



girl scouts  
of greater chicago  
and northwest  
indiana

# GUIDE TO BRIDGING



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## Bridging: A Girl Scout Tradition

Bridging takes place as a girl moves from one level of Girl Scouting to the next. Advancing from Brownie Girl Scouts to Junior Girl Scouts is usually called “Flying Up.” For all other age levels (Daisy, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador) it is called “bridging.”

A bridge crosses a gap and makes it possible to get from one side to another; so it is in Girl Scouting. Through a process called “bridging,” girls who move from one program age level to the next have something to help ease that jump. The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is based on progression. As girls increase their skills and confidence, they can carry out activities that require more planning, take place farther away from home, and utilize special skills and endurance. Age level bridging awards are specifically designed to help girls transition from one age level to the next with confidence and enthusiasm.

As girls bridge to the next age level, don’t forget that parents are bridging too! As girls advance in Girl Scouts, they will take on more responsibility for the management of their troop. It is important to remind parents that trusting girls to plan and make key decisions in a safe Girl Scout environment allows them to learn from their mistakes and grow into our leaders of tomorrow.

### When does a bridging happen?

First Grade Daisies, Third Grade Brownies, Fifth Grade Juniors, Eighth Grade Cadettes, Tenth Grade Seniors and Twelfth Grade Ambassadors can earn a Bridge to Age Level Award by completing the necessary requirements. Girls may still move on to the next level of Girl Scouting even if they do not earn the bridging recognition for their age level.

Bridging celebrations or ceremonies usually take place at the end of the year and can be combined with a Court of Awards. You might decide to bridge during the summer, giving extra time to finish up the last of the badges or journeys they may have started. Another option is to bridge at the start of the new Girl Scout year.

### Why do we bridge? And why is it important?

Think of it like this: a bridge is something that crosses a gap and gives us access to new and exciting things to be discovered on the other side. Girl Scout bridging does the same thing. It gives girls the opportunity to make the leap from one level to the next!

Bridging activities have been designed to emphasize the continuity of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, to introduce girls to what lies ahead, to encourage girls to reflect on their personal growth and previous accomplishments, and to give older girls a sense of personal responsibility for younger girls.

Bridging activities will take time, but careful planning and continued reinforcement of the idea that the girls are getting ready to move on to the next age level in Girl Scouting will make the experience meaningful for them. Once the bridging activities have been completed, a bridging celebration can be held to recognize the girls and welcome them into the next Girl Scout program level.

## Bridging Requirements

To prepare for bridging, both leaders and girls should review the Bridge to Age Level Award requirements in their Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. Each Girl Guide level has a section devoted to bridging that lists the specific award requirements and suggests activities appropriate for that age level. Activities include talking to older girls about their experiences and teaching younger girls about your experiences. Girls must complete all activities in order to earn the bridging award.

### Step 1: Pass it On!

Share your talents and skills with younger girls. For example, if you are bridging from Brownie to Junior, you would share your talents and skills with a Daisy or Daisy troop.

### Step 2: Look Ahead!

Meet with or talk to older girls to discover what you will experience in the new level you will be bridging to. For example, if you are bridging from Brownie to Junior, meet with a Junior troop and see what lies ahead.

### Step 3: Celebrate!

Celebrate with a bridging ceremony with your troop, family, and friends.

## By completing the bridging process, girls earn a special award:

- Girl Scout Daisies earn the Bridge to Brownie Award.
- Girl Scout Brownies earn the Bridge to Junior Award.
- Girl Scout Juniors earn the Bridge to Cadette Award
- Girl Scout Cadettes earn the Bridge to Senior Award
- Girl Scout Seniors earn the Bridge to Ambassador Award
- Girl Scout Ambassadors earn the Bridge to Adults Award



## Bridging Celebrations

Bridging is an important transition in a Girl Scout's life. It is a defining moment when a girl becomes aware of her achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities. Celebrating this change should be fun, personalized, and memorable for everyone involved. And most of all, it should be designed by the girls in true partnership with adults.

