



1



2

## Girl Scout Ceremonies

- Ceremonies are an important tradition in Girl Scouting
- Teach the girls what ceremonies are for and how they fit into them
- There are no "Rules"
- Introduce them in a natural way, instead of a lesson that must be done
- You might lead them at first

3

## Examples of Girl Scout Ceremonies

- Flag Ceremonies
- Flag Retirement
- Friendship Circles
- Investiture
- Rededication
- Court of Awards
- Bridging & Fly-ups
- Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Ceremonies
- Scout's Own
- Juliette Low's Birthday (Founder's Day)
- Thinking Day
- Ash Ceremonies

4

## Flag Ceremonies

- Can be big or small, simple or elaborate; indoor or outdoor
- It's is a definitive "beginning" and "ending" to your activity
- Instills/Teaches respect for the Flag and Country
- Work with what you have
  - You don't need huge flags, on poles, with stands
    - Sometimes your meeting location might have flags you can use
    - You can use smaller flags on sticks
  - You can do an opening and closing without flags
    - Pledge of Allegiance
    - Promise and Law
    - Friendship Circle
    - Songs

5

## Friendship Circles

- Can begin or end a troop meeting
- Informal way to share ideas
- Indoor or outdoor

6

## Investiture

- *Happens only one time in a Girl Scout's life*
- *Does not need to be elaborate to be memorable*
- *Girls receive their pins/tab at Investiture*
- *Can be combined with a Rededication and Court of Awards*
- *Adults should be "Invested" as well as girls*

7

## Rededication

- *Happens at the beginning of each program year*
- *Does not need to be elaborate to be memorable*
- *Girls and adults "Rededicate" themselves to the Girl Scout Promise and Law*
- *Can be combined with an Investiture and Court of Awards*
- *Adults should be "Rededicated" as well as girls*

8

## Court of Awards

- Does not need to be elaborate to be memorable
- Held several times a year
- Girls can “show off” their accomplishments
- Girls may have a role in planning and conducting their ceremony – especially as they get older
- Girls receive their badges, patches and pins
- May be held at the same time as Investiture, Rededication and/or Bridging

9

## Bridging and Fly-up

- Girls “Bridge” as they move from one level to another
- Brownies also Fly-up to Juniors and receive their Brownie Wings
  - Wings are not “earned” – as long as a girl was a Brownie for any length of time, she is entitled to wear the Wings
  - Wings may be worn on all successive uniforms
- The “ARC” bridge badge for each level is earned
- Ceremony may be as simple or elaborate as the troop wants
- May be combined with other ceremonies

10

## *Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards*

- *Bronze, Silver and Gold Award ceremony honors Girl Scouts who have earned these high awards*
- *Our Council recognizes the girls at a Council Ceremony*
- *Troop may also recognize their girls at a Troop Ceremony*

