

Girl Scout Week
2020

What is Girl Scout Week?

Girl Scout Week is March 8–March 14. Girl Scout Week is celebrated each March, starting with Girl Scout Sunday and ending with Girl Scout Sabbath on a Saturday, and it always includes Girl Scouts' birthday, March 12. Girl Scouts' birthday commemorates the day in 1912 when **Juliette Gordon Low** officially registered the first 18 Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia. Each year, Girl Scouts celebrate and honor the Girl Scout Movement through participation in Girl Scout Week.

During Girl Scout Week, Girl Scouts complete activities and projects to reflect on the history and long-reaching impacts of the global Girl Scout Movement.



Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts

Juliette Gordon Low

Juliette Gordon Low is the original Girl Scout. In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization that today serves millions of girl members and alumnae, and reflects the arc of her remarkable life. An ardent believer in the potential of all girls and the importance of fostering their individual growth, character, and self-sufficiency, Juliette is credited with establishing and nurturing a global movement that has changed the world.

Girl Scout Week 2020

Girl Scouts provides girls and families with a clear roadmap for success that focuses on four pillars: Outdoors, STEM, Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship. Bring the pillars to life in your troop and community this Girl Scout Week. Troops are invited to choose their own adventures—there are opportunities to work together as a troop and service unit and ways girls can make a difference with their families at home.

The “*Traditions Connection*” section offers suggestions for encouraging traditional elements to your Girl Scout Week celebration or troop meeting. Templates for ceremonies are at the end of the guide book.

Girl Scout Week 2020 Schedule of Activities

Sunday, March 8: Girl Scout Sunday

For practicing Girl Scouts, attend a religious service together with your troop or family—don't forget your uniform! Talk with church leadership beforehand to see how your troop can be friendly and helpful during the service. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- **Serve:** Greet members and visitors before the service. Assist during the service by passing out bulletins or serving as ushers
- **Feed the body:** Set up a troop-hosted reception after the service with Girl Scout cookies and punch

Traditions Connection: Invite all Girl Scouts (girls, adults, and alumnae!) to stand and say the Girl Scout Promise & Law together.

Monday, March 9: Celebrate the Great Outdoors

Decide on an outdoor service project that inspires you. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Do some spring cleaning of the grounds at your home or troop meeting place
- Take part in a litter clean-up project in your community
- Create a pollinator-friendly garden (always ask for permission from land owners!)

Traditions Connection: Together with your troop, hold a Tree Hugger ceremony (outdoors, if weather permits) to remind all girls of the connection between Girl Scouting and conservation.

Tuesday, March 10: Be STEM-sational

STEM is all about problem-solving! Here are some ideas to get you started:

- **Inspire and educate others:** Create a list of great books, movies and documentaries that focus on STEM and make copies for teachers to hand out or make posters for the school library
- **Network for a change:** Use your photography skills to create pet portraits for your local animal shelter's web site or social media page
- **Give back:** Create a science coloring packet for a children's hospital or library

Traditions Connection: During friendship circle, invite girls to share ways they believe they can make their world a better place through problem-solving.

Wednesday, March 11: Lean on Life Skills

Life Skills form the foundation of activities that help girls grow as Girl Scouts. Using knowledge developed in Girl Scouting, work on a project to meet a need in your community. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Build healthy relationships: Introduce yourself to someone new today. They might become your new best friend!
- Civic engagement: Write a letter to your senator or congress person about an issue that concerns you or your troop
- Live well: Collect items for a healthy food drive for a local food pantry. Set up a donation box and ask family or friends to contribute healthy, non-perishable items.

Traditions Connection: Encourage girls to work collaboratively to create a “Girl Scouts Own” ceremony about a topic they agree on. Hold the ceremony at your next meeting and explain the life-long benefits of teamwork and working together.

