

Girl Scout Traditions

Girl Scouts make the **Girl Scout sign** when they say the Girl Scout Promise. The three fingers represent the three parts of the Promise.

Girl Scout Quiet Sign: When a Girl Scout wants your attention, she raises her right hand, high! When a leader raises their hand like this [demonstrate] and you see it, you stop talking and raise your hand. As other people see our raised hands, they raise their hands and stop talking too. Before you know it, everyone is quiet, the hands come down, and the meeting or activity can start. Practice with the girls.

The **Girl Scout motto** is "Be prepared." In the 1947 *Girl Scout Handbook*, the motto was explained this way: "A Girl Scout is ready to help out wherever she is needed. Willingness to serve is not enough; you must know how to do the job well, even in an emergency." The same ideas are true today.

The **Girl Scout slogan**, which has been used since 1912, is "Do a good turn daily." The slogan is a reminder of the many ways girls can contribute positively to the lives of others.

Girl Scouts can greet each other with the **Girl Scout handshake**, used by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world. The handshake is made by shaking hands with the left hand and making the Girl Scout sign with the right. The left hand is nearest to the heart and signifies friendship.

The **friendship circle** stands for an unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Everyone stands in a circle, crosses their right arms over their left, and clasps hands with their friends on both sides. Everyone makes a silent wish as a **friendship squeeze** is passed from hand to hand.

Girl Scouts often make small tokens of friendship to exchange with the Girl Scouts they meet when they travel. These little gifts are called **SWAPS**, which stands for **S**pecial **W**hatchamacallits **A**ffectionately **P**inned **S**omewhere or **S**hared **W**ith **A** Pal.

Ceremonies help Girl Scouts mark special events through out the year. **Bridging Ceremonies** mark a girl's move from one level of Girl Scouts to another. **Investiture** welcomes new members into the Girl Scout family for the first time, while **Rededication** ceremonies are an opportunity for girls to renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

There are even special holidays in Girl Scouting that can be celebrated with your troop. **World Thinking Day**, February 22, is a celebration of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world! The week of March 12 is known as **Girl Scout Week**, which includes **Girl Scout Sunday or Sabbath**, a day where girls can attend their houses of worship and be recognized as a Girl Scout, and **Girl Scout Birthday**, which is March 12, the day Juliette Gordon Low officially registered Girl Scout's first 18 members. Don't forget to celebrate your leaders and volunteers on April 22, **Girl Scout Leader's Day**!