Your troop may decide to celebrate their bridging with or without a formal ceremony. They may choose to “bridge” at one of our camp properties and follow it with a family picnic or have a troop party.

### Bridging Ceremony

Many troops choose to celebrate their bridging with an end of year ceremony. Ceremonies typically have three parts:

- **Opening:** explains the purpose of the ceremony. Guests are welcomed and the tone is set. For example, it might be quiet, festive, or serious. You can open a ceremony by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
- **Celebration:** focuses on the purpose of the ceremony. The focus might include presenting awards, reading poems, singing songs, or sharing a candle-lighting.
- **Closing:** summarizes the ceremony. Girls can participate in friendship circles, thank their guests, or sing a closing song.

Each ceremony part offers plenty of room for the girls' creativity and individuality. There can be invitations, programs, decorations, flowers, refreshments, gifts, photos—it's up to them! Personalize it with songs, poems, stories, or activities that the girls love!

If you have families present, it might be a good idea to have them make a promise, too!

### Family Promise

On My Honor, I Will:

- Share my daughter's new interests and give her opportunities to practice her skills at home.
- Show appreciation to the promise and law.
- Attend the troop events to which I am invited.
- Support my child's leaders and appreciate the time they volunteer for my daughter and other girls in the troop.
- Let my daughter know that I consider her participation in Girl Scouting to be important and special.

You can find samples of ceremony scripts in Appendix A of this document.

## Girl- Led Planning

*Note: If you're working with girls who want to host an event—large or small—be sure girls are leading the event-planning, instead of sitting by passively while you or another adult plans the event. Please see "Hosting a Girl-Led Event" on page 44 in Volunteer Essentials 2017-2018.*

Ceremonies are opportunities for the girls, not the adults, to express themselves. Girls should have a part in making their own memories.

In planning, keep in mind that girls will have varying abilities depending upon their age level. As girls get older, their responsibility for planning should expand. Don't worry about doing everything "right." Be flexible, let the girls make mistakes and learn from them.

### Ceremony Planning

Start planning your ceremony by asking the girls the following questions

#### • What kind of ceremony do we want?

Bridging?  
Flag ceremony?

Investiture?  
Rededication?

#### • Where and when will it be held?

Indoors or outdoors?  
In the morning or at night?

Gathering Place or Girl Scouts Camp?  
During a troop meeting or another time?

#### • Who should be invited?

Parents? Siblings?  
Special Friends?

Another Girl Scout troop?  
Adults from the community?

#### • What can we use to personalize the ceremony?

A theme?  
A favorite song, dance, skit, or poem?  
Candles, lights, or a campfire?

Symbolism?  
Girl Scout Promise and Law?  
Flags? A bridge? Other props?

#### • How will we do it?

Who will start the ceremony?  
What formations will we use?  
Where will the guests sit?  
Will we serve refreshments?  
Who will set up the event?

Should we sit or stand?  
Should we speak together or separately?  
Do we want/need to learn something new?  
Do we need to rehearse?  
Who will clean up after the event?

**CELEBRATE, KEEP IT SIMPLE, AND HAVE FUN!!!!!!!**

## How to Plan Your Troop's Bridging

*Note: Girls who help make decisions and plan their own activities tend to love their Girl Scout experiences more than those whose leaders do everything for them. They feel connected, valued and "heard." Please see page 7 of Volunteer Essentials 2017-2018.*

### 1. Earning the Award

The planning process should begin several months in advance, if possible.

Once the girls have decided to earn their bridging award, review the requirements found in your current age level Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting and have a troop brainstorming session. How would they like to "Pass it On" to younger girls and "Look Ahead" to older girls?

Reach out to other troop leaders in your service unit or community to plan joint activities.

### 2. Planning the Celebration

There is no "right way" to celebrate bridging. The troop may want to have a formal ceremony with parents in attendance or they may prefer an intimate experience in a park. While our council does have bridges available for loan, having an actual bridge is optional.

A "successful" bridging celebration is memorable and fun.

### 3. Quick Checklist

✓ **Book your celebration space**

Did you know that you can hold your celebration at a GSGCNWI Gathering Place or camp property?

