

Girl Scout Traditions and FUNDamentals

Juliette Low knew how important it was to feel a part of a group. Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world use special signs and terms. The following definitions will help you understand more about scouting.

Awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold The highest awards that a scout can earn in the Junior, Cadette and Senior/Ambassador levels, respectively, by completing specific requirements, including a community project.

Bandana A square of cloth used by scouts for a number of handy purposes; an essential item for camping.
<http://trefoilscouts.org/Bandana%20Uses.pdf>

Bridging Girls graduate from one grade level to another (Daisy to Brownie, Brownie to Junior, etc.) in a Bridging Ceremony. If they have completed various steps outlined in the handbook, they earn a rainbow bridging patch.
<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/Traditions/Ceremonies.htm#Bridging>

Buddy System Girl Scouts always use this safety practice of pairing by twos; always used on field trips.

Community Service The Girl Scout program revolves around Discover, Connect and TAKE ACTION which involves troops planning and conducting service projects that benefit their Girl Scout Service Area and the general community.

Court of Awards A ceremony to present badges and earned recognitions at any grade level. Usually involves a flag and candle lighting ceremony when parents are invited once or twice a year
<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/Traditions/Ceremonies.htm>

Diversity The core value of diversity began with Juliette Low in 1912 and continues today to ensure that girls of all backgrounds, ethnic or religious groups, physical or other limitations are welcome in scouting.
<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/subpages/DiversAct.htm>
<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/subpages/DiversityKit.htm>

Dunk Bag A mesh bag into which a Girl Scout puts her washed mess kit at camp so that it can be dunked into sterilizing water and hung on a line to dry.

Edible Fire Use common snacks to teach campfire building skills before you venture outdoors with your troop.
<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/SubPages/EdibleFire.htm>

Fly Up The ceremony in which a Brownie Girl Scout becomes a Junior Girl Scout; the 'wings' patch is presented.
<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/Traditions/Ceremonies.htm>
<http://www.riverbluffs.org/publications/Ceremonies112807/CeremonyBridgingFlyUp112707..pdf>
<http://www.geocities.com/brownies698/flyup.html>

Friendship Circle Girl Scouts, both girls and adults, stand in a circle holding hands, which stands for an unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world. This is done for meeting closings.

Friendship Squeeze When everyone is quiet in the friendship circle, a designated person starts the friendship squeeze by gently squeezing the hand of the person on her right. The squeeze is passed from hand to hand around the circle until it returns to the originator. Often girls will make a silent wish after their hand has been squeezed and before they pass the squeeze along. Also, in some groups girls put their right foot out into the circle when they have received the friendship squeeze, so that everyone can see it travel along the circle.

Girl Guides Girl Scouts in many other countries are called Girl Guides.

Girl Scout Week Celebrated each year during the week of March 12, the date of the first US troop meeting.

http://neighborhood13-1.com/GS_Week_Activity_Sheets.htm

Girl Scout Promise and Law The pledge made by each member, both girls and adults, promising to try to live by the ideals of Girl Scouting. The Promise has three parts, the Law has ten.

<http://home.roadrunner.com/~scoutingseasons/3gslaw.htm>

<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/SubPages/GSLawHandMotions.htm>

Girl Scout Handshake A formal way of greeting other Girl Scouts or Girl Guides. Shake left hands and give the GS Sign with the right hand.

GS's Own An inspirational ceremony with a theme that girls plan and implement themselves.

<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/subpages/ScoutsOwnPlan.htm>

Girl Scout Sign The Girl Scout Sign is a symbol of The Girl Scout Promise. Hold up the right hand with the first three fingers up--each finger stands for one part of the Promise. Use the Sign whenever making the Promise.

GSUSA Girl Scouts of the United States of America, headquartered in NY, NY.

<http://www.girlscouts.org/>

Insignia The badges and pins that are worn on a uniform. Insignia are placed in specific places on a vest or sash.

http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/insignia/where_to_place/

Investiture and Rededication Investiture is the ceremony where a girl becomes a Girl Scout (Daisy, Brownie, ... or Adult) by making the Promise and reciting the Law and receiving a membership pin. Investiture happens ONCE in life. The ceremony is called Rededication when girls and adults rededicate themselves to scouting at the beginning of the membership year. Investiture and Rededication can happen at the SAME ceremony, different only because girls or adults are invested the very first time they participate in this ceremony and thereafter they are rededicated.

<http://www.leaderlobby.net/tools/ceremonies.php>

Journey A coordinated series of activities grouped around a theme, part of the GS New Leadership Experience

<http://www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/>

Juliettes Individual Girl Scouts who are not members of a troop or group. Juliettes may participate in council, Service Area or troop events or trips.

Juliette Low World Friendship Fund A national voluntary fund to promote older girl travel abroad to increase international friendship and understanding.

<http://www.kyanags.org/pdfs/011.pdf>

Juliette Low Birthday or Founders Day October 31, 1869. Girl Scouts celebrate the birthday of the founder of the Girl Scout movement in the USA.

http://guidezone.e-guiding.com/i_liz_hist.htm

Kaper Chart A chart showing all jobs (kapers) available and who is responsible for each job; kapers generally rotate through a series of meetings or weekend camp until ALL girls have completed each kaper.

http://www.leaderlobby.net/tools/kaper_charts.php

Kim's Game A game in which several items are presented and then hidden. Girls list all the items they can remember.

