

MISCELLANEOUS CEREMONIES

- ❖ Circle Of Life
- ❖ Footprints
- ❖ Angel Seeds
- ❖ The Magic Necklace
- ❖ Moving Forward On The Path Of Girl Scouts
- ❖ Angel Wings
- ❖ Pearls and Wishes

* I'm A Big Girl Now

* Nickname or Camp Name Ceremony

* Brownie Girl Scout Round and Round
(HELPFUL WHEN GETTING GIRLS INTO A BROWNIE CIRCLE)

CIRCLE OF LIFE

Debbie Stitz

Our theme for Thinking Day this year is the environment which we will be honoring tonight with this ceremony.

These fish represents us in the circle of life. Within this circle of life is our world which is made of four important elements.

I light this white candle to honor the air that fills our lungs.

I light this blue candle to honor water which brings the gifts of cleanliness, beauty and quenches our thirst.

I light this red candle to honor the fire which brings us heat and lights our world.

I light this brown candle to honor the earth that gives us food and a place to build our homes.

I tie this green ribbon to bind together all four of the elements that make up our world, for each is needed within our circle of life for the world to survive.

As Girl Scouts we have all made a promise to make our world a better place. With each small step forward, with every effort taken, with every change we make, we **can** make a difference. These candles represent 10 steps we can make to improve our world.

1. Become a responsible caretaker of the world.
2. Become a researcher; learn all you can so you can teach others.
3. Become an inspiration and a role model to others.
4. Become involved in helping others to have clean air and good soil.
5. Become a voice to inform everyone what needs to be done.
6. Become aware of how our actions affect the world around us today and in the future.
7. Become a leader to show others the way.
8. Become a gardener, plant a tree, enjoy the soil we've been given.
9. Become a person who enjoys the beauty of fire, but also respects it's potential to harm.
10. Become a hero by learning how to keep the air fresh and our waters clean.

Enjoy the beauty of the water fully.
Enjoy the magic of the fiery sunset.
Enjoy the peace the quiet waters bring.
Enjoy the fresh air that surrounds us.
Enjoy the bounty of the earth's harvest.

These are some of the wonders in our world and **you** are the light in this circle of life.

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FOOTPRINTS

Debbie Stitz

Narrator:

Have you ever noticed How few people really live their lives?
They seem to just go through the motions
Looking towards next week
Or next month
For some sense of relief.

Instead, decide to fully live
Every minute of your life.
Proclaim today as your day,
And this very instant
To be your moment for the taking..
For this day will never come again.
Next week and next month
Will still come,
But by tomorrow. . .

Today will be gone forever.

*Give one foot cutout (either per person or per table depending on size) and marker to each table and tell them to quick write down one thing they are most proud of in their Girl Scout journey. (First thought that comes to mind is usually the best)

(Then collect them and put on all or somewhere else)

Narrator:

Most of us spend our time neatly tucked away, All safe-and-sound, in our tidy little lives. It's not that we don't long for a change it's just that sometimes we get so busy and caught up in the thick of thin things, that we forget how to really live! Everything in our lives begins to take on a shade of gray. That's when it's time to bust loose, abandon all fears and push ourselves out of our comfort zones Into the magical, mystical, uncharted territory called "Possibility". Oh, sure, it'll be hard at first. You may even get bumped back a few times. But in the end, it will be worth it because if you keep on reaching, one of these days you'll make it and nothing will ever be the same again!

ANGEL SEEDS

Debbie Stitz

Set up: Have everyone stand in a circle.

Narrator: This weekend we were a gathering of Girl Scout angels who have come together to celebrate and to rejoice in the honor of being called a true green angel. It is up to each one of us to plant our own angel seeds so others will see the beauty of being a member of Girl Scouts.

Please share with us what 'seeds' have been planted with you this weekend. If you don't want to talk, you're welcome to pass. ...

Speaker: The Seeds of a Beautiful Flower

Angels are like the seeds of a flower,
planted by the care of another,
watched over and watered.
Given special attention, the seeds
take firm roots and multiply.
An angel like seeds blooms over time.
Seeds that are planted together,
grow stronger together.
A field of flowers and angels!
Let no weeds come between
the seeds of a beautiful flower!
Thank you for being such a great angel!

Narrator: After the ceremony you will be given 2 packets of seeds, one for yourself and one to share with an angel in your life. Our hope is that these seeds will serve as a reminder that you are an angel who is surrounded by many other Girl Scout green angels.

Speaker: We are each of angels
only with one wing~
And we can only fly
embracing each other.

Please join in saying the Girl Scout promise...

Please join hands in the friendship circle and we will silently pass along our angel wishes.

Thanks for being with us this weekend.

The Magic Necklace - A Lesson on the GS Promise

[Hint: doing the craft while telling the story is doubly effective]

Once upon a time, there was a wise old needle who decided to make a beige necklace. It enlisted the help of some string and set out on its journey. Beads rushed by the thousands to join. The needle welcomed all the beads and quickly threaded them on.

