

# **Candle Ceremonies**

- ❖ Values of Life Ceremony
- ❖ Candle Ceremony
- ❖ Juliette Low's Candle Ceremony
- ❖ Juliette (Daisy) Gordon Low's Candle Ceremony V2
- ❖ Candle Ceremony with Origami Cranes
- ❖ Flame Ceremony
- ❖ Ribbons and Candles
- ❖ Spirit Candle
- ❖ Values of Life Ceremony

# Candle Ceremonies

## Values of Life Ceremony

(May be combined with a recitation of the GS Promise and Law)

Props: Large trefoil, 7 candles

Leader (pointing to the trefoil): The emblem you see before you represents the Girl Scout program. The seven candles represent seven rays of the sun. We will now tell you what each of the seven rays stand for.

1. **WISDOM** - Wisdom does not necessarily mean superior knowledge. It means putting to the right use the knowledge one possesses.
2. **COURAGE** - Courage is not the quality that enables people to meet danger without fear, it is being able to meet danger in spite of one's fear.
3. **CHARITY** - Charity is not limited to donations to people less fortunate. It is acceptance of others even when you do not understand them.
4. **JUSTICE** - Justice is the practice of dealing fairly with others without prejudice or regard to race, color, or creed.
5. **FAITH** - Faith is the conviction that something unproved by physical evidence is true. A good example is when an 8-year-old said, "Faith is when you turn on the light switch you know the light will go on."
6. **HOPE** - Hope means to expect with confidence. Always hope for better things to come. A person without hope is of little good to herself or her community.
7. **LOVE** - there are many kinds of love - love of family, love of home, love of fellow man, love of God, and love of country. All these loves are necessary for a full life.

## Candle Ceremony

Okay - I can't stay away - I'm back. I know there was some talk about changing from the five worlds and I don't know if they have yet or not. If they have you could maybe adapt it somewhat. Here's a candle ceremony my girls loved to do. We did it a lot because they really like it and also we had a large troop, so that way everyone got turns at doing this ceremony. We used it as part of the ceremony when giving out badges too. I got this ceremony from the ceremonies book, but I shortened some things to make it easier for the girls when they were younger. We had one girl light the candle and the other say the words (that way more girls could participate actively in the ceremony)

Candles Needed:

One white taper and candle holder,

One each short candle (I used votive) of the following colors: red, orange, yellow, blue, purple, green

We placed the candles in a glass quiche/tart dish with the ruffled sides and then I had a woodsy kind of potpourri that we put in the bottom on the dish. The candles were arranged in a circle around the white taper in the middle. This was a nice effect - made it seem a little fancier than just putting the candles on a table. The candles don't burn that long so we never had a fire hazard and it was all contained inside a glass dish in case anything were to catch we could put it out quick.

Have everyone form a horseshoe with candles in the middle on a table -

White candle is in a candle holder in the center and lit by the leader as the horseshoe forms.

Girls will use white candle to light the other candles

#1 Leader or girl: The daisy is a symbol of the Girl Scout Movement, which was started by our founder Juliette Gordon Low and began in our country on March 12, 1912. Juliette Low's nickname was Daisy. You are following in her footsteps as you become a unique and caring influence in today and tomorrow's world.

#2 Red Candle: The red candle is for the World of Well-Being. Which helps girls to understand themselves, while also being aware of what it takes to be physically fit.

#3 Orange Candle: The orange candle is for the World of Today and Tomorrow, which lets girls look into the how and why of things and to solve problems

#4 Yellow Candle: The yellow candle is for the World of Out-of-Doors. Girls can learn to appreciate nature and take actions to protect and preserve our world.

#5 Blue Candle: The blue candle is for the World of People. This world helps girls appreciate their heritage and the differences and common themes of all cultures.

#6 Purple Candle: The purple candle is from the World of the Arts. This world can help develop a personal appreciation for the many art forms and things of beauty around us.

#7 Green Candle: From the light of the five worlds, may your Girl Scout world ever grow.

#8 Leader or girl: From the Girl Scout Worlds of Interest take your light into the world and let it shine forth with love and knowledge.

Sing a song here (It's a Small World is a good one - if you need the words let me know)

Close the horseshoe into a circle and do the friendship squeeze.

### **Juliette Low's Candle Ceremony**

This can be used at most ceremonies, but it is preferred to be performed at Troop camping, bridging, court of awards, encampments, or Investiture/Rededication.

Equipment needed:

candle for each girl  
matches/lighter  
water bucket (with water in it)

Long ago a special ceremony was formed. Juliette Low wanted her original girls to carry a special spark with them as their Scout group broke up. Some from the troop were moving away, working to help their families or wanted to help a group of girls a little younger than themselves. But whatever their reasons, Juliette knew no other group would ever quite be the same. As the girls stood in a circle holding candles (they had made), Juliette knew what spark it was that she wanted to pass on.

