

Thinking Day Ceremonies

- ❖ WAGGGS Pin Ceremony
- ❖ Flame Ceremony
- ❖ Golden Link Ceremony
- ❖ Pearls and Wishes
- ❖ Circle of Life

Thinking Day Ceremonies

WAGGGS Pin Ceremony

This ceremony, which we used at Thinking Day, is a nice way to explain the meaning of the WAGGGS pin.

To do this ceremony, you need a felt cutout of the WAGGGS pin, which you can make from blue and yellow felt. You'll need a large yellow circle, and then a slightly smaller blue circle (so that when you put the blue circle on top of the yellow circle, there's the yellow border outside of it). Then you need yellow felt cutouts of the trefoil and the fire symbol at the base of the trefoil, the two stars and the compass needle. When I made my cutouts, I found it easier to duplicate the traditional WAGGGS pin than the newer one that is currently available in the US.

To start: All participants stand in a horseshoe. Somewhere, have a table or felt board available for the construction of the pin as the ceremony proceeds.

[I think this is a rather abrupt start, so I added something extemporaneous at the start, about the meaning of Thinking Day and the Baden-Powells]

Leader: The horseshoe formation symbolizes the open friendship circle. In the open end of the horseshoe stand our sister Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. If they were actually here, our horseshoe would become a completed circle, having no beginning or end.

[Then come a series of questions and answers, which you can divide up in any practical way. We had the people who asked the questions come forward to place the part of the pin they asked about on the felt board while someone else read the answer.]

What is the world pin?

It is the pin of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. We are going to construct such a pin. As we do, let us consider very carefully the reason for its color and design. Then we will know how deep a feeling of international friendship it can inspire in it.

What does the gold circle around the edge stand for?

The gold band surrounding our pin symbolizes the sun that shines on children all over the world.

Why is the world pin blue?

The blue background symbolizes the sky above us, all over the world.

Why do we have a trefoil in the World pin?

The gold trefoil is the sign of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding around the world. The 3 parts of the trefoil stand for the 3 parts of the Promise.

There are 2 stars on the World pin. What does the left star stand for?

The star on the left, the same side as our heart, stands for the pledge that all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides try, on their honor, to keep: the Promise.

What does the other star stand for?

The right star, on the side of a helping hand, stands for the Girl Guide and Girl Scout code of conduct--the GG/GS Law.

What does the pointer in the middle stand for?

We place a compass needle in the center, to serve as a guide pointing towards the right way in life.

What does the base of the trefoil mean?

At the base of the trefoil we place the flame. Its burning represents love for humanity and international friendship.

[At this point we presented world pins to the girls who didn't yet have them--we had older girls present them to the younger girls, and we ended with the Promise.]

Flame Ceremony

Materials:

Six assorted shaped, colored candles, the more mismatched the better.

One tall, multicolored (if possible) candle in the center

A green taper candle for every participant.

GS in charge lights the tall candle in the middle:

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

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

2nd Scout (lights the second small candle): "I light this candle in friendship or all people who worship differently than I."

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

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

5th Scout (lights the fifth small candle): "I light this candle in friendship for all people who come from other countries than I."

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

Girl Scout in charge lights her green taper from the tall middle candle and says "I light this candle for me, for I am unique and special."

She then walks to the beginning of the horseshoe and the first girl lights her candle from the GS in charge and recites the line. The second girl lights her candle and recites, and so forth around the horseshoe.

GS in charge: "Watch the flames closely please. Notice the light from each candle is the same as the others even though the outside of each is different. So, too, are all of us in the world. We wear different clothes, speak different languages, follow different religions or beliefs, like different foods, 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 for reflection)

In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to peacemaking. (Pause for reflection)

In the spirit of international understanding, we pledge ourselves to accept the challenge to look wider still." (Pause for reflection)

End with friendship circle after blowing out individual candles.

"Look wide! And when you think you are looking wide, look wider still." -Lord Baden-Powell

Golden Link Ceremony

This version of a golden link ceremony works well because each girl has a part and the finished product (the chain) serves as a great visual for the concept of how each of us as individuals is important in making the whole chain strong.

Example:

Each girl stands in a circle with a strip of yellow construction paper with a small piece of tape on the end. On each strip is written the name of a country where there are Girl Scouts or Girl Guides, and possibly what one of the different age levels is called in that country, or a portion of the Promise or Law from that country. (A few countries are listed below, but additional info can be found in "Trefoil Around The World" in the Service Unit Library).

Leader: As Girl Scouts we are not only members of our own troop, and Girl Scouts of the United States of America, but we have 'Sister' Girl Scouts or Girl Guides in 136 countries around the world. Each of our Sister Scouts has accepted a Promise and Law much like our own.

In the Netherlands, a Girl Guide is called a Padvindster. As Padvindster's close their meetings with a friendship circle, each girl says in turn. "I am a link in the golden chain of world friendship, and I will keep my link strong and bright."