Thursday, March 12: Girl Scout Birthday

This day commemorates the day in 1912 when Juliette Gordon Low officially registered the organization's first 18 girl members in Savannah, Georgia. Celebrate our birthday with your troop. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Throw a Girl Scout birthday party with your troop. Encourage girls to invite their family and friends, just like Juliette did in 1912. Incorporate traditional birthday party elements, like treats and games, but with a Girl Scout twist!
- Have your troop create a “birthday box” for children in foster care or shelters. Include everything someone would need to celebrate their birthday: cake mix, icing, candles, birthday card, party plates, napkins, age-appropriate toys and books, gift bags and tissue paper
- Make a gift bag for the first baby girl born in your local hospital on March 12. Include a onesie (Girl Scout-themed is even better!) and a few newborn necessities. Make the baby a birthday card and congratulate them for sharing their day with our Movement!

Traditions Connections: Wear your uniform out and about today to honor the Girl Scout Movement **AND** A birthday isn’t complete without gifts! Make SWAPS to share with girls in your troop to celebrate Girl Scout Birthday.

Friday, March 13: Explore **Entrepreneurship**/Girl Scout Jummah

Through Girl Scouts, girls learn to think like entrepreneurs as they participate in activities that spark curiosity, confidence, and innovation. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Using the foundational entrepreneurship experience in Girl Scouting, the Cookie Program, brainstorm ways to use a portion of your troop's cookie money for good—encourage girls to think of ways to give back and make a difference
- Connect with a female entrepreneur in your community. Have girls come up with a list of questions for her and do a Q&A at your troop meeting.
- Say thank you (with cookies!): Take packages of Thanks-A-Lots to your principals, teachers, ministers, and other helpful leaders in your community as a thank you for all they do for you and your troop. Encourage each girl to choose one helpful leader to deliver cookies and a handwritten note.

Girl Scout Jummah: Girl Scouts celebrates with faith partners during Girl Scout Week to share information with faith communities about Girl Scouts and its benefits, thank faith partners and volunteers for their support throughout the year, and recognize Girl Scouts in their place of worship. Celebrate Girl Scout Jummah with your girls to honor the contributions of young people and adults to Girl Scouting within the Muslim Community. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Explore the religious recognition programs that reinforce many of the values integral to Girl Scouting and help girls grow stronger in and learn more about their chosen faith
(https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/about-girl-scouts/gs-and-faith/PRAY_Chart.pdf)
- For practicing Girl Scouts, help out to clean the masjid before and after the Juma'h salah

Traditions Connection: During friendship circle, invite girls to share ways they believe they are honest and fair. Say: "A Girl Scout is always honest and fair. How are you honest and fair?" Encourage forward thinking by asking, "When is a time you might need to be honest and fair?"

Saturday, March 14: Girl Scout Sabbath/Shabbat

Wrap up Girl Scout Week with a day of rest, reflection, and preparation. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Rest & reflect: Take this Sabbath Day to reflect on all your work with Girl Scouts. Let those moments inspire you to create new and innovative ways to share with the world what it means to be a Girl Scout
- Prepare: A better future comes from making the world a better place today. Choose a project from the Girl Scout Week suggestions that your troop wasn't able to participate in and do it on this day.

Traditions Connection: Rest, reflect, and prepare with your troop over a campfire or with a ceremony. A popular ceremony of reflection includes wish or "baby" boats.

Girl Scout Week Ceremony Templates

Tree Hugger

Leader: Those of us who are here together are fortunate enough to have come in contact with the organization which believes in making “a friend in need, a friend indeed.” Let us imagine that we are in a great forest. The clearing through which all Girl Scouts must enter is our ethical code. All who enter must make the Girl Scout Promise. But once inside, we find many paths, all leading to a way of life, which we can build a wholesome future.

Girl 1: In Girl Scouting, we are able to help all girls take this trail.

Girl 2: I am the Oak Tree. As sturdy and long-lived as I, so is a Girl Scout's honor.

Girl 3: I am the Holly Tree. Constantly green and holding tight to my leaves as a Girl Scout is ever honest and always fair.