She lit her candle and spoke.

"With this candle I give you each something very special to pass on. As I light the candle on my right I ask each of you to light the candle to your right and pass it on. I want you to carry this thought with you wherever you go. This is the ETERNAL FLAME for Girl Scouts. Each of you after having a lit candle before you will repeat the Girl Scout Promise with me, then pause and recall a few of the things we have done together as a group. I will hold my candle up and as I do so you will all raise yours and we will blow them out together. Before we separate from our circle, I want to ask you to keep this candle as a very special candle. It is not to be used for any purpose but passing on the ETERNAL FLAME. You may use it in other Girl Scout ceremonies such as camps, encampments, campfires, bridging or court of awards ceremonies. I'm glad we were able to start a special tradition based on our ETERNAL FLAME."

We did this at our closing Service Unit mtg. and now will be able to pass this along to each of our troops. It is very effective if most of the lights are turned off (with just enough background mood light for reading the passage) Hope you enjoy!

### **Juliette (Daisy) Gordon Low's Candle Ceremony - V. 2**

"This candle is very special. I lit your candle using a candle I have. My candle was lit for me at a candle lighting ceremony (when) by (who lit it & who lit hers.....trace to Daisy, if you know the history of your candle that well.)

Juliette Low told the girls to take their candles home and use them in candle lighting ceremonies – to pass the flame on to others. If you look at your candles, you'll see the wick is black, and that is what is left of the old flame. When you relight your candle, you are not only sharing the flame of this (camp, troop, etc.), but you are also sharing a bit of every flame that went before it, right back to the one lit by Juliette Low.

When your candle burns down, be sure to use it to light a new candle. In this way, you will be able to continue the tradition.

In a candle lighting ceremony, we are not only sharing a link to our past, but the light is also a symbol of our hopes and dreams for the future of Girl Scouting.

Just as a tiny flame is passed from person to person, growing brighter & brighter as more candles are lit; it is a Juliette Low's dream was...that Girl Scouting would be a bright beacon for girls everywhere. May we all keep her dream alive forever.

Passing the Light and the Spirit of Girl Scouting When Juliette Gordon Low established Girl Scouting in 1912, the tradition of candlelight ceremonies was an important part of the various activities. Through the early years, she passed the light and spirit of Girl Scouting on to others through investitures and campfires. They, in turn, continued to pass the light and the spirit. Over the years, the light and spirit of Girl Scouting has taken many different paths. The following is a brief history of one such path. One of the first leaders-in-training was Ethel Cooper, and she like so many others, received the light from Juliette Low. Ethel went on to establish a troop in 1917 in Plymouth, Pennsylvania. Through her years of Girl Scout involvement, she too, passed the light on to her girls with the hope that they would continue to pass the light and keep the spirit of Girl Scouting alive.

Over the years, the light from Ethel's candle was passed to many others throughout our great organization...at meetings, campouts, and at investiture and rededication ceremonies---just like this one. And on {date}, {ceremony-leader's-name} passed the light on to the members of Troop--....

May we always remember the spirit in which Juliette began this organization to spread to all girls the confidence, determination, courage, and knowledge that they can do anything. May we develop that same spirit within ourselves and the girls we lead. In the spirit of Girl Scouting, let your lights shine!

## Candle Ceremony with Origami Cranes

Each girl had a card with a part of the promise or law on it and one of the matching colored origami cranes. The MC had a crane on her card and the "mother" candle. The MC read a passage about the importance of the Promise and Law to all Scouts and then was able to call each part by color. The appropriate girl, recognizing her "color" would stand and read her part and then light the candle with the \*matching\* origami crane from the mother candle.

This made the ceremony very easy for the girls to self direct. The leaders (with the exception of the "fire tender") all got to stand in the back of the room and just watch the girls at work. Each girl had to make two cranes and eventually got to keep the one on her card as a memento from the ceremony. We adapted the "ribbon" ceremony from <http://www.cais.net/cwelch/gsrc/cerem030.htm> and just changed the "ribbons" for "cranes".

With all of the symbolism behind the candles and the cranes, this was one of our most beautiful ceremonies yet! Well...it brought tears to my eyes at least.

## Flame Ceremony

Materials: Six assorted shapes & colors of candles. The more mismatched, the better.  
One tall multicolored ( if possible) candle in the center  
A green taper candle for each participant

Leader lights tall candle in the middle

Leader: Stars that shine together form a galaxy. Flowers that grow together create a garden. Buildings that stand together create a city. People who work together make a difference. That is what valuing differences is all about.

1st Scout: (Lights first small candle) I light this candle in friendship for all of the people who are younger or older, bigger or small, richer or poorer than I.

2nd Scout: (Lights second small candle) I light this candle in friendship for all people who worship differently than I.

3rd Scout: (Lights third small candle) I light this candle in friendship for all people of a different nationality or ethnicity than I.

