

# Ceremonies

Hold these ceremonies when you celebrate the special Girl Scout days! Leaders can learn more by participating in the Ceremonies and Traditions training offered by council.

## Founder's Day Ceremony

October 31

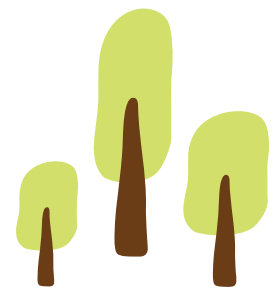
One or more troops can participate. Can be held indoors or outdoors.

A speaking chorus of at least 12 voices presents the choral reading featuring solo voices and groups of light and park voices.

Props:

A tree (real if outdoors or a simple stylized artificial one if indoors)

A telephone bell



As a group(s) enter the ceremony site, music is played in the background, or the group may sing an appropriate song.

Group(s) circles tree, some clockwise, some counter-clockwise. Speaking Chorus forms into group on left side of tree, remainder of group arranges themselves on right side.

Music ends.

**SPEAKING CHORUS (all voices):** Juliette Low once said:

**1st VOICE:** Did you ever think how wonderful it is that with every new spring, sap should rise in the trees? No one knows whence it comes, but it flows from root to branch, and makes a dead, bare tree blossom with green leaves... And so it is with Girl Scouting; it rises within you and your willingness to put forth your best. In every path of life you have a chance to show what a Girl Scout can do.

**ALL:** Juliette Gordon Low knew well that time flies swiftly. Today is soon tomorrow, and all our tomorrows lie in the hands of youth. Her gift to youth was Girl Scouting. And her dream, a tree of fellowship grown from a tiny seed.

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*Founder's Day Ceremony continued.*

**LIGHT VOICES:** She knew the seed would ripen.

**PARK VOICES:** The tree grew.

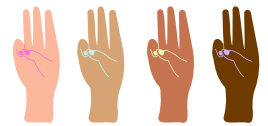
**1st SOLO VOICE:** "If it isn't right the girls won't take it, and it won't last!"

**ALL:** Millions of voices answer:  
"It is right! It will last! Thanks to your inspiration, Juliette Low, and to the founders of our Troop, our Camps, our Council, who have helped our tree reach skyward, Nourished by their faith, watered by their service, tended by their love."

The group may now wish to show appreciation to their founders in some appropriate way, such as a short speech, a reading, or a song, and perhaps the presentation or some memento of the occasion



Our roots lie deep in earth,  
Revered, like our traditions.  
Honoring the past, we live each day  
Beneath the spreading branches of our tree.  
As we move into the future  
We raise our eyes to the topmost leaves  
And the clear sky beyond.



Circling the tree as before, the group sings an appropriate song as they leave the site.

### Note

It is most important that the speaking chorus say their lines in a spirited manner, bringing out the contrasts, and making the most of the dramatic possibilities in the program. Work for clear enunciation and above all, audibility.

It should be noted that "Park Voices" are the more resonant ones, "Light Voices" have a more delicate tone quality.

## Juliette Low's Birthday

October 31

Any number can participate. Prior to the ceremony, make sure everyone knows the songs and selected girls have practiced their readings. Appropriate arrangements would be a circle or horseshoe.

**1st READER:** Arriving in Savannah in 1912 after visiting with Sir Robert Baden Powell, Juliette Low telephoned her cousin Nina Pape. The content of that telephone call is perhaps the only thing about the beginning of Girl Scouts of the USA that has always been reported in exactly the same way.

**JULIETTE LOW:** "Come right over. I've got something for the girls of Savannah and all America and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight!"

**SONG:** *Girls Scouts Together from Sing Together, pg. 34 or Girl Scout Pocket Songbook, pg. 6.* 

**2nd READER:** Girl Scouting caught on at once and grew very rapidly. Today we are going to share with each other portions of three letters that Juliette Low herself, wrote to us, her Girl Scouts.



October 31, 1923

My Dear Girl Scouts,

When one thinks of the thirty-first of October, one associates the day with All Halloween when fairies, imps, and witches fly about. And on that night I made my first appearance in this world!

Long before I was born, lads and lassies of ancient times celebrated the night by testing their fortunes, bobbing for apples, and playing many a joke. Little did I dream when I, myself, was young and tried these Halloween pranks that I should live to see that day turned into a Girl Scout Founder's Day. So, you will understand what a thrill of gratitude comes over me.