Girl 4: I am the Birch Tree. With my bark and my wood, I am useful and help others as every Girl Scout does.

Girl 5: I am the Maple tree. Brightening the spring, my leaves happy in the fall, I am cheerful as a Girl Scout.

Girl 6: I am the Aspen Tree. My leaves softly whisper, “Courtesy is thoughtfulness, as every Girl Scout knows.”

Girl 7: I am the Linden Tree. My heart-shaped leaves are like the hearts of Girl Scouts who are friends to all and sisters to each other.

Girl 8: I am the Poplar Tree. Tall and straight as a soldier, who obeys so does every Girl Scout.

Girl 9: I am the Hickory Tree. Tough of wood, I keep my nuts stored in strong, tight cases as every Girl Scout is thrifty and resourceful.

Girl 10: I am the Elm Tree. Sheltering the little folk of the woods in my gracious branches and roots, I protect others just as every Girl Scout.

Girl 11: I am the Dogwood Tree. In spring, I stand beautiful, as the face of a Girl Scout is beautiful in her respect and consideration others.

All: (The Conservation Pledge) I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country --its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife. (Sing “This Land Is Your Land”)

Wish-boat (Baby Boats) Ceremony

To create a wish-boat ceremony, each person should have a piece of bark with the bottom of the candles securely melted in them. (Birthday cake size candles should be used.) The ceremony is held near a body of water.

Develop a theme. Each participant shares a thought or reading that follows the theme. You may either have each person launch their boat as she shares her thought or reading, or hold all boats until all readings are given, then launch all boats together.

Examples of what may be said include:

- “My boat represents Memory. As I light my candle, I am remembering the many experiences I have had in Girl Scouting: the friends I’ve made, the peacefulness of a Scout’s Own, the satisfaction of giving, receiving and sharing. Memories are precious things.”
- “I light my candle in appreciation for the beauty of nature: the stars above us, the trees and hills around us, the songs of birds and the sway of flowers in the wind.”
- “I light my candle in satisfaction: in learning to do a job well, in developing a sense of giving service to others, in taking responsibility for myself and my surroundings. Part of being a Girl Scout is learning about and living with others happily in this world.”

Designated persons should be assigned to fetch the boats after the ceremony. Since this ceremony is held around water, usually at night, it is very important that special safety precautions be taken in retrieving the boats.

Girl Scouts Own Ceremony Template

STEP 1: Choose a theme that matters

-Something they can see – miracles of nature, the river, the sea, much more
-Something they are doing – a group working on international friendship may choose an international theme, a group working on a citizenship badge might use citizenship as a theme, etc.

*Common ideas – knowing myself, being a friend, serving others, the Girl Scout Promise and Law, the Girl Scout motto, etc.

STEP 2: Explore the possibilities of your theme:

You might use symbols that stand for other things – abstractions discussed in ceremonies may be easier for girls to understand if they can relate the theme to things that are simple and familiar. Symbols might include: a handshake – friendship, welcome, etc.; bridge or archway – crossing to something new; eagle – courage; pebble, tree, water – nature.

How else might you symbolize your theme? Pull in lots of ideas from the group on this discussion.

STEP 3: An effective ceremony has just one central thought that says something and communicates a clear message.

STEP 4: Express yourself in your ceremony:

With words – poems, stories, choral readings, plays, songs, etc. OR Without words – music, silence, touch, pictures, dance, pantomime, symbolism, etc.

STEP 5: Plan the ceremony:

- What is the purpose of the ceremony?
- Where will the ceremony take place?
- When will it be? How long it will last?
- Who will attend? Do we send invitations?
- What is the sequence of the ceremony? In what order will everything be done?
- Who will do each part? Is everyone a participant?
- What equipment, props or decorations are needed? Who will bring them? Where will they go?
- Is everyone participating? Does everyone know what to do? When will we rehearse?
- Is the ceremony loud enough to be heard?
- Is it simple enough to be understood?
- Is it interesting enough?

STEP 6: Carry out the ceremony.