This process went on for quite some time.

The necklace got longer and prettier. After some time, the needle turned around to look at its work. It was surprised to note that among all the beige beads it had put on, there were a few blue ones. When asked, the blue beads insisted that they had just as much right to be there as did the original beige beads. The needle was a little bit shocked, but upon reflection, it realized that the necklace would become even more beautiful if beads of all sizes and colors were added. No sooner had it admitted this than it noticed tiny brown beads lurking timidly on the sidelines. "Come on in," it called. "Being part of this necklace is one of the best decisions you'll ever make!" Well, you guessed it--those little beads lined right up to be threaded on. And it didn't stop there. Beads of red and green and blue and pink and yellow flocked to the needle. Not all chose to stay, but many more joined than left. With each new bead the necklace gained strength. Pretty soon it was so-ooo long that it wrapped around the entire world. Eventually the needle was unable to help anymore, but it passed on the trade to some of the beads, and they gathered enough momentum to keep threading the beads by themselves. One day, a small brown bead got a little nervous. "This necklace is awfully long," she said to her navy blue sister. "And the needle isn't here to run things anymore. What if the necklace falls apart?" The older, more experience bead tried hard not to laugh. "Don't worry, little one," she said, "there's no fear of that happening. We have the strongest clasp possible!"

The brown bead breathed a sigh of relief. "I'm glad, but I don't remember us having a clasp" she said in confusion. "What does it look like?"

The confident blue bead explained. "You can't see the clasp. It's hidden in your heart, and in the heart of all the beads who have ever been part of this great necklace. You can find it if you try. What is it that really makes you part of the necklace? Say it with me." The brown bead smiled slowly. "I think I understand" she announced. And together the beads spoke the words that had linked them ever since the wise needle had had its inspiration, and that would continue to link them forever:

"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."

MOVING FORWARD ON THE PATH OF GIRL SCOUTS

All of us, in whatever role we choose, have committed ourselves to leadership – with girls or for girls. As we move forward in our journey in Girl Scouts, may we keep in mind the following promises:

1. Grant us the joy and satisfaction in Girl Scout leadership and give us the imagination to see the world through the eyes of the girls we lead.
2. Grant us the vision of what these girls we lead may become.
3. Give us the wisdom and patience to guide the very young in the path of simple goodness according to the Promise.
4. Bless us with the imagination to open the doors of adventure and high daring to the young Girl Scouts so their lives may be touched with color and beauty, with creativity, friendship and the love of people.
5. Make us generous in sharing this happiness so that all girls may find a warm welcome in troops.
6. Help us bind them together with strong ties of love and understanding, with fun and activity and accomplishments, so they will return to us year after year.
7. Let us stand beside them and help them to realize the high ideals of faith and hope for the future.
8. Grant that we may nurture in them awareness of the brotherhood of man and the challenge of the adult world before them.
9. Do not let them fall away, but rather increase in number, for these are their significant years.
10. And give us the deep joy that comes from unselfish service for those who come after us, that, through our efforts in Girl Scouting, the world may be better for our having lived in it.

As we guide these young girls into becoming the strong leaders of tomorrow, may we keep the words of Juliette Gordon Low in our hearts: The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers.

The past, present and future all come together as we move forward on this challenging yet exciting path of Girl Scouts.

ANGEL WINGS

Set up: Have everyone stand in groups by service units. Assign one person per service unit to be the speaker for the group (give them the number of angel wings they need).

Narrator: Angel in Green

Having left mortal earth, I passed through Heaven's Gate
And while anxiously awaiting the outcome of my fate
I walked among the Angels all robed in purest white
Whereupon I saw one figure which cast a greenish light.

She sat upon a misty cloud, a harp held to her breast
In a flowing, blowing gown of green unlike all the rest;
I asked what great deed she'd done to earn the special hue
That gave her color where others had none, or maybe just a few.

She said "On earth I sought no fame, fortune was not my goal,
I shunned the power of politics and worked without a toll;
I spent my time with children, helping them to grow
For as you reap in life, so must you learn to sow."

"You see...", she said, "the dividends while growing up I'd share
I returned where many others were too self-involved to care.
Girl Scouting was my choice of roads to follow in my quest
For among the girls I found a love deeper than the rest."

"A teacher was I, my work was hard, I had no diploma or pay
But where family and institutions failed, I help show them the way.
The lessons I taught were obscure and difficult to see
For they didn't have names like 'spelling', 'math', or geometry'."

"They were lessons in life delivered through guided experience
And they taught such things as character, spirit, and confidence.
Though on earth my life was blessed, it's even more so today
For when I look down I see my work, as my girls show others the way."

"On earth Girl Scouting taught me to leave things better than before
And the same applies to that mortal place where life never was a bore.
Now having lived by that Girl Scouting rule in every earthly endeavor
I have become an Angel in green and shall be a Girl Scout forever."

