** to others should be one aim in life. **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.

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.

Brownie Tree of Knowledge

Prepare a tree with branches. Cut out construction paper leaves and write an activity on each leaf that girls have completed to earn the awards.

- Open with flag ceremony
- Sing an appropriate song

Leader:

This is the Tree of Knowledge. The tree trunk represents Girl Scouting. Each branch represents a part of the Journey we have taken in our Brownie troop. Each leaf represents the knowledge and skill we acquired as we branched out to explore our world.

- Each girl reads the activity on her leaf and ties or tapes it to the tree
- After all leaves are attached, present the girls their awards
- Close the ceremony with a Brownie Ring and a Friendship circle

Saying Thank You to Adult Helpers

Each year parents, family, friends and strangers help to make it possible for girls and leaders to accomplish troop goals. They help at meetings, on field trips, provide snacks, expertise for badge activities, meeting places and more. They make Girl Scouting a fun time for your troop.

Expressions of gratitude may take various forms, from sincere, informal words of thanks to formal acknowledgement at a meeting; from a greeting made by the girls to an official award.

Free thank-you certificates are available from the Emerson Resource Center, but having girls make their own appreciation gifts or certificates will have a much more impressive meaning for volunteers.

- Have girls list all the people who helped you
- Decide when you will say thank you
- What kind of thank you will girls/leaders give?

Suggestions:

Troop Thank You

- Have girls decorate a picture frame with words of appreciation from Troop XYZ. Place a photo of troop at one of the year's activities in the frame
- Make a troop calendar or collage of troop activities
- Fill a mug with hot chocolate mix and mini marshmallows and attach a card: "Our warmest thanks!, Troop XYZ"
- Have girls design their own thanks certificate or card on computer
- Have girls make up a poem or skit and perform at special meeting for troop volunteers

Thank You for the Difference You Make

Place these items in a small baggie and attach this poem:

Your Smile (smiley face sticker/pin/ball)

When you share your smile, you never know the impact it might have. Your smile might be the first nice thing to happen that day to a friend, one of your troop or to a stranger. Never underestimate its power.

Your Light (tea light candle)

Like a candle, your inner light can bring warmth and happiness to those around you. Just as one candle can light another, your inner light can ignite a spark in someone else.

Your Reach (small green shiny pebble)

Just as a pebble tossed into water causes ripples that seem to spread forever, sharing yourself with your troop will also have a ripple effect. The girls will carry your influence as they move out into the world and, in turn, share it with those that come into their life.

Your Heart (heart shaped bead)

By opening your heart to the girls in your troop, you are helping them to open their hearts to those in our world who need compassion and assistance. You are teaching the girls the joy of a full heart.

Other Baggies

“We would go ‘nuts’ without your support!”
Give your volunteers a bag of mixed nuts.

“You light up the lives of so many!” or “You lighten our load by volunteering.” or “No one holds a candle to you!”

Wrap candles in cellophane and tie them with this note.

Poems for Ceremonies

Bridging Poem

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 helping
Other people that we know.
The more we give to others,
The more that we will grow.

Take my hands in learning
To camp on nature’s ground.
Enjoying trails and campfires

With new friends that we have found.
Take my hand in giving
Our knowledge of true scouts
To girls we meet and talk to
Who have so many doubts.

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

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

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

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

Scouting is a Candle

Scouting is a candle that will light you on your way
It's trying on your honor and helping every day.
Exploring worlds around you and looking wider still
Pitching tents out in the woods or hiking up a hill.
Guitars and voices blended under God's majestic sky.
Loving those around you friendships that never die.
The meaning in a moment, in a smile or in a tear.
Make you a little taller with each Girl Scouting year.

A promise to your God and to your country, too.
Makes you a part of your world and your world a part of you.
It's something you may carry wherever you may go.
You can't hide happiness you can't hide the glow.
A secret deep inside you that only scouts can know.
That's the kind of secret you want the world to know.
A candle glows forever it shines eternally.
Make it shine on everyone that's the way the world should be.