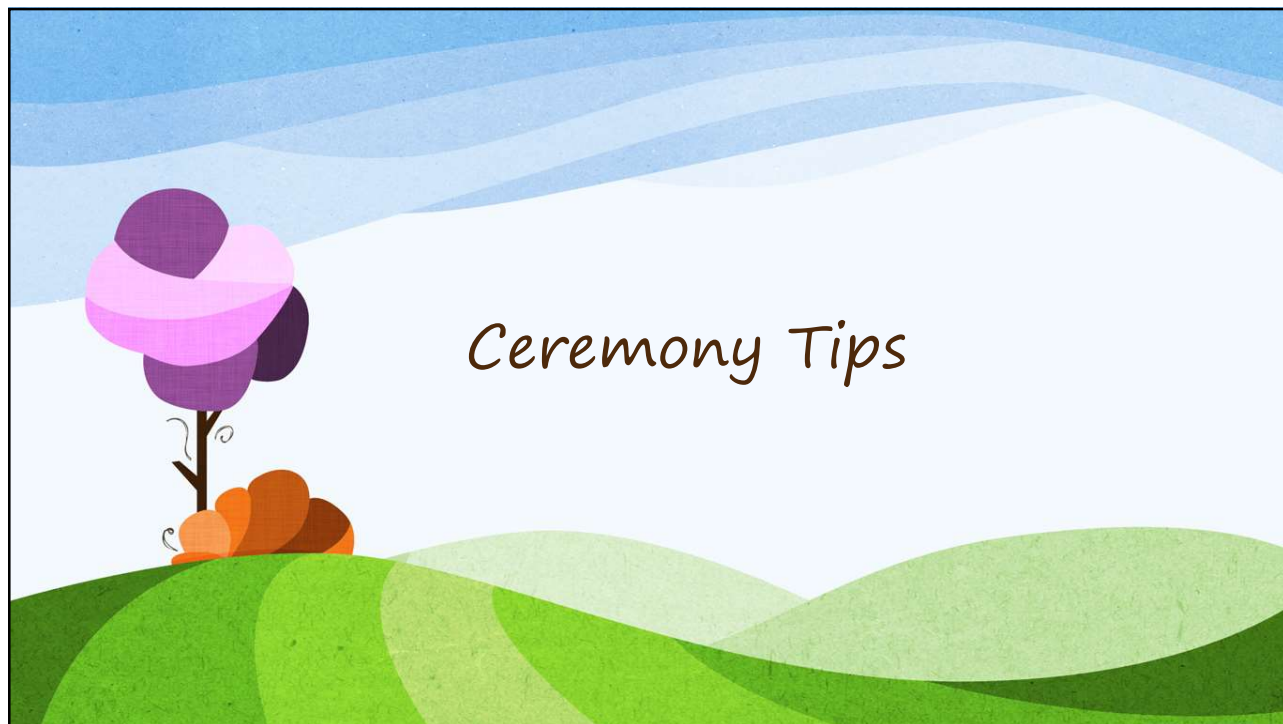
11

## *Scout's Own*

- *A girl led program*
- *Allows the girls to explore and express their feelings and beliefs around a topic*
  - *Example: The importance of friendship or the personal meaning they get from the Girl Scout Promise and Law*
- *May use spoken word, favorite songs, poetry or other methods of expression*
- *Not a religious ceremony*

12





13

## Ceremony Tips

- *Courts of Awards, Investitures, Rededications and Bridging*
  - *Always present the girl's awards attached to something with their name on it*
  - *Make sure to provide the parents information about where to put their awards on the vest/sash*
  - *Don't worry about "Keeping up with the Jones"*
    - *Sometimes Pinterest is not our friend!*
  - *Invite your troop families – make it a family event!*
  - *Encourage girls to invite whoever they want*
    - *i.e., Subject matter experts who helped with badges or activities*

14

## Ceremony Tips

- *Courts of Awards, Investitures, Rededications and Bridging*
  - *Don't forget to recognize the adults who volunteer with your troop*
    - *Adults who are recognized are more likely to volunteer again*
    - *It helps the other parents to see where help might be needed*
    - *It's good for the girls to see parents recognized*
  - *Let your families help with refreshments, set up and clean up so you can focus on the girls and the ceremony*
    - *Use a signup method like Signup Genius and make sure to send it out at least 2 weeks ahead of your ceremony*
    - *Then let them do what they signed up for – don't micromanage*

15

## Ceremony Tips

- *Courts of Awards, Investitures, Rededications and Bridging*
  - *Think outside the box when it comes to supplies or decorations*
    - *You don't need to spend a ton of money to give your girls and families a meaningful experience.*
  - *Don't think you need to stick with the "category" someone may have assigned to a ceremony you find*
    - *Take the ideas and modify them to work for your troop and occasion.*
  - *Really celebrate your girls, your troop and their accomplishments!*

16



## *Resources*

- *Girl Guides to Girl Scouting*
- *Old Handbooks (available for loan at our Council Office)*
- *Other Leaders*
- *Internet*
  - *Pinterest*
  - *Facebook Groups*
- *Council and Service Unit*
- *Program Aids*