

A Sample Girl Scouts' Own Ceremony for the Birthplace

(Girl Scouts gather in a circle)

Girl Scout:

Here where it all began, we learn from our past and dream for our future. Please join me in the Girl Scout Promise.

All:

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout:

The Birthplace is a house for all girls. What does that mean to you?

(Anyone who likes may share their answer using words, movement or sound.)

Girl Scout:

Juliette Low said, "Ours is a circle of friendship, united by ideals."

Girl Scout:

Our circle represents the unbroken chain of friendship among Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Join with me as we sing "Make New Friends" to celebrate our time here together.

All:

Make new friends, but keep the old,
One is silver and the other is gold.
A circle is round, it has no end,
That's how long I will be your friend.

(If your troop purchased Birthplace Pins, you may now present them.)



What Is A Girl Scouts' Own?

It is a girl-led ceremony that can take place anywhere, at any time of day. It is all yours—you choose a theme, the purpose, and decide how to share it in a meaningful way. You can find its true purpose in your shared Girl Scout experiences and ideals. You can make it personal with a favorite song or poem, a story, a picture, a memory, a dance, or a moment of silent reflection.

Birthplace pins: Girl Scouts who visit the Birthplace are Daughters of the House. This is what wearing the Birthplace pin represents. You can include a pinning in your ceremony. For example, one person can pin each troop member, or each troop member can pin the person next to them.

Girl Scout Promise & Law: You can choose to include the entire Promise or Law in your ceremony or focus on just one part of the Law.

Girl Scout Promise

On my honor I will try:
To serve God* and my country
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

* Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.

Song: Your troop can choose a song that has special meaning for all of you. It can be a classic Girl Scout song, like **Make New Friends**, or any song that feels right to you for the occasion.

Friendship Circle: A circle represents the unbroken chain of friendship among Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. As part of the friendship circle you may choose to hold hands, crossing right arms over left. You can send a thought, word, wish or friendship squeeze around the circle.

Materials: You can choose to use props, costumes, or musical instruments in your ceremony but remember: you don't need them to create a beautiful Girl Scouts' Own. As you plan, be mindful of ceremony timing (about 10-15 minutes) and think about how far you must travel and tote your materials. For site safety and preservation, the Birthplace does not allow lit candles, glitter, or confetti as part of Girl Scouts' Own ceremonies.

Be a Sister to Fellow Girl Scouts: The Birthplace belongs to all Girl Scouts. Remember that you are sharing the house and garden with other Girl Scout troops. Be mindful of ceremony timing (about 10-15 minutes). Think about noise level when others are near you, and be ready to share space with other Girl Scout troops.