As each of us adds a link to build our Golden Chain of Friendship, let's think about our Sister Scouts in other countries. About how things may be different for them but also about how much we are the same and about how each of us is an important link in the Golden Chain of Friendship. (This section can be separated into 3 parts for older girls to read.)

All together: Say Promise or Promise and Law.

Each girl in turn reads her country and information and adds her strip to the growing chain. The last link added should close the chain.

*Optionally, each girl could also add a link with her own name on it.

Leader: Repeat after me the saying from Padvinsters in the Netherlands.

All Together: 'I am a Link in the Golden Chain of World Friendship, and I will keep my link strong and bright.'

1. In the Bahamas, Brownie Scouts promise to have courage and be cheerful in difficult situations.
2. In Ghana, an Ananse Guide promises to make good use of her time.
3. In Guatemala, Little Riding Hoods promise to smile and sing under all difficulties.
4. In Italy, a Ladybird promises to love and respect nature.
5. In Madagascar, a Little Wing promises to do all she can to create peace around her.
6. In Nigeria, a Ranger Guide promises to be useful and help others.
7. In Papua New Guinea, a Sunbird promises to take care of her own possessions and those of others.
8. In Spain, a Pioneer promises to get to know the place she is living and be involved in its improvement.
9. In Turkey, a Venture Guide promises to be a friend to animals and plants.
10. In Greece, a Star promises to be conscientious in her work and reliable.
11. In Korea, a Cadet promises to be thrifty.
12. In Liechtenstein, a Little Bee promises to seek and convey joy.
13. In Malta, a Dolphin promises to be self-controlled in all she thinks, says and does.
14. In Jordan, a Ranger promises to be frank and make it a point of honor to deserve trust.
15. In Grenada, a Guide promises to be obedient.
16. In Germany, a Caravelle promises to share and be grateful.
17. In Austria, a Brownie promises to pay attention to all human beings and seek to understand them.
18. In Australia, a Gumnut Guide promises to be friendly and a sister to all Girl Guides.
19. In Switzerland, a Ranger promises to rejoice in all that is beautiful.
20. In Sudan, a Bluebird promises to be a sister to every other guide, no matter to what country, class or creed, the other may belong.

21. In Israel, an Ofer (or Brownie) promises to live life correctly and do her duty.
22. In England, a Rainbow promises to love her God and be kind and helpful.
23. In Canada, a Pathfinder promises to be true to herself.
24. In Argentina, Little Wings promise to obey the law of the pack.
25. In Bangladesh, a Yellowbird promises to help other people every day, especially those at home.

Pearls and Wishes

Materials:

3 candles

"pearl" or large bead for each participants

Poem(s) about pearls, wishes, friendships, GS (or whatever the ceremony is for)

A "wishing well"

The group stands in a horse shoe with the wishing well on a table in the front with candles in a holder on each side of the well.

The speaker(s) read the poem(s) and when the poem about the pearl is read, a pearl is presented to each participant.

The first candle is lit and the first girl can say something that ties in with the poems and/or the reason for the ceremony. After she has spoken, she passes the candle to the next girl and steps forward, makes a wish, and places her pearl in the wishing well.

After each girl has done this, the candle is taken to the well and the candles on each side are lit. The speaker talks about how the flame from the candle will carry the wishes up to the sky, and expresses a hope that they will all get their wish.

Sing a solemn song to end the ceremony.

CIRCLE OF LIFE

Debbie Stitz

Our theme for Thinking Day this year is the environment which we will be honoring tonight with this ceremony.

These fish represents us in the circle of life. Within this circle of life is our world which is made of four important elements.

I light this white candle to honor the air that fills our lungs.

I light this blue candle to honor water which brings the gifts of cleanliness, beauty and quenches our thirst.

I light this red candle to honor the fire which brings us heat and lights our world.

I light this brown candle to honor the earth that gives us food and a place to build our homes.

I tie this green ribbon to bind together all four of the elements that make up our world, for each is needed within our circle of life for the world to survive.

As Girl Scouts we have all made a promise to make our world a better place. With each small step forward, with every effort taken, with every change we make, we **can** make a difference. These candles represent 10 steps we can make to improve our world.

1. Become a responsible caretaker of the world.
2. Become a researcher; learn all you can so you can teach others.
3. Become an inspiration and a role model to others.
4. Become involved in helping others to have clean air and good soil.
5. Become a voice to inform everyone what needs to be done.
6. Become aware of how our actions affect the world around us today and in the future.
7. Become a leader to show others the way.
8. Become a gardener, plant a tree, enjoy the soil we've been given.
9. Become a person who enjoys the beauty of fire, but also respects it's potential to harm.
10. Become a hero by learning how to keep the air fresh and our waters clean.

Enjoy the beauty of the water fully.

Enjoy the magic of the fiery sunset.

Enjoy the peace the quiet waters bring.

Enjoy the fresh air that surrounds us.

Enjoy the bounty of the earth's harvest.

These are some of the wonders in our world and **you** are the light in this circle of life.