

INVESTITURE AND REDEDICATION CEREMONIES

Overview

An investiture ceremony welcomes all new members to Girl Scouts, while a rededication ceremony is a great way for returning members to kick off the troop year and renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Both ceremonies, at their core, are traditions that allow us to reflect on the ideals of the Girl Scout Movement and the empowering journey girls—and the millions of Girl Scouts who came before them—will undertake. Depending on your troop's members, you might decide to hold a combination investiture/rededication ceremony.

An investiture/rededication ceremony itself does not need to be formal or elaborate; in fact, it has only a few requirements. New members must:

- Recite the Girl Scout Promise, either individually or as a group.
- Receive the appropriate membership pin—the Girl Scout Daisy pin, Girl Scout Brownie pin, or Traditional Membership pin, or membership star/disc depending on the girls in your troop.
- Investiture Only: Be verbally welcomed into your troop and to Girl Scouting. You may choose to give the welcome to new members yourself or returning girls might want to collectively give the welcome.
- Rededication Only: Returning members recommit themselves to the Girl Scout Law and Promise to kick-off their Girl Scout year.



Pearl of Wisdom

From the very beginning, Girl Scout ceremonies have been observed to reinforce values, pass on traditions, and give life to the beliefs in the Promise and Law by highlighting accomplishments that illustrate a Girl Scout's belief. Ceremonies also reinforce the Girl Scout heritage by reminding us of the contributions made by the women who nurtured the movement in its infancy and began so many of its traditions. These special rituals form a framework for today's actions and provide inspiration for the future.



Activity 1: Horseshoe Ceremony

Instructions:

This ceremony is a great way to start the new year with the focus being on the Law and Promise. Holding this ceremony is also a great way to help girls learn to plan and affirm their belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

- Gather flashlights (or use one that is passed) or candles and matches
- Ask participants to form a horseshoe
- State: The horseshoe is used as there is an opening which allows us to include all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides to join in our ceremony
- Investiture Poem:

*These Girl Scout trefoils in my hand
Upon new members we will bestow,
But first the meaning that the trefoil bears.
The spirit of our Promise we must know,
Three bold leaves the trefoil wears,
Threefold the Promise that it bears,
To serve God and your country dear.
To bring to people hope and cheer
And every day in every way,
The Girl Scout Law to obey*

- Use three flashlights to represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. As each is lit, the speaker can say a sentence or two about part of the Promise: serving God (or one's own interpretation depending on spiritual beliefs) and country, helping people and living by the Girl Scout Law. At the end, the group can recite the Girl Scout Promise in unison

Activity 2: GORP Rededication

Have you ever wondered what goes into making a Girl Scout? Well, we have a recipe to make to show you what we are all about.

Instructions:

As each line is read add the food item(s) to large bowl. Feel free to substitute any food item as you see necessary and edit below.

Social distancing guidelines: Prepare ahead of time in individual bags for each participant.

Facilitator Note:

Print out poem for each participant to take back to troop.

GORP Rededication Poem

1. Girl Scouts come in all colors, from cities and towns. Every Girl Scout is a sister no matter what she looks like or how she sounds. Add M&M's to the bowl.
2. Some of us are tall, and some of us are small. When we get together, size does not matter at all. Add pretzel sticks and marshmallows.
3. With our words and our actions, we show that we care, we try to do our best to be fair and square. Add Chex cereal to the mix.
4. Sometimes we act a little "nuts", we love to joke and play. We would love to put a Girl Scout smile into everyone's day. Add nuts to the bowl.
5. When we get together, we make circles so round. It is our never-ending friendships to which we are bound. Add Cheerios to the mix.
6. When we are planning and working, we just do not stop, we keep ourselves busy; all around we will pop. Add popcorn.
7. We respect all creatures, if they are big or they are small, the earth is our home, and there is room here for all. Add Goldfish Crackers or Animal Crackers.
8. It was 1912 when Juliette Low started us off, and like the girls back then, we are just "chips off the old block" Add butterscotch, chocolate, and white chocolate chips.
9. We get a "kick" out of learning and doing new things, and a "kick" out of helping others, and spending time with friends. Add Kix cereal to the bowl.
10. When we were (Previous grade level) we were fresh, new, and rare, but now we are (Next grade level) and have experience to share. Added together, the number of years our girls have spent in Girl Scouting comes to _____. Add raisins, counting out loud, or each girl can contribute the number of raisins that represent the number of years she has been in Girl Scouts

Now we stir to the left and we stir to the right, we mix it together with all our might. We welcome our troop to another great year, and hope the memories they make, they will always hold dear.