One's birthday should be the day for good resolutions. And there is a suggestion by Arnold Bennett which may be of use to you, as it has helped me. He calls it an aide and says, "The deliberate cultivation of the gift or putting yourself in another's place is the beginning of wisdom on human relations." To put yourself in another's place requires real imagination, but by so doing each Girl Scout will be able to live among others happily.

**SONG:** *Whenever You Make a Promise from Sing Together, pg. 25 or Girl Scout Pocket Songbook, pg. 6.*  

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**3rd READER:** October 31, 1924

My Dear Girl Scouts:

At this birthday time of mine, it has been your custom to have Founder's Day programs in your troops. It has been an inspiring thought to me to imagine these troop meetings of yours. Girl Scouts, ready to do your share in this splendid Girl Scouting of ours.

I am thinking of you today and in spirit, I am with you. On Halloween, which is my own birthday, I shall be joining in your games with you. For it cheers me to think that Founder's Day of the Girl Scouts and All Halloween, which brings us so many charming games, are so associated. For Girl Scouting is a game, too.

I hope that during the coming year we shall all remember the rules of this Girl Scouting game of ours. They are:

To play fair. To play in your place. To play for your side and not for yourself. And as for the score, the best thing in a game is the fun and not the result.

Girl Scouts, I salute you.

**SONG:** *On My Honor or together everyone says the Girl Scout Promise.*



**4th READER:** October 31, 1925

My Dear Girl Scouts:

I am thinking of each of you today, as I send you my birthday message: May the year that lies before us all bring us further than ever before toward the realization of our Girl Scout ideals. Instead of trying to tell you what Girl Scouting means to me, I should like each of us to ask herself, "Where is Girl Scouting leading us?"

Sir Robert Baden-Powell answered that question several years ago. He told me of a word-used by the natives in Africa: IPESI. He said that each letter might stand for one of the principles in Girl Scouting and that these basic principles will never change

*"I" for inspiration, "P" for possibilities, "E" for example, "S" for service, "I" for ideals.*

If we can follow the suggestion of IPESI, we shall know Girl Scouting through living, and we may make it so much a part of our everyday life that people will recognize the Girl Scout spirit and say, "Why, of course, she is a Girl Scout."

And so to you, Girl Scouts, come my heartfelt best wishes for the days that are before us. As you gather in your troops to celebrate, think of the girls around the world who are your sister Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. Truly, ours is a circle of friendships, united by our ideals

**SONG:** *Make New Friends, from Girl Scout Pocket Songbook, pg. 10.*



## World Thinking Day

February 22

February 22 is an important date for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. It is the birthday of both Lord Baden-Powell (1857-1941) the founder of the Scouting Movement, and his wife Lady Olave Baden-Powell (1889-1977) World Chief Guide.

World Thinking Day is a time to reflect on the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and their sisters around the world. The Girl Scouts in your Troop (registered adults included) should have the World Trefoil Pin. It is worn above the Girl Scout Membership Pin (Daisy, Brownie, or Girl Scout Pin) and may be presented at the end of this ceremony.

**MATERIALS FOR THIS CEREMONY**

For visual effect, you can make a WAGGGS Flannelgraph (flannel board pin with pieces to assemble) and assemble it as the meaning of the parts are read. A simple alternative is to display an enlargement of the World Trefoil Pin, and point to the parts of the pin as they are described in the ceremony.



The Troop stands in a horseshoe formation. World Pin is displayed or flannelgraph is assembled on a wall or table.

**LEADER:** This horseshoe in which we stand symbolizes the open friendship circle. In the open end stand our sister Girl Guides and Girl- Scouts from around the world. We can not see them, but they are here in spirit with thoughts of friendship for all of us. The pin you are about to receive is a symbol of this worldwide bond. Its purpose is to encourage friendship between girls of all nations. As you receive your pin., remember millions of girls all over the world will be receiving and wearing it too.

**GIRL SCOUT 1:** The World Association pin has a blue background. The blue stands for the sky above all of us, all over the world.

**GIRL SCOUT 2:** The gold trefoil stands for the sun shining on all of us. Its shape represents the three parts of the Promise.

**GIRL SCOUT 3:** The stars in the trefoil remind us of our Promise and Law, a basic philosophy of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world.

**GIRL SCOUT 4:** The upward-pointing vein is the compass needle that guides us.