✓ **Send parents a save-the-date**

✓ **Reserve bridging supplies**

Bridges, flags and other supplies are available for loan at each Gathering Place.

✓ **Order your bridging kits from the Gathering Place Shops**

Each kit contains a bridge to age level award patch, membership star with disc, bridging certificate, and exclusive GSGCNWI bridging fun patch.

✓ **Order uniforms**

If girls will receive their new uniform upon bridging, be sure to order the vests or sashes and any necessary insignia.

✓ **Don't forget to complete your new age level training!**

Visit the Learning Portal at [www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/training](http://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/training)

## Appendix A: Bridging Ceremony Scripts

While the ideas listed below are separated by Girl Scout program age levels, creative adaptation may be used to tailor them to other age levels. Reading parts can be split or consolidated to match the number of participants.

### Daisy Girl Scouts—Bridging To Brownie Girl Scouting

Both ceremonies include Brownie Girl Scouts who welcome the Daisy Girl Scouts to Brownie Girl Scouting, or possibly their troop.

#### A BROWNIE STORY

Brownie Girl Scouts can take turns reading “The Brownie Story” to the Daisy Girl Scouts and the audience. (The story can be found in the Brownie Handbook portion of the *Brownie Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting*.)

After the story has been read, the Brownie Girl Scouts form a ring and the Daisy Girl Scouts line up beside a “pond” (a mirror). One at a time, each girl turns around three times, while repeating the verse:

“Twist me and turn me and show me an elf.  
I looked in the water and saw \_\_\_\_\_.”

As she looks into the pond, she completes the rhyme by saying, “Myself.” The girl then walks over to join the ring, where she receives the Bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts Award and the Brownie Girl Scouts pin.

A bridge for the girls to cross may be set up between the “pond” and the ring, if desired. This is repeated until each former Daisy Girl Scout has been welcomed into Brownie Girl Scouting.

#### BAKE A BATCH OF BROWNIES

Current Brownie Girl Scouts are in a horseshoe, open to the audience, next to the “oven.” Daisy Girl Scouts are on the other side of the “oven.” (To create an “oven” for baking a batch of Brownies, cut a door on opposite sides of an upside-down, large cardboard box. Decorate the “front door” to look like an oven. Daisy Girl Scouts enter through the back door and exit, as Brownie Girl Scouts, out the front of the oven.)

**1st Brownie Girl Scout:** Let’s bake something.

**2nd Brownie Girl Scout:** Yes, what can we make?

**3rd Brownie Girl Scout:** I know, let’s make some new Brownies!

**All Girls:** Yes, that’s a great idea! (Etc.)

**4th Brownie Girl Scout:** Let’s look in our handbook for the recipe. (Pulls out *Brownie Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting* and flips through it, stopping on any page)

**5th Brownie Girl Scout:** Here it is! To make Brownies, you start with a bouquet of Daisies.



**6th Brownie Girl Scout:** Then, we must mix two basic ingredients—the Promise and the Law.

**7th Brownie Girl Scout:** In a large bowl, cream together 1 cup each of a promise to serve God, my country, and humankind.

**8th Brownie Girl Scout:** To this mixture, add 2 cups of honesty and 4 tablespoons of fairness. Mix together until well blended.

**9th Brownie Girl Scout:** Beat together 1/2 cup of cheerfulness and 1/2 cup of helpfulness, and add to the mixture.

**10th Brownie Girl Scout:** Stir in 1 cup of thoughtfulness and 1 cup each of courage and strength.

**11th Brownie Girl Scout:** Fold in 1 cup of responsibility for what I say and do.

**12th Brownie Girl Scout:** Add 1 cup of respect for authority and 1 cup of respect for myself and others. Stir until well blended.

**13th Brownie Girl Scout:** Sift together 1/2 cup of wise use of resources and 6 tablespoons of a promise to protect and improve the world. Stir into the mixture.

**14th Brownie Girl Scout:** Sprinkle over the mixture 2 tablespoons of sisterhood of Girl Scouting. Spread batter into a large pan and bake at a moderate temperature until done.

