

Short & Snappy

Girl Scout Ceremonies

What's a Short & Snappy?

- A short training/information segment provided at a Service Unit meeting or for leaders to use at troop meetings.
- Any interested volunteer may lead a Short and Snappy.
- Short & Snappies are usually 10-45 minutes in length.

Things to Remember

- Stay within the allotted time (you're taking up a piece of their agenda time).
- If you don't know the answer, seek the correct answer from the appropriate person.
- Bring the necessary supplies for your short & snappy.

What you'll need

- Short & Snappy Guide
- Membership pins for new members.
- Copies of the Girl Scout Promise & Law if members are unfamiliar.

Introduction

5 minutes

Girl Scout ceremonies offer a rich tradition to our organization. These ceremonies reinforce the values of Girl Scouting. They may be a part of a meeting such as a simple Flag Ceremony or more elaborate when Girl Scouts are receiving badges and other recognitions. Ceremonies may also recognize other accomplishments or special Girl Scout Holidays. Whatever the purpose and whatever the ceremony, Girl Scouts must be an integral part of the planning process.

All ceremonies have certain elements in common. The best ceremonies use a combination of the following:

Purpose: The reason, the motivation for, or main idea of the ceremony. What is the driving force of the ceremony? Possible purposes include to welcome new members, celebrate accomplishments or express Girl Scout values.

Mood and Atmosphere: Pleasant surroundings appropriate to the purpose/theme. Consider having music, songs, readings, dramatics or use symbols to build an appropriate mood for the ceremony. Allow Girl Scouts to be creative in determining the props and equipment to be used. Bringing their individual personalities to each ceremony will also help drive the events atmosphere.

Personality: Bring out the characteristics of the Girl Scouts and volunteers involved in the ceremony. Allow Girl Scouts to take on roles that express who they are as an individual. Highlight their personal qualities and allow them to flourish at their own level.

Theme: The theme focuses on developing the purpose. The subject, topic or idea is expressed through activities, decorations, invitations, refreshments, etc. It is a common thread that brings the whole ceremony together.

Setting: Consider the time of day and how it impacts the attendance and mood of the ceremony. Choose a location relevant to the purpose, mood, and atmosphere desired. (i.e., outside in the woods, inside on a stage, part of the meeting, etc.). Consider using different types of props or



materials during the ceremony. For example, if the troop is bridging to the next level of Girl Scouting, they might want to include some kind of bridge to cross over. Make sure the location can accommodate for activities and number of people planned. Also try to make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities.

Safety: Always utilize *Safety Activity Checkpoints* and ensure the safety of everyone involved in the ceremony.

Note: Plan for rehearsal time no matter how short and simple the ceremony.

There are many types of ceremonies. Girl Scouts are only limited by their imaginations and resources! There are a few that are traditionally a part of the Girl Scout experience. These include:

Investiture: A ceremony that welcomes new members into Girl Scouting for the first time, giving Girl Scout pins to both girls and adults.

Rededication: A ceremony for those who have already been invested, to reaffirm their belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law and reflect upon the meaning of Girl Scouting in their lives. It is often held at the beginning of each Girl Scout year and can be done simultaneously with the investiture of new members. Because of the importance of these events, a beautiful and meaningful ceremony should be planned and carried out.

Girl Scout's Own: A ceremony that has a specific theme and includes whatever the girls want it to include. A friendship Girl Scout's Own might include poems, songs and reflections from each girl on what friendship means to her.

Flag Ceremony: A ceremony that honors the American flag as the symbol of our country and all the hopes, dreams, and people it consists of.

Bridging Ceremony: This ceremony marks a girl's move from one level of Girl Scouting to another.

Please note that Girl Scouting, while being spiritual, is not affiliated with a specific faith. Each ceremony should be inclusive of all participants. When making the Girl Scout Promise, individuals may substitute wording appropriate to their spiritual beliefs.

Activity

10 minutes

Invest your new volunteers and rededicate the returning volunteers with a short and simple ceremony. During this ceremony you will provide new volunteers with the appropriate Girl Scout Membership pin.



Ceremony: Have the group stand in a circle. Ask new volunteers to step forward. When they step forward, pin them with a Girl Scout pin and welcome them to the Girl Scout family with the Girl Scout handshake. Once all new volunteers are pinned, ask them to recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law together. For returning members, ask them to recommit themselves to the Girl Scout Promise and Law to kick-off their Girl Scout year. Then have a leader or Service Unit manager briefly talk about the upcoming year and the excitement of the Girl Scouts in your area.

Optional: Pin the membership pin on upside down until they do a good deed – or right-side up because their good deed is volunteering to be a Girl Scout leader!



Helpful Tips

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.

*Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong,
and responsible for what I say and do,
and to respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place,
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Girl Scout Handshake

The Girl Scout handshake is the way many Girl Guides and Girl Scouts greet each other. They shake their left hands while making the Girl Scout sign with their right hand.



To learn more about Girl Scout ceremonies, visit:

<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/members/for-volunteers/traditions-and-ceremonies.html>

Or <https://www.girlscoutsla.org/content/dam/girlscoutsla-redesign/documents/membership/Ceremonies-Manual.pdf>