

# Girl Scouts

## The Basics

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### **The 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.

### **The 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  
to be a sister to every Girl Scout.

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### **4 Program Emphasis**

The four program emphasis is the goal of the Girl Scout program & the ways girls my benefit from their Girl Scout experience.

**Developing Self-Potential** - developing self to achieve one's full individual potential.

**Developing Values** - developing values to guide her actions & to provide the foundation for sound decision-making.

**Relating to Others** - relating to others with increasing understanding, skill, & respect.

**Contributing to Society** - contributing to the improvement to society through the use of her abilities & leadership skills, working in cooperation with others.

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### **5 World of Interests**

Activities in Girl Scouts are divided into five Worlds of Interest to provide a balanced programs.

**The World of Well-Being** - activities on physical and emotional health, nutrition & exercise, interpersonal relationships, home , safety, work, & leisure.

**The World of Today & Tomorrow** - activities on discovering the how & why of things, exploring many present technologies, & looking to future events, roles & responsibilities.

**The World of People** - activities on developing awareness of various cultures & on building pride in one's own heritage while respecting the heritage of others.

**The World of The Arts** - activities on visual, performing & literary arts, expressing one's self through various art forms & appreciating artistic talents & contributions of others.

**The World of The Out-Of-Doors** - activities on enjoyment & appreciation of the out-of-doors, living in & caring for our natural environment, understanding & respecting the interdependence of all living things.

# Girl Scouts

## The Traditions

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### Special Days

**October 31** - Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday [also known as Founder's Day]

**February 22** - Thinking Day - is the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. This is the day to "think about" Girl Guides and Girl Scouts everywhere.

**March 12** - Girl Scout Birthday, the date in 1912 when the first 18 Girl Scout members were officially registered. The week in which March 12 falls is known as Girl Scout Week.

**April 22** - Girl Scout Leader's Day, a day to honor Girl Scout leaders all over the world.

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### Types of Ceremonies

**Flag** - used at the beginning & end of troop meeting and/or ceremonies.

**Investiture** - a ceremony in which the girl becomes an official Girl Scout.

**Rededication** - a ceremony in which the girl rededicates herself to the Girl Scout Promise & Law.

**Bridging** - moving from one level to another by completing the patch work [optional].

**Flying Up** - moving from Brownies to Juniors [no patch work is required].

**Court of Awards** - awarding of try-its, badges, or patches to girl as earned [can be done anytime of the year and as often as the troop decides.]

**Scouts Own** - a ceremony that can be about anything that the girls decide.

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### Other Traditions

**The Girl Scout Motto** - "Be Prepared"

**The Girl Scout Slogan** - "Do a good turn daily"

**Girl Scout Sign** - the three raised fingers stand for the three parts of the Promise.

**Girl Scout Handshake** - with the right hand do the Girl Scout Sign & with the left hand shake.

**Quite Sign** - raising your right hand and as people notice you are raising the right hand they raise theirs and be quite. This also is for the fifth law, "I will do my best to be friendly and considerate."

**Friendship Circle** - everyone forms a circle and crosses right hand over left holding hands with the person standing next to you.

**Friendship Squeeze** - standing in the Friendship Circle everyone is silent as one person squeezes another hand gently after another until the person that starts it receives a squeeze.

**Brownie Girl Scout Ring** - Brownie Girl Scouts get together to make their group decisions.

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### Levels

<b>Daisy Girl Scout</b> -	ages 5-6, or grades K, 1	[GSCof CV - grade K]
<b>Brownie Girl Scout</b> -	ages 6-8 or grades 1-3	[GSCof CV - grade 1-3]
<b>Junior Girl Scout</b> -	ages 8-11 or grades 3-6	[GSCof CV - grade 4-6]
<b>Cadette Girls Scout</b> -	ages 11-14 or grades 6-9	[GSCof CV - grade 7-9]
<b>Senior Girl Scout</b> -	ages 14-17 or grades 9-12	[GSCof CV - grade 10-12]

# Girl Scout History

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**October 31, 1860** - Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts of the USA, was born in Savannah, Georgia. Juliette's was better known as Daisy by family and friends.

**December 21, 1886** - Juliette married William Mackay Low, a wealthy Englishman. They lived in England and she divided her time between England and America.

