



Everything you need
to know about.....



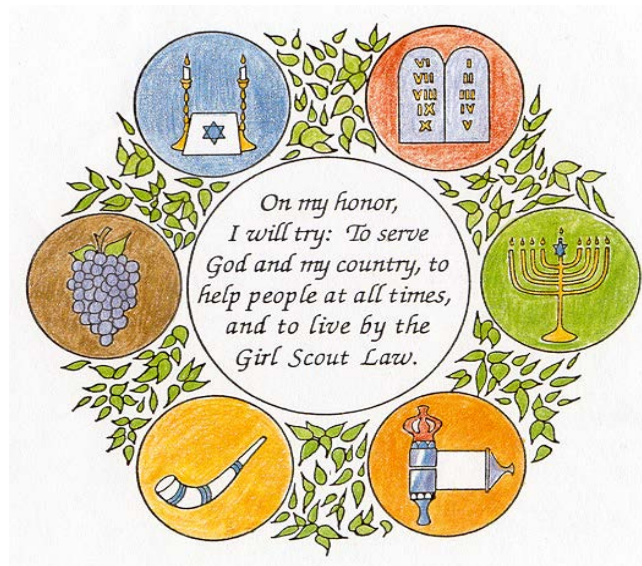
On March 12, 1912 Juliette Gordon Low officially registered the organization's first 18 members in Savannah, Georgia.

Today more than 2 million girls and women make up the sisterhood of Girl Scouts in the USA.

Every year we celebrate where we came from, and how far we have traveled.

The entire week of March 12 is dedicated to celebrating the Girl Scout Birthday!

Every March we celebrate the Birthday of Girl Scouts by celebrating Girl Scout week the week of March 12th. Girl Scout Week begins on Sunday and concludes on the following Saturday. Some religions observe Girl Scout Sunday on the Sunday beginning Girl Scout Week while other religions observe the Girl Scout Sabbath on the Friday or Saturday ending Girl Scout week. This arrangement allows our membership of diverse faiths to celebrate on their chosen day of worship.



Girl Scout
Sunday, Sabbath/Shabbat, Jum'ah

The purpose of this special day is to emphasize that we take the Girl Scout Promise seriously - *“On my honor, I will try to serve God.”* It is a time for Girl Scouts to reflect upon the importance of the words, *“to serve God”*.

We, the members of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, united by a belief in God, hold that the Girl Scout Promise and Law is the cornerstone of our Movement,

And inspired by the Founder of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States, Juliette Low, and by the aims of the Founder of the Scout Movement, Lord Baden-Powell, attest to the following:

MISSION

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

SPIRITUAL FORCE

The motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual. The ways in which members identify and fulfill their spiritual beliefs are personal and private.

OPEN MEMBERSHIP

The Girl Scout Movement is open to all girls and adults who accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law and meet membership requirements.

-Preamble of the Constitution of the Girl Scouts of the USA



These words from Girl Scouts of the USA's constitution express our most fundamental beliefs and are affirmed by over 2.7 million Girl Scout members in the USA when they make the Girl Scout Promise.

Girl Scout Week Religious Observances

Every effort should be made to hold an ecumenical interfaith service when celebrating the spiritual foundation of Girl Scouting. The varied personal beliefs of our members necessitate including sensitivity towards inclusiveness. There is no set structure to an interfaith service. Listed below are the "ingredients" that are usually found in formal ecumenical services arranged by and for Girl Scouts.

The Girl Scout Sabbath observance may be as simple as the girls and adults in Girl Scouting attend a religious service of their choice in Girl Scout uniform. Of course, anything beyond that during the service must be worked out with the local clergy.

1. Procession

The procession may be arranged many ways. Troops may proceed in first with flags. If readings will be taken from the Bible, Torah and/or Qur'an, girls may process in with these texts.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise

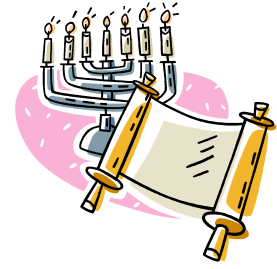
A brief welcome and introduction may be made by the clergy or by an appropriate participant. Girls stand and make the Girl Scout Promise.

3. Song

The song should express the theme of the service.

4. Readings by Girl Scouts or Clergy

The readings need not pertain to Girl Scouts, but to the theme. Readings may come from famous Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, etc. texts. A few words about Girl Scouting and its mission may be made by the clergy, a Girl Scout adult or Girl Scout. If any of the Girl Scouts are to receive a religious award, it may be presented at an appropriate time.



5. Group Prayer

Group prayer would be one which is either recited by all such as a psalm or petitions to which the group responds by a short phrase. If desired, this could be followed by a few minutes of silent prayer during which time the troop members could be asked to share their thoughts or prayers.

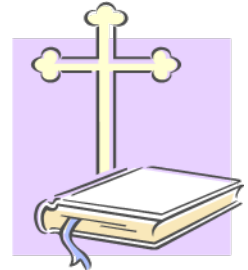
6. Sermon or Homily

The sermon or homily is given by one or all of the clergy presiding.

7. Retire the Colors

8. Closing Prayer

One of the presiding clergy closes the worship service with a prayer.



9. Recessional

The Recessional may be music or a song which expresses the theme of the service.