Daisy Girl Scouts enter back of oven. A leader inside the oven can remove their Daisy Girl Scout tunics and give the girls the Bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts Award and the Brownie Girl Scouts pin.



## Brownie Girl Scouts—Bridging To Junior Girl Scouting

### THE SPELLING OF BROWNIE AND JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS

Brownie Girl Scouts form a ring on one side of the room and Junior Girl Scouts form a horseshoe on the other side of the room.

**Brownie Girl Scout Leader:** You've been in Brownie Girl Scouts  
And you've earned your wings of sunlight gold.  
You're ready now for Junior Girl Scouts—  
New adventures you've been told.

**1st, Brownie Girl Scout:** B—means to BE PREPARED for any new surprises.

**2nd Brownie Girl Scout:** R—we're READY now when the unexpected rises.

**3rd Brownie Girl Scout:** O—we're flying OUT of the ring which held us close so long.

**4th Brownie Girl Scout:** W— we've earned our WINGS so celebrate with a song.

**5th Brownie Girl Scout:** N—means NO ONE can deny how much we really care.

**6th Brownie Girl Scout:** I—is for the INTEREST shown by our leaders everywhere.

**7th Brownie Girl Scout:** E—is for the ENERGY we've put into EVERY little thing.

**Brownie Girl Scout Leader:** You've put them all together and made this Brownie Ring.

Bridging Brownie Girl Scouts leave the ring, one by one. Their Brownie Girl Scout leader pins the Brownie Girl Scout Wings and Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts Award on her uniform and says good-bye with the Girl Scout handshake. The girl crosses over to the horseshoe.

The Junior Girl Scout leader greets her with the Girl Scout handshake and pins the Girl Scout pin onto the girl's uniform. This continues until all of the girls have joined the horseshoe.

**1st Junior Girl Scout:** J—means you're JUST the one we've needed all these days.

**2nd Junior Girl Scout:** U—is for the UPS and downs you'll have along life's way.

**3rd Junior Girl Scout:** N—just means we won't say NO to religion, or to race.

**4th Junior Girl Scout:** I—is INTERNATIONAL sisters to Girl Guides in a far place.

**5th Junior Girl Scout:** O—is for the OPEN hearts and hands we extend to you.

**6th Junior Girl Scout:** R—means that we REALLY want you to try to like us, too.

**Junior Girl Scout Leader:** Junior Girl Scouts you'll be for two short years.  
 Make the most of each day that goes by.  
 Be cheerful and helpful and do a good turn,  
 And greet each Girl Scout with a "Hi!"

### LEAVING THE NEST

Wearing their "wings" (constructed paper wings), the bridging Brownie Girl Scouts duck down behind the "nest." (To create a "nest," paint a large nest on a tree branch on one side of a cardboard refrigerator box laid horizontally. Make the nest big enough to cover the entire cardboard piece. Brace the "nest" on the ends so it will stand up.)

Each girl stands up, says a passage, and ducks down again.

**1st Brownie Girl Scout:** J—is for JUMPY, happy kids who play with friends.

**2nd Brownie Girl Scout:** U—is for UNITED. Our troop stays together to work and have fun.

**3rd Brownie Girl Scout:** N—is for NATURE that we share and care for.

**4th Brownie Girl Scout:** I—is for IMPORTANT INTERESTS that make us more alike than different.

**5th Brownie Girl Scout:** O—is for OVERNIGHTS and trips that are exciting.

**6th Brownie Girl Scout:** R—is for RESPECT for myself and others, and the world around me.

**7th Brownie Girl Scout:** S—is for SINGING SONGS we enjoy.

**All Brownie Girl Scouts:** (In unison) Together we make JUNIORS. We're ready to fly up to more exciting adventures. (Girls remain standing for the rest of the ceremony.)

**1st Brownie Girl Scout Leader:** Two years have passed since you first stood  
 By the magic pool and learned you could  
 Do lots of things in a Girl Scout way.  
 And truly live by the words you say.

