How ceremonies, recognitions and highest awards can aid in retention.
In this session you will...

1. Able to identify at least one benefit of Girl Scouts participating in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE).

2. Able to identify what Bridging is and why it is important.

3. Able to identify what the Bronze Award is and why it is important.
Benefits of Girl Scouting...

According to *How Girl Scouting Benefits Girls; A Compilations of Findings from the Girl Scout Research Institute*....

- Girl Scout alumnae display positive like outcomes to a greater degree than women who were NOT Girl Scouts.
- Girls who experience the GSLE are more likely to remain in Girl Scouting.
- Girl Scouts are more likely to consider themselves leaders compared to other girls.
- About one-third of Girl Scout Juniors and Cadettes “strongly agree” that they have been a leader in more activities because of Girl Scouting.
- Girls who engage in Take Action projects report that these projects helped prepare them to play an active role in their communities in the future.
- The GSLE helps girls learn NOT to avoid things that are hard for them.
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Ways to support girls in staying....

The more recognition we can provide the girls, the more likely they will stay in Girl Scouts.

Two ways to do this...

Bridging

and

Bronze
Specifics on Bridging

What is Bridging?
Bridging is an important transition in a Girl Scout’s life. It’s a defining moment when a girl becomes aware of her achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities. Celebrating this change should be fun, personalized, and memorable for everyone involved.

Why is it important?
• It allows the girls to celebrate their accomplishments
• Girls get to look at what Girl Scouts will provide them moving forward
• Parents are able to see all their daughters’ accomplishments
• Whatever its purpose, every Girl Scout ceremony helps girls share in Girl Scout history and traditions — and create their own special memories

Five Reasons to add a service unit/circle bridging event:
1. Connect with Others!
2. Engage Families!
3. Save the Teen Girl Scouts!
4. Build Community Awareness!
5. Large events are fun!
Bridging - Activity

In groups discuss the following:

• If you were a Girl Scout, what do you remember about ceremonies? Did you Bridge? What do you remember about that ceremony?

• Does your Service Unit do a Bridging Ceremony? What are the successes to doing it as a Service Unit?

• If your Service Unit doesn’t do a Bridging Ceremony, what would be the benefits of doing one?
Bridging Resources

- Girls Guide to Girl Scouting
- The Bridging Resource
- SU/Circle Event Planning Guide
- Ceremony’s Short and Snappy
- www.gswo.org
- www.girlscouts.org
- www.gswoblog.org
What is the Bronze Award?

The highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn. This award encompasses many skill building opportunities for girls to ultimately make sustainable changes in their community.

Why earn it?

• Demonstrates a commitment to helping others
• Improves community and the world
• Becomes the best she can be
• Gains numerous leadership characteristics and skills

How can Service Units help?
Recognize Bronze Award recipients at the service unit/circle level.
More on the Highest Awards

**Bronze-Girl Scout Juniors**
- Prerequisite: 1 Junior Journey
- Can be done as a troop or individual
- 20 hours per girl required
- Leader approved

**Silver-Girl Scout Cadettes**
- Prerequisite: 1 Cadette Journey
- Can be done as a troop or individual
- 50 hours per girl required
- Leader approved; Council confirmed

**Gold-Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors**
- Prerequisite:
  - 1 Senior/Ambassador Journey & completed Silver Award
  - **OR**
  - 2 Journeys
- Individual projects only
- 80 hours per girl required
- Proposal and Final Reports approved by the Regional Gold Award Committee
Bronze - Activity

Community Mapping

Needs/Issues
Skills/Interests
Community Resources
Community Mapping

Step 1: Identify Assets
- Local transportation
- Crime going down
- Job opportunities

Step 2: Identify Needs
- Poor prison system
- Mental Health Support
- Lots of stray cats

Step 3: Identify Root Causes
- Overfilled prison
- Lack of Mental Health Awareness
- No cat shelters

Step 4: Identify Partners
- Batman?
- Arkham Asylum
- Local SPCA
Bronze Resources

• Bronze Award Packet

• Girls Guide to Girl Scouting

• www.gswo.org

• www.girlscouts.org

• www.gswoblog.org

• SU/Circle Event Planning Guide
• **Highest Awards 101**
  For the 2016-2017 membership year, we are doing adult/leader training on Bronze, Silver and Gold. Dates and formats are as follows:
  • In-person trainings
    • October 13, 2016- Cincinnati GS Center
    • October 18, 2016- Toledo and Lima GS Center
    • October 20, 2016- Dayton GS Center
  • Webinars
    • December 6, 2016
    • February 23, 2017
    • May 8, 2017

• **Gold Award Ceremony**
  Girl Scout Sunday (March 12, 2017) will be the council recognition of all Gold Award recipients in Western Ohio.

• **Bridging Ceremony**
  July 22, 2017- Prepare to join various troops throughout Western Ohio at a council bridging ceremony in Cincinnati
1. What is one thing YOU can do to support Girl Scout Bridging?

2. What is one thing your SERVICE UNIT can do to support the Girl Scout Bronze Award or any of the highest awards?

3. How can we partner together to help sustain Girl Scouts continuing in Girl Scouting?