Sample Group Ecumenical Prayers

Prayer for Jewish Girl Scouts

O, Lord, our God, we ask Thy blessing upon us and upon our sister Girl Scouts. Give us strength of character and of purpose so that we may fulfill our Promise and faithfully obey our Law. Teach us to understand that by living up to the ideals of our Movement we are helping to build a better tomorrow for ourselves and all people. AMEN

Prayer for Catholic Girl Scouts

Dear Jesus, we ask you to bless us and all other Girl Scouts. Give us grace to serve you and our country and to keep our Girl Scout Promise and Law.
Make us humble and friendly, eager for adventure, alert and prepared for service.
Give us the courage to dare to do right; make us both strong to fight and steadfast to endure; and may our lives be filled with joy that spreads happiness everywhere. AMEN

Prayer for Girl Scouts of Christian Denominations

Dear Father in Heaven,
We know we are your children, we want to serve you faithfully, we want to keep our Girl Scout Promise. Help us to listen to your voice; help us to be willing and quick to do your work; help

us to be friendly and loving; and help us to thank you every day for all your gifts to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Prayer for Girl Scouts of Hindu faith

O Lord God almighty, May there be peace in celestial regions.
May there be peace on earth. May the waters be appeasing.
May herbs be wholesome, and may trees and plants bring peace to all.
May all beneficent beings bring peace to us. May your Vedic Law propagate peace all through the world. May all things be a source of peace to us.
And may your peace itself bestow peace on all.

Muslim Prayer for Girl Scouts

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the controversial teachings of arrogance, divisions and hatreds which have badly infected our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; reunite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish Your purposes on earth; that, in Your good time, all nations and races may jointly serve You in justice, peace and harmony. AMEN

Native American Prayer for Girl Scouts

Oh Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world. Hear me! We are small and weak, we need your strength and wisdom. Let us walk in beauty and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make our hands respect the things you have made and our ears sharp to hear your voice. Let us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us wise so that we may understand. We seek strength to understand your lessons you have taught to us.

Prayer for Buddhist Girl Scouts

When someone is wronged he must put aside all resentment and say, My mind shall not be disturbed; no angry word shall escape my lips; I will remain kind and friendly, with loving thoughts and no secret spite.

A Girl Scout Prayer

Lord, help us to be good Girl Scouts, ones whom the world can trust,
Help us respect our neighbor's rights, and never be unjust.
Help us as Americans, to be worthy of the flag we bear.
Then help us as real Girl Scouts, to be proud of the uniform we wear.
Help us to be clean, Dear Lord, in thought, word, and deed
And help us to follow the law, that is in the Girl Scout creed.
Teach us to love our fellow man, and then to serve him, too
Help our actions to count, Dear Lord, in everything we do.
Give us strength to carry on and do our part each day,
Make a place in this world for us and help us fill it, we pray.
Make us what we ought to be, and in Thy footsteps fall,
Help us to live for others, O great Scout Master of us all.



Reception after the Service

Many troops have a Girl Scout reception after services on Girl Scout Sunday or the Girl Scout Sabbath. It is very simple to serve Girl Scout Cookies and punch to the worshipers as they are departing the service. **This is especially important if the troop meets regularly at the religious facility.** Girls should take part in planning the reception and serving the refreshments.

The troop could also make a special desert out of Girl Scout Cookies. S'mores are a campfire treat at Girl Scout camp. Girls could also make "Indoor S'mores" also.

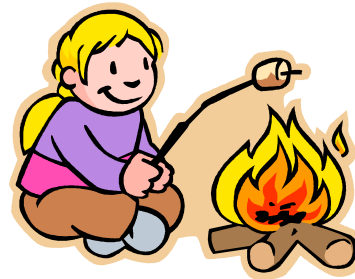
Indoor S'mores

Ingredients

4 cups honey graham cereal
3 tablespoons margarine
1 1/2 cups milk chocolate chips
6 cups of miniature marshmallows
1/4 cup light corn syrup

Directions

Coat a 9x13 inch dish with cooking spray. Place cereal into a large bowl; set aside. In a medium saucepan over low heat, melt margarine. Add marshmallows and corn syrup and stir until melted and smooth. Stir in chocolate chips until melted. Remove from heat and pour over waiting cereal; stir well to coat. Press into prepared pan. Cool completely before cutting into squares.



Other activities during Girl Scout Week

- The troop should do a picture display of service projects, events attended, troop activities, etc. to be on display during Girl Scout week. Prepare a display about Girl Scouting for a hallway or bulletin board.
- A photo and clippings spread of troop activities in your congregation could be a nice part of your display, it helps people see what Girl Scouts do.
- Have membership and other take-home materials available.
- Put up indoor and/or outdoor signs or a banner advertising Girl Scout Week celebrations, including worship services.

- Make a special bulletin cover or write up material for the bulletin. (see other attachments).
- **Many troops conduct a Scouting for Food drive as a part of Girl Scout Week.** Let the congregation know that your troop will be collecting canned goods and other non-perishable items before, after or during the service.
- Offer to run the nursery during the service so the regular members can worship with their families.
- Have your Girl Scouts serve as greeters or ushers for the service.
- During the service sit together in the front pews. This will allow the congregation to see you and make your troop more visible to church members. You could mark the reserved pews with green bows or Girl Scout trefoils.
- Recognize Girl Scouts present. Ask past and current Girl Scouts, volunteer leaders, Gold Award recipients to stand.
- Present Adult Leader Religious Award recognitions. See the website - <http://www.praypub.org/>. **These awards are by nomination only.** It is a great way to recognize members of the congregation who have been involved in Girl Scouting over a number of years.
- Girls can also complete the work necessary to earn their My Promise, My Faith Pin during Girl Scout Week.
- Various denominations have created their own special awards for Girl Scouts. Girls can work on meeting the requirements for these awards in weeks leading up to Girl Scout Week and be presented with these awards during Girl Scout Sunday.
- Conduct a Service Project after the service.
- You can always celebrate Girl Scout Week as a weeklong Birthday Party!