**2nd Brownie Girl Scout Leader:** In commitment to promises and showing respect  
 Satisfaction from working together is what you expect.  
 So, Brownie Girl Scouts, fly on and find  
 That Junior Girl Scouts are true and kind.  
 Now we give you Brownie Girl Scout Wings  
 That you may fly to bigger things.

**1st Brownie Girl Scout Leader:** Now it's time to say good-bye.  
 Break the ring and out you fly.

One at a time, each girl is gently "pushed" out of the nest by the girl next to her. The girl leaves the nest

and is greeted by the Brownie Girl Scout leader, who removes the wings and presents her with the Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts Award and the Girl Scout pin. The last girl in the nest may be “pushed” out by a leader or may carefully “trip” out of the nest herself.

## Junior Girl Scouts—Bridging To Cadette Girl Scouting

### A NEW CHALLENGE

Each part read by the girls.

**Part #1:** As we enter this new level of Girl Scouting – this higher level, we’ll find ourselves stepping out of our childhood and entering a world of new experiences. In this new world, we will gain more of an understanding of our own self-worth and individuality. As we accept more responsibility, we will experience growth. Growth in knowledge, growth in abilities, growth in judgment, and growth in maturity.

**Part #2:** We’ll join the ranks of the “older girls” in Girl Scouting. We’ll be given more opportunities to try more things. We’ll be given more responsibility and we’ll be given more freedom to accomplish the things we want to accomplish on our own.

**Part #3:** Our green vests are shed for new khaki uniforms. New doors open. The rules are different for older girls. We’re going to love this!

**Part #4:** Cadette Girl Scouting is the time to begin combining our Girl Scout life with our personal life. We’ll try some high-adventure things. Plan trips. Explore careers. Volunteer for something. It’s the best of both worlds.

**Part #5:** Are we ready and willing to accept the challenges and responsibilities of a Cadette in Girl Scouts?

(Response: Yes)

**Part #7:** I challenge myself to a greater understanding of Nature, Science and Health. (repeat)

**Part #8:** I challenge myself to learn and use new Life Skills. (repeat)

**Part #9:** I challenge myself to seek new means of Communications. (repeat)

**Part #10:** I challenge myself to have a better insight and appreciation of the Arts and History (repeat)

**Part #11:** I challenge myself to understand and try new adventures through Sports and Recreation. (repeat)

**Part #12:** I challenge myself to continue to develop my leadership skills, to give service where and when I can, to continue to accept and live the Girl Scout Promise and Law. (green candle) (repeat)

**Part #13:** I challenge myself to accept and live the challenge of being a Girl Scout and I challenge myself to achieve the highest award as a Cadette, the Silver Award. (silver candle) (repeat)

*Everyone recites the promise.*

**Leader:** As you cross the bridge from Juniors to Cadettes and officially become a Cadette Girl Scout, we will present you with a symbol of this transition, a Silver Key. This Silver Key will symbolize that you are seeking to unlock the door to Cadette Girl Scouting and experience all that lies behind it. Wear it as a symbol of pride for Girl Scouting. Wear it as a symbol of friendship for each other. But most of all, wear it as a symbol of admiration and support from us to you. Not as your parents, but as your advisors.

**Co-Leader:** Wear your key to symbolize all that is yet unknown in the world of “older girls” and in your individual world. This silver key should remind you to do your best, try your best and be your best. Your key is your link to this troop and all of us who are a part of it. Treat it as if it were a one-of-a-kind treasure. In time, you’ll come to realize that it is.

Repeat after me as I light the last silver candle:

I challenge myself to unlock all that is possible as a Cadette. I challenge myself to reach for the highest award as a Cadette, the Silver Award.

Each girl should now walk over the bridge and receive their silver key as they reach the other side.

## Cadette Girl Scouts—Bridging To Senior Girl Scouting

### OVER THE RAINBOW

**Troop Leader:** This evening we celebrate your advancement in Girl Scouting. We know that you have prepared yourselves well and will use the experiences you have gained to the greatest advantage in your future Girl Scout experiences.

We know, too, that you will adhere to the belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law which underlies all Girl Scouting. Please repeat together our Promise and Law.