<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/subpages/JLKimG.htm>

Lord and Lady Baden Powell Brother and sister founders of the international scout and guide movements for boys and girls.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Baden-Powell,_1st_Baron_Baden-Powell

Mess Kit Individual set consisting of a non-breakable plastic or metal plate, cup, bowl, and eating utensils used with a dunk bag when camping. Can be inexpensively purchased at Wal-Mart or a sporting store.

Mission "To build girls of courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place"

Motto "Be Prepared"

National Center Two national centers are owned and operated by Girl Scouts of the USA. Juliette Gordon Low Girl Scout National Center in Savannah, Ga. and Edith Macy Conference Center in NY.

<http://www.juliettegordonlowbirthplace.org/>

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

Nose Bag A bag lunch or meal which does not need to be cooked.

Nose Bag Skit A lunch bag containing odd items (spoon, odd piece of metal, whistle, piece of cloth etc.) that a group of girls must use in a skit of their own choosing OR within guidelines provided by a leader (i.e. illustrate one of Aesop's fables to teach "better sure than sorry" or teach a first aid skill or a fractured fairy tale.)

Program Aide Cadette/Senior /Ambassador Girl Scouts who have been trained to assist younger Girl Scout groups with songs games, crafts, ceremonies or outdoor or other skills.

Progression A step by step approach to teaching skills, taking trips or planning events, usually applied to grade levels, e.g. Daisies take a walk around their meeting place, Brownies hike to a park 3 blocks from their meeting place, Juniors take a trip across town to the community park, Cadettes take a trip to the local state park, etc.

<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/subpages/OutdoorProgresChart.htm>

Quiet Sign A way to let girls and parents know it is time to be quiet. When a leader raises her right hand and keeps it raised until each person sees the sign, stops talking, and raises their hand until everyone is quiet.

Sit-Upon A waterproof pad or mat to sit on when the ground is damp or dusty that each girl makes herself. Can be made from almost any material, e.g. from newspapers coated with plastic shower curtain material, etc.

<http://guidezone.e-guiding.com/situpons.htm>

Skits Girl Scouts illustrate ideas or teach skills or just have fun by creating short (1-3 minute) skits on a chosen topic or idea; for example, a 60 second commercial about Hiking Safety or what not to take on a campout. Often funny, often including gags on the actors or the audience. Skits teach presentation skills, foster team work and creativity, and show that girls have mastered ideas.

<http://www.trefoilscouts.org/GS%20Law%20Skit%20Ideas.pdf>

<http://www.neighborhood13-1.com/pdf/skits.pdf>

Slogan "Do a good turn daily."

Songs and Graces Traditionally, girl scouts sing songs around a campfire, for opening or closing ceremonies or while hiking at camp. Girl Scouts sing “Grace” before snacks and meals.

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

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/3209/graces.html>

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/3209/graces2.html>

SWAP “Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere” Traditional crafty item made by Girl Scouts; traded at camp or an event with girls of other troops or councils.

<http://www.leaderlobby.net/activities/crafts/swaps.php>

Talking Stick Can be as simple as a painted wooden dowel, or designed like a Cherokee Talking stick with feather, stone, etc. Girls are taught not to speak in a meeting unless they hold the ‘talking stick’.

<http://www.acacart.com/stories/archive6.html>

<http://www.overhillcherokee.com/talking.htm>

Thinking Day Celebrated on February 22, the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. This day is celebrated all over the world as Girl Guides and Girl Scouts think about, learn about, and greet each other.

<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/Traditions/ScoutTraditions.htm>

<http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/home>

Three Keys Discover, Connect, Take Action describe the ways leaders plan activities for scouts within the New Leadership Experience

http://www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/transforming_leadership_17.pdf

Three Processes Girl Led, Learn By Doing and Cooperative Learning describe 3 elements that are part of all program activities of the GS journey toward the New Leadership Experience.

Trail Mix or GORP “Good Old Raisins and Peanuts” A healthy mix of cereal, nuts, and dried fruit that can be used on hikes or in a meeting; does not require refrigeration.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trail_mix

WAGGGS World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Set up in 1928 to promote the movement world-wide. Your World Trefoil Pin shows that you are part of this worldwide movement.

<http://www.wagggsworld.org/en/home>

<http://www.neighborhood13-1.com/pdf/World%20Trefoil%20cut%20and%20place.pdf>

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/3209/World.html>

Wide Game A game played by following a trail with stops at several stations usually teaching outdoor skills. Wide Games involve a storyline that connects all the activities. Can be used indoors at meetings to complete various parts of a Try-It or other badge. May involve solving secret codes, following compass directions, trail signs, etc.

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs315088.pdf>

Wider Opportunity now called “Destination” Any Girl Scout activity that takes girls outside their own council.

<http://www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations/>

World Centers Four international scouting centers: Our Cabana, Olave Centre (Pax Lodge), Sangam, Our Chalet

http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/wagggs/world_centers.asp