Service unit speakers: To honor the green angels from the _____
service unit, we present each of our volunteers with their own
set of angel wings.

Narrator: May these wings be your reminder of the power of being a Girl
Scout angel. You are a unique angel surrounded by many angels
who share the same joy and passion for a cause that lives deeply
within our hearts.

We never have to look far to find our angels. Angels have never
really been out of reach. We can always discover angels from the
inside-out, because it is the angel inside us who can point the way
to all our other angels.

PEARLS AND WISHES

Narrator: This ceremony is called Pearls and Wishes. All of us have many hopes, dreams and wishes locked within our hearts. Our wishes are as varied and as beautiful as the pearl. Our wishes, like pearls are our treasures and should be cherished and cared for with love. Our wishes, like pearls are what make us unique, they makes us shine like the luster of a beautiful pearl.

After the following poem, I would like you to come to the front and share with the group one of your wishes. This can be wish related to Girl Scouts, a wish related to the world around us or any wish that you would like to share with your Girl Scout sisters.

WISHES AND PEARLS

Wishes and pearls come in many sizes.

Wishes and pearls have a beauty all their own.

Wishes and pearls have a special place in our hearts

Wishes and pearls are worth more than the purist of gold.

Wear them both with pride for they are life's precious treasures.

Narrator: Please come forward one table at a time to share your wish and receive a pearl. This pearl represents all your hopes and wishes for the future. After you have finished, please stand in a circle around the outside of room.

After all wishes are complete, narrator makes a final wish and joins circle:

Narrator: Please take the hand of the person next to you, in the honored tradition of the Girl Scout friendship circle.

Our wishes weave a common thread between all of us here tonight. I see before me a beautiful string of pearls held together by our common love of Girl Scouting.

Please join me in reciting the Girl Scout Promise, then we will finish with the Girl Scout squeeze.

Tie in idea: Green ribbon thru pearl, tie in a bow and add small pin

I'M A BIG GIRL NOW

- Set up: Need 8 people, 7 pair of decorated panties made from cardstock with a negative word on each one. (ex. Whining, complaining, doubting, helpless, scared, bored, moody) Lace on back of panties.
- 7 people Each person holds up their pair of panties, word facing out. Each person acts out their word for app. 1 minute then stand in line while narrator reads.
- Narrator: (reads poem except last verse)

Big-Girl Panties

†
I remember my first pair of
Big-girl panties.
They were pink tricot
And had ruffles on the butt.
I remember thinking,
Now I'm a grown-up
I can do anything.

Nothing has changed,
Except for the ruffles.
The power is still there
It is just buried under years
Of growing pains.
Now is the time to evoke
Those long-lost feelings
And embrace life
With the grace of a woman
Not the frailty of a child.

7 people together reads last verse
poem and turns panties
around, lace facing out.

So set your eyes on your goal,
And don't let anything distract you.
After all,
You're wearing big-girl panties now
You can do anything!!

Nickname or Camp Name Ceremony

Materials needed:

glitter cut in large pieces (in other words, not the stuff you glue down on paper)...or any other material for "sprinkling" on their heads

poem (see below)

a name tag with the nickname on it

anything else you'd like to use to make this enjoyable.

With girls/adults all quietly assembled in a horseshoe, state that it is now time to begin the "Nickname" ceremony, and read the following poem:

I knew a little mystery girl,
she was a friend of mine.
We knew each other from grade school,
it's been a long, long time.
She had lots of pins and badges,
You see, she'd been everywhere;
They were on her sash and uniform,
But one thing wasn't there.
This thing is like a special gift
That is given by someone special you know.
You can't see it, touch it, taste or feel it,
But you'll have it forever more!
I asked her if she had one.
She replied, "Can I buy it? What is that?"
I told her if she had one
She'd say YES right off the bat!
So my friend doesn't have this special thing
That you will get today.
When she found out she couldn't buy one,
She just hung her head and walked away.
When you receive your special gift today,
Please hold it near and dear to your heart,
And remember how you got it,
No matter if we're near or far apart.
Each one was chosen carefully
To fit you especially in and out!
Because you are one great bunch of girls to have,
That would make any leader shout!
Now I have you wondering,
Just what is she talking about?
Well, here goes, let's give the first one,
To a super duper Girl Scout!

(at this time, go stand in front of the first girl who is receiving a "nickname", and hold your right or left hand over her head and slowly let the glitter fall to her shoulders/head and say the following:)

****By the power invested in me as leader of Troop _____, I hereby bestow the following name to (say girl's name). On this day, (say the date), and forever more, you will now be known as "(say the nickname)".** (now pin the name tag on the girl's shirt).**

Go to the next girl/adult receiving a nickname and report this portion** all over again.

You may end the ceremony as you like. We sang "Make New Friends".

Round and round, and round about
Join the hand of a Brownie Girl Scout.
Here we are in a Brownie Ring
Ready for 'most anything!