All girls recite the Promise and Law

**Girl Scout Senior or Troop Leader:** Senior Girl Scouts members have many interest groups. You can explore career opportunities through giving service as volunteers. You can strive for the highest award for girls in Girl Scouting today—the Girl Scout Gold Award. You can prepare for adult leadership through leadership programs and can expand your horizons and circle of friends.

Much that you have learned during your days as Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Girl Scouts will help you as a Senior Girl Scout.

This evening marks a milestone in your lives as Girl Scouts and is a mark of progress for both you and your leaders. We Girl Scouts are moving forward as a small group just as the whole Girl Scout organization is constantly moving forward, inspired by our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, a woman of vision and courage. (A poem or quotation about or by Juliette Low may be read.)

**Troop Leader:** It is a joyful quest we are following together, and we find a great joy in the comradeship of working together, and seeking together. As soon as we understand this joy of comradeship, we long to have others share it, too.

### Senior Girl Scouts—Bridging To Ambassador Girl Scouting

#### THE FIVE CANDLES OF GIRL SCOUTING

Bridging Girl Scouts stand in a formation of a horseshoe open to the audience. A table is set with candles. Each candle is lit as the corresponding passage is read.

**Troop Leader:** I share with you the pure light of Girl Scouting as you explore the Girl Scout World through skill development, adventure, service, career exploration, and leadership opportunities. (A white candle is lit. This candle is used to light the others.)

**Girl Scout:** The red candles represents health and recreation, which helps young women understand themselves, their values, needs, and strengths, while also being aware of what it takes to be physically and emotionally fit.

**Girl Scout:** The orange candles stands for science and life skills, which let a young woman look into the how's and why's of things, to solve problems and to recognize the ways her present interests can build toward future ones.

**Girl Scout:** The yellow candle symbolizes nature explorations, which can help a young woman to enjoy and appreciate her natural environment and to take action to protect and preserve her world and environment.

**Girl Scout:** The blue candle represents communication and history, which helps a young woman build pride in her own heritage, while appreciating the uniqueness of each culture and the common themes among them all.

**Girl Scout:** The purple candle stands for the arts, which develops a young woman's personal taste and appreciation for the many art forms and things of beauty in the world around her.

**Troop Leader:** From the light of the five candles of Girl Scouting, may your Girl Scout world ever grow. (A green candle is lit.)

The leader greets each girl with the Girl Scout handshake. Each girl receives a small white candle, which she lights from the green candle's flame.

**Troop Leader:** From the Girl Scout World, take your light into the world and let it shine forth with love and knowledge.

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## Ambassador Girl Scouts—Bridging To Adult Member

### THE TWELVE CANDLES OF GIRL SCOUTING

The passages may be divided equally between the bridging girls. Each candle is lit as the girl recites the passage. (If similar candles cannot be found in the appropriate colors, ribbons may be tied to the base of white candles. Caution should be used to avoid contact between the ribbon and the flame.)

**Girl Scout:** Silver—Morning, the beginning of a new day, which presents a new challenge

**Girl Scout:** Yellow—Juliette “Daisy” Gvordon Low, the founder of the Girl Scout movement

**Girl Scout:** Pink—Other girls in Girl Scouting, sisters to each other

**Girl Scout:** White—Purity of every Girl Scout’s heart

**Girl Scout:** Gold—The Girl Scout Pin, which reminds us of our Promise and Law

**Girl Scout:** Purple—Courage to stand up for what we believe

**Girl Scout:** Turquoise—Water, which sustains life

**Girl Scout:** Brown—The earth on which we live

**Girl Scout:** Green—All plant life that beautifies the earth, which we must respect and protect

**Girl Scout:** Red—Fire, which glows for warmth and friendship

**Girl Scout:** Blue—The sky, under which we are united by our Girl Scout ideals

**Girl Scout:** Orange—Sunset at dusk, the closing of another Girl Scout day

When all of the candles have been lit, the girls may be presented with the Bridge to Adult Girl Scouts Award.

## Multi-level Girl Scouts—Bridging to All levels

### WHEN YOU WERE A YOUNG GIRL

This ceremony involves every program level of Girl Scouting, Daisy Girl Scouts through graduating Girl Scouts.