Now that our recipe is complete, we look upon what we have created. Each of the ingredients went into our recipe separately, just like each of the girls came into the troop separately. As the ingredients mix to form one dish, our girls mix to form a troop. But even as we look upon our mix, we can still see each ingredient as separate and unique. Our girls bring each of their own unique talents and characteristics to our troop to make it what it is.

Activity 3: Lesson of The Pearls

Instructions:

Set up the following:

- Treasure Chest
- Two Candles
- 10 Large Plastic Pearls

Assign each role to a different Girl Scout to place the pearl in the treasure chest when reciting the Lesson of the Pearls found on the next page.



S'more Info

- [girlscouts.org> Adults> Volunteer> Tips for Troop Leaders> Ceremonies, Traditions, and Awards, Celebrate Your Newest Girl Scouts with an Investiture Ceremony](https://www.girlscouts.org/en/adults/volunteer/tips-for-troop-leaders/ceremonies-traditions-and-awards/celebrate-your-newest-girl-scouts-with-an-investiture-ceremony)
- [blog.girlscouts.org> Search: Ten Girl Scout Investiture Ceremony Ideas](https://blog.girlscouts.org/search/ten-girl-scout-investiture-ceremony-ideas)

Lesson of the Pearls

Leader 1: Tonight, we are gathered to share in the rededication of our leaders to Girl Scouting.

Leader 2: At this time, the members of _____ Service Unit will share with each other the “Lesson of the Pearls,” found in our discovered treasure chest of Girl Scouting.

Pearl 1: The first pearl stands for **WISDOM**. You have shown your joy in exploring wisdom through Girl Scouting. (Place pearl in treasure chest.)

Pearl 2: The second pearl shall symbolize **BEAUTY**. You are beautiful to your sister Girl Scouts, for you give of yourself. (Place pearl in chest.)

Pearl 3: The third pearl is **STRENGTH**. You are the strength of the future in Girl Scouting. (Place pearl in chest.)

Pearl 4: The fourth pearl will symbolize **TRUTH**. You are an example of the truth of the ideas of Girl Scouting. (Place pearl in chest.)

Pearl 5: The fifth pearl will be **FIDELITY**. You have kept your promise and affirmed it for life. (Place pearl in chest.)

Pearl 6: The sixth pearl is our symbol for **FELLOWSHIP**. You have extended the hand of friendship and you have gained the rewards. (Place pearl in chest.)

Pearl 7: The seventh pearl is **COOPERATION**. You are an example of cooperation and your many accomplishments reflect your willingness to work in harmony with others. (Place pearl in chest.)

Pearl 8: The eighth pearl will stand for **LOYALTY**. You are committed to the Law of Girl Scouting and strive to live by it. (Place pearl in chest.)

Pearl 9: The ninth pearl is for **VISION**. You can see the future of Girl Scouts and you will do your part to ensure its continued success. (Place pearl in chest.)

Pearl 10: The tenth pearl will stand for **SERVICE**. You continue to give of yourself to others in need. (Place pearl in chest.)

Leader 1: You stand here, a golden link in our chain of green and gold. A chain of friendship that encircles the globe. Our chain is made strong by your caring, your sharing, and your desire to be the best that you can be.

Leader 2: Our wish is for you to explore the treasures to be found in our chest of pearls. Remember to always be a golden link in our chain of friendship and let nothing break this chain of green and gold. Please join me in reciting the Girl Scout Promise.

All: Recite Promise

888.350.5090 | gsw.org
customercare@gsw.org



In Partnership With:

