

Girl Scouts' Own

A Girl Scouts' Own is based upon the beliefs and ideals of Girl Scouting. It allows girls to express their thoughts and feelings in a truly meaningful way. Because it is the Girl Scouts' own ceremony, it is planned and carried out by the girls.

The main purpose of this ceremony at camp is for the girls to express their feelings about what they have learned – be it a skill, a feeling, a change of attitude about something as a result of camp, or just sharing thoughts about the camp experience, or about their GS friends at camp.

Give the girls ample time to think about what they want to say. The ideal time would be at a campfire, just before bedtime in the quiet of the evening. You might precede it with some quiet songs or a poem –let the girls decide. It would be a good idea to share some of your thoughts about what you learned at camp first, so they'll be able to come up with their own thoughts. You might announce the Scouts' Own at dinnertime, then give them a few hours to think about what they want to say. It's also not a bad idea to let it be a spontaneous ceremony, only giving them a few minutes of silence to prepare a thought. There's something about the stillness of an evening campfire that makes the moment special. Use a Talking Stick and pass it around as each scout has an opportunity to express her thoughts.

You may have one of the girls read the inscription on the stick to remind them of the responsibility to speak truthful and positive thoughts.

A Girl Scout's Own is generally a serious ceremony, not a time for jokes or teasing. Let the girls know this ahead of time.

Cherokee Talking Stick

Whoever holds it, holds the sacred power of words. All others must be silent.

Symbolism:

Eagle Feather = gives courage and wisdom to speak truthfully and wisely

Rabbit Fur = words must come from her heart and be soft and warm

Blue Stone = the Great Spirit hears the message of her heart as well as the words she speaks

Shell = to remind her that all creation changes, the seasons, the years, people and situations

Four Beads = the powers of the universe are hers Yellow = sunrise of the east Red = sunset of the west White = snow of the north Green = earth of the south

Buffalo Hair = the holder speaks with the power and strength of this animal