**Daisy Troop Leader:**           Stepping-stones are for you, Daisy Girl Scouts,  
Cross them while you sing.  
Your Daisy Girl Scout days are over now,  
Go and join the Brownie Girl Scout Ring.

Daisy Girl Scouts leave their circle and cross the bridge. Brownie Girl Scouts meet them at the other end and present the girls with the Bridge to Girl Scout Brownie Award and Brownie Girl Scout pin before joining the other Brownie Girl Scouts.

**Brownie Troop Leader:**    When you were a were young girl  
You wore Daisy Girl Scout blue.  
You learned the joys of singing  
With Girl Scout friends so true.  
Bring along your happy smile.  
To Brownie Girl Scouting, we welcome you.

Brownie Girl Scouts leave their ring and cross the bridge. Junior Girl Scouts meet them at the other end and present the girls with the Bridge to Girl Scout Junior Award, Brownie Girl Scout Wings, and Girl Scout pin before joining the other Junior Girl Scouts.

**Junior Troop Leader:**            When you were a young girl  
You learned through “trying” many things.  
Now you are ready for new adventures.  
As Junior Girl Scouts, your ideas can take wing.

Junior Girl Scouts leave their horseshoe and cross the bridge. Cadette members meet them at the other end and present the girls with the Bridge to Girl Scout Cadette Award and the Cadette pin before joining the other Cadette members.

**Cadette Troop Leader:**    When you were a young girl  
You learned lots of things.  
By singing, badge work, and helping others  
You learned what happiness can bring.

Now you are ready to take a greater part  
In Girl Scouting and your community,  
And Cadettes is just the start.

Cadette Girl Scout members leave their horseshoe and cross the bridge. Seniors/Ambassadors members



meet them at the other end and present the girls with the Bridge to Girl Scout Senior/Ambassador Award before joining the other Senior/Ambassadors members.

**Senior/Ambassador Troop Leader:** When you were a young girl  
You wore a dress of green.  
Through service to others  
A new world you have seen.

You will achieve your goal.  
By learning the world around you,  
You will discover your own role.

Graduating Girl Scouts leave their horseshoe and cross the bridge. Leaders meet them at the other end and present the girls with the Bridge to Girl Scout Adult Award.

**All Girl Scout Leaders:** (In unison) When I hear of a young girl  
Who hasn't been a Girl Scout,  
I think of all the wonders  
That she has never seen.

Follow in the proud footsteps  
Of where other Girl Scouts have been,  
And when you are older,  
You'll still love your dress of green.

We've watched you girls grow  
And marveled at the sight,  
Your caring, talents, and abilities  
And using them just right.



## Appendix B: Common Themes and Symbolism

The celebrations that are remembered the most, often have been personalized to express a clear purpose and a theme. A theme can be expressed through symbolism, music, stories, poetry, skits, dance, or light.

### COMMON THEMES:

Accepting Responsibility  
Conservation  
Friendship  
Gifts of Girl Scouting  
Global Awareness  
Heritage  
Music  
Nature  
Patriotism  
Peace  
Service to Others  
Women to Remember

### COMMON SYMBOLISM:

**Archway**—entering a different atmosphere or phase

**Bridge**—a crossing over

**Color**—different colors can express different emotions; ask the girls how they feel about different colors and choose a color scheme to enhance the ceremony

**Dove and Olive Branch**—peace

**Eagle**—courage and patriotism

**Feather**—nature, personal growth

**Flag**—the official banner of something

**Flowers and Herbs**—for over 150 years, flowers have represented feelings and sentiments

**Friendship Circle**—the unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides worldwide

**Light**—love, truth, hope, high ideals, or a promise; three candles represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise and ten candles stand for the ten parts of the Girl Scout Law

**Planting a tree**—conservation, a living dedication to someone or something

**String**—the human line binding all humanity

**Swaying From Side to Side**—everyone agreeing to the same thought

**Trefoil**—the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise

**Wishing Well**—hopes and dreams