Investiture Ceremony Poem

These golden trefoils in my hand
Upon our new Girl Scouts we will bestow
But first the meaning that the trefoil bears
the spirit of our Promise we must know

Three gold leaves that the trefoil wears
Threefold the Promise that it bears
To serve God and your country dear
To bring other hope and cheer

And everyday in every way
The Girl Scout Law learn to obey
And yet another message too
These three gold leaves should bring to you

There are three ways each girl should grow
Three sides of life each Scout should know
Your body is the temple of your soul
Oh, Girl Scouts build it strong and straight and fair

In Gods' great out-of-doors your kingdom lies
Health and happiness await you there
In beauty, too, in this great land
Our Father made so fair
Seek long for beauty, and even more
Make beauty where no beauty was before

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.

Children Are Like Kites

You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground.

You run with them until you're both breathless; they crash; you add a longer tail;

They hit the rooftop; you pluck them out of the spout; you patch and comfort, adjust and teach.

You watch them lifted by the wind and assure them that someday they'll fly!

Finally, they are airborne but they need more string and you keep letting it out and with each twist of the ball of twine, there is a sadness that goes with the joy because the kite becomes more distant and somehow you know that it won't be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that bound you together and soar as it was meant to soar free and alone!

A Girl Scout Prayer

Grant us the gift of GENEROSITY that we may know that in giving we are gaining.

Instill in us the INSIGHT we need to better understand ourselves and those around us.

Reveal to us the RICHES of the world around us and show us ways we can protect and improve them.

Lead us with thy Lights of LOVE and LOYALTY that we shall not lose ourselves in hate and confusion.

Secure in us a Sense of SISTERHOOD,

SHARING and SINCERITY, for with these we shall surely grow closer together.

Open our eyes to the needs of OTHERS so we may offer help whenever possible.

Unveil to us the UNDERSTANDING of the

UNIQUENESS of each individual.

THANK YOU for granting us these blessings; we ask you to teach us to use them wisely.

Amen

The Brownie Story

For those who've come, I'm here to share

The Brownie Story with girls who care

For once, a long time ago

When fairies and elves in England did grow

Two little girls as normal as you

Lived with their father and grandmother, too!

Their father, a tailor, worked hard all day

And Granny, very busy, had no time to play

The girls loved to play and dance and sing

They could make a game out of any old thing

Then one day the father, a wise old man
Told of the magic of Brownie Land
He told them of the Brownies who work and dust
And clean for their families without making a fuss

Granny told them to look for a magical place
Where the wise old owl might show them the face
Of a Brownie who was willing to clean and sew
And dance and sing, 'cause Brownies love that, you know!

Our two found the owl with the answers to share
With all the little girls waiting way out there
Said he, go to the magical Brownie Ring,
Join all the Brownies in everything.

Deep in the woods when the moon is out
Go to the pond - turn yourself about
You'll find magic that starts with a rhyme
And this magic circles the world in time

Twist me and turn me
And show me the elf
I looked in the water
And saw myself

Now all of us know of the magic Brownie woods
Where each little girl helps as she should
Where trees and flowers and the rain and the sun
Are friends of children who join Scouting fun

The Spelling of Girl Scouting

Materials: poster board with letters
G-I-R-L S-C-O-U-T-I-N-G on them.

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, word and mind.
Speaker #6: C is for the countless ways in which these 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!

Girl Scout Daisy Bridging

by Carol Lee Spages

Girl Scout Daisies, cross the bridge,
Your Daisy days are done.
Come and join our Brownie ring...
Find adventure and lots of fun.

Bridge to Girl Scout Cadettes

by Carol Lee Spages

When you were a Girl Scout Junior
You learned a lot of things
Through discover, connect, take action..
And the skills badge work and service brings.
Now you come to Girl Scout Cadettes
Ready to take a greater part
In Girl Scouting and your community,
And this next step is just the start.”

Spoken by Girl Scout Ambassadors bridging to Adult Girl Scouts

by Joan McEniry

We are the present...and the future too
We turned our eyes to you to point the way
We learned to walk, ourselves, against the day
When you no longer lead us by the hand
You taught us the meaning we need
For, soon, there will be those
Whom we must lead
In ways which you have shown
And, having taught us,
Show us that you are not afraid for us to walk alone
You taught us to reach for the stars
To gather to ourselves the dreams
That beckoned once to you
You taught us those things that we must know
To make your dream, our dream come true!