**1905** - Juliette's husband died. She spent several years drifting looking for something.

**1911** - Juliette met Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and became interested in the new youth movement.

**1912** - Juliette returned to the United States and called a friend saying, "I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all America, and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight."

**March 2, 1912** - Juliette gathered 18 girls together to organize the first two American Girl Guide troops. The first Girl Scout uniform was blue.

**1912** - Girl Scouts started their cookie tradition by selling home baked cookie.

**1913** - American Girl Guides was changed to Girl Scouts. The first handbook was published called *How Girls Can Help Their Country*.

**1914** - The Girl Scout uniform was changed to Khaki.

**1916** - The Girl Scout national headquarters was moved from Washington DC to New York City. Also the first Girl Scout council charter was issued to Toledo, Ohio.

**1917** - troops were founded for girls with physical disabilities.

**1917 -1979** - Girl Scouts published a magazine for girls call *The American Girl* [called *The Rally* from 1917-1920.] Currently G\*I\*R\*L started publication in 1995 in cooperation with Scholastic, Inc.

**1918** - a film produced by the Girl Scouts called "The Golden Eaglet" & was shown in movie theaters in the United States.

**World War I and II** - Girl Scouts served their country on the homefront by collecting waste fat and scrap iron, growing Victory Gardens, & selling defense bonds. Special programs on seafaring & aviation, called Mariner Girl Scouts and Wing Girl Scouts were developed for Senior Girl Scouts.

**1920's** - Black Girl Scout troops were formed in New York.

**January 17, 1927** - Juliette Gordon Low died.

**1930's & 40's**- American Indian & Asian troops were founded

**1936** - the first commercially-baked Girl Scout Cookie took place in Philadelphia council

**1963** - the biggest organizational change took place with four separate age levels for ages 7-17 - Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors.

**1965** - Juliette Gordon Low's childhood home, now known as the Juliette Gordon Low Girl Scout National Center, was designated as a Registered Historic Landmark.

**1978** - a redesigned Girl Scout Trefoil was officially launched.

**1984** - Daisy Girl Scouting was started

In developing the Girl Scout movement in the United States, Juliette brought girls of all race, creed, and ability were welcome in Girl Scouting. Girl Scouting gave girls the ability to learn about nature, develop self-reliance, resourcefulness, and prepare them not only for traditional homemaking roles, but for possible future roles as professional women.

# World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

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Girl Scouts of the USA is one of 129 member countries of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts [WAGGGS].

## **Brief History**

**February 22, 1857** - Lord Robert Baden-Powell [B-P] was born in London.

**February 22, 1889** - Olave St. Clair Soames was born.

**1908** - B-P founded the Boy Scout Movement

**1909** - B-P founded the Girl Guide Movement.

**1910** - B-P resigned from the army to devote his life to Boy Scouts & Girl Guides.

**1912** - Olave and Robert met & was married the same year. Olave became active in the Boy Scout & Girl Guide movement.

**1917** - Olave began to organize the Girl Guide movement in Sussex, England.

**1918** - Olave was appointed UK Chief Guide.

**1927** - the first Thinking Day was celebrated.

**1930** - Olave as appointed World Chief Guide.

**1931** - B-P and Olave went on a world tour.

**1939** - because of failing health B-P and Olave moved to Kenya.

**January 8, 1941**- B-P died.

**1970** - Olave retired from the movement due to ill health.

**June 25, 1977** - Olave died.

## **WAGGGS Info**

WAGGGS is divided into four regions and a regional group:

The Western Hemisphere Region

The Asia-Pacific Region

The Africa Region

The Arab Regional Group

The Europe Region

Each national organization must:

1. adhere to the fundamental principles of the original Promise & Law.
2. have membership which is voluntary & open to all girls & women without distinction of creed, race, nationality, or any other circumstance.
3. be self-governing with the freedom to formulate its policy & put it into practice.
4. be independent of any political organization & any political policy.

Four World Centers:

Our Chalet in Adelboden, Switzerland - focuses on the outdoors.

Pax Lodge in London, England - focuses on the history of Girl Guide & Girl Scouts

Our Cabana in Cuernavaca, Mexico - focuses on community service projects, folk arts and local history.

Sangam in Pune, India - focuses on Indian culture, family lifestyle, religious and the arts as well as service projects in nearby rural and urban communities.

# Where Do You Fit In?