4th Scout: (Lights fourth small candle) I light this candle in friendship for all people who are a different color than I.

5th Scout: (Lights fifth small candle) I light this candle in friendship for all people who come from a different country than I.

6th Scout: (Lights sixth small candle) I light this candle in friendship for all people who don't run, walk, hear, see, or learn the same as I.

7th Scout: (Lights her green taper from the big candle in the middle) I light this candle for me, for I am unique & special. She then walks to the beginning of the horseshoe & the first Girl Scout there lights her candle from the candle of the 7th Girl Scout & recites the same line. This continues around the horseshoe.

7th Scout: Watch the flames closely, please. Notice that the light from each candle is the same as the others although the outside of the candles is different. So, too, are all of us in the world. We wear different clothes, speak different languages, follow different religions or beliefs, sing different songs. And yet we all belong to the same human race. Inside we are all the same. We all wish to be recognized. We all wish to be called by name. We all wish to be loved. We all wish for friends. We all wish for peace. In the spirit of international

understanding, we pledge ourselves to world friendship. (Pause) In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to peacemaking. (Pause) In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to accept the challenge to look wider still.

Each girl blows out her candle. End with friendship circle.

## Ribbons and Candles

Use 10 white candles, each tied with specified color ribbon as noted.

Each girl reads her line then lights the candle.

I will do my best to be:

**Honest and fair**

The purple ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of honesty and fairness. A Girl Scout works honestly and keeps her promise. She is fair in all she does and those she meets.

**Friendly and helpful**

The blue ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of friendship and thoughtfulness. A Girl Scout is amiable and loyal to her friends. She helps others wherever and whenever she can.

**Considerate and caring**

The orange ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of kindness and warmth. A Girl Scout works well with others and looks out for the well-being of others.

**Courageous and strong**

The red ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of adventure and independence. A Girl Scout attempts new tasks and braves new endeavors. She is confident and self-assured in her actions.

**Responsible for what I say and do**

The gold ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of ownership and pride in her work. She readily admits her strengths and weakness and is aware of the consequences of her actions. A Girl Scout is up front with her intentions.

And to: (all the girls say together)

**Respect myself and others**

The white ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of integrity. A Girl Scout directs her thoughts and deeds to encompass her own beliefs and to be sensitive to, and respectful of the beliefs of those around her.

**Respect authority**

The yellow ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of regard for another's position. A Girl Scout understands the importance of having a leader of a group to make final decisions. She works with that leader to make the best decisions for the good of the group.

**Use resources wisely**

The green ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of being careful with resources. She uses her materials, money, time, and energy wisely. A Girl Scout does not waste the Earth's resources.

**Make the world a better place**

The brown ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's sense of improvement. A Girl Scout strives to be clean, conserve, and enrich the world around her. She believes it is important to leave a better place than when she found it.

**Be a sister to every Girl Scout**

The silver ribbon on this candle represents a Girl Scout's loyalty to sisters all over the world. A Girl Scout is always ready to accept more friends into her ever widening circle. She treats all of her sisters with kindness, acceptance, and warmth.

## Spirit Candle

This candle represents the spirit of Girl Scouting. It burns throughout our meeting to represent the friendship and fun we enjoy together.

Look to the flame and see its challenge to you:

- ... do more than belong... Participate.
- ... do more than care... Help.
- ... do more than believe... Practice.
- ... do more than be fair... Be kind.
- ... do more than forgive... Forget.
- ... do more than dream... Work.
- ... do more than teach... Inspire.
- ... do more than live... Grow.
- ... do more than be friendly... Be a friend.
- ... do more than give... Serve.

Bless you for being just who you are: Girls are great!

## Values of Life Ceremony

Props: Large Trefoil, seven candles

Leader (Pointing to Trefoil): The emblem you see before you represents the Girl Scout program. The seven candles represent the seven rays of the sun. We will now tell you what each of the seven rays stands for.

- 1: WISDOM – Wisdom does not necessarily mean superior knowledge. It means putting to the right use the knowledge one possesses.
- 2: COURAGE – Courage is not the quality that enables people to meet danger without fear; it is being able to meet danger in spite of your fear.
- 3: CHARITY – Charity is not limited to donations to the less fortunate. It is acceptance of others even when you do not understand them.
- 4: JUSTICE – Justice is the practice of dealing fairly with others without prejudice or regard to race, color, or creed.
- 5: FAITH – Faith is the conviction that something unproved by physical evidence is true. A good example is when an eight year-old once said, “Faith is when you turn on the light switch you know the light will come on.”
- 6: HOPE – Hope means to expect with confidence. Always hope for better things to come. A person without hope is of little good to herself or her community.
- 7: LOVE – There are many kinds of love – love of family, love of home, love of fellow man, love of God, and love of country. All these loves are necessary for a full life.