Girl Scout Bridging Guide



girl scouts
of southeastern
michigan

Bridging Basics

Moving on to New Adventures

Bridging is an important transition in a Girl Scout's life. It's a defining moment when a Girl Scout becomes aware of their achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities.

Celebrating this change should be **fun**, **personalized**, and **memorable** for everyone involved. And most of all, it should be **designed by youth** in true partnership with adults.

Bridging Levels

There are six levels of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience:

- Daisy Girl Scout (grades K–1)
- Brownie Girl Scout (grades 2–3)
- Junior Girl Scout (grades 4–5
- Cadette Girl Scout (grades 6–8)
- Senior Girl Scout (grades 9–10)
- Ambassador Girl Scout (grades 11–12)

Five Opportunities to Bridge

1. Daisy to Brownie
2. Brownie to Junior
3. Junior to Cadette
4. Cadette to Senior
5. Senior to Ambassador
6. Ambassador to Adult

Bridging Awards

Most Girl Scouts choose to earn the bridging award for their level. Earning the award offers a chance to look back on what they've accomplished while looking to the future.

Each level of Girl Scouting has its own unique bridging award patch.

Bridging Ceremonies

Bridging ceremonies often utilize a bridge as Girl Scouts take literal steps toward the future. For Girl Scouts, the act of crossing the bridge is both a physical and symbolic step.

Bridging ceremonies can:

- Include troops, groups, or individuals
- Be combined with other activities such as service unit celebrations or camp
- Provide a great way to reach out to individual Girl Scouts or troops from other levels
- Be a great time to present certificates (Check with your council shop or go online at www.girlscoutshop.com)

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Bridging Steps

1. Talk with Girls, Make a Plan

As Girl Scouts get closer to moving up to another level, tell them what steps are needed to complete bridging, discuss which activities the troop wants to participate in, and how, and then work together to create a plan.

2. Earn a Girl Scout Bridging Award

Although not required, completing the steps to earn Girl Scout Bridging Awards helps Girl Scouts get a taste of what their experience will be like at the next level.

There are two steps:

Pass It On! Girl Scouts get the chance to look back at what they've accomplished and pass a bit of their knowledge on to younger Girl Scouts.

Look Ahead! Meet with Girl Scouts at the level they will be bridging to and learn about the exciting adventures that lie ahead.

3. Plan the Bridging Ceremony

Bridging ceremonies usually take place at the beginning or end of the Girl Scout year and can have three parts:

Opening: Guests are welcomed and the tone is set with an activity such as a flag ceremony or reciting the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Main section: The ceremony is explained to guests and run by troop members and troop leadership.

Closing: Guests are thanked and celebration ends with an activity such as a friendship circle or flag ceremony.

Each of the ceremony's parts offers plenty of room for creativity and individuality. Although bridging ceremonies are a good time to look back at what has been accomplished, **the ceremony should always focus on what troop members will do as they move forward**.

4. Gather Materials

Outside of materials for the actual bridging ceremony, Girl Scouts may also need a new vest or sash, membership stars, and new handbooks.

The Council Shop sells Bridging Kits that contain the awards and insignia each Girl Scout receives as they cross over to the next level in Girl Scouting as well as a customizable bridging certificate.

5. Hold the Ceremony

Make sure Girl Scouts take a leading role in planning and running the ceremony. As they get older, their participation will increase.





Bridging Ceremonies

A bridging ceremony can be very simple or elaborate; remember, it's up to the group to plan the it.

Most ceremonies include the following:

- A flag or opening ceremony
- Reciting of the Girl Scout Promise
- Reading or reciting of the Girl Scout Law
- Crossing a bridge
- The Girl Scout handshake
- Presentation of certificates, patches, and other awards
- Closing ceremony

Other popular additions include:

- Doing the friendship squeeze
- Singing a Girl Scout song
- Serving refreshments
- Sharing favorite Girl Scout memories or pictures
- Sharing plans for the next year

Suggestions for a successful ceremony:

- Make sure Girl Scouts are involved in the decision making and planning of the ceremony. As they get older, let them take on more responsibility.
- If family and friends are invited, distribute invitations.
- Including another troop? Make sure they are informed of the date and time and their roles.
- Practice ahead of time so everyone knows their roles.
- Gather supplies well ahead of time.
- Remind troop members, parents, and guardians that uniforms need to be ready for the ceremony.
- Make sure to have copies of speaking parts or song lyrics for the troop(s), and guests.
- Have busy bags available for young guests. They could include coloring sheets and crayons.
- The internet is full of great ideas.
  - www.girlscouts.org
  - www.scoutingweb.com
  - www.makingfriends.com



Insignia and Uniforms Needed for Bridging

Insignia Traditionally Presented to Girls as they Bridge

Age Level	Automatically Given	Earned
Daisy	Membership star with blue disc	Bridge to Brownie award
	Ending certificate	
	Brownie Girl Scout pin	
Brownie	Membership star with green disc	Bridge to Junior award
	Brownie Girl Scout Wings	
	Girl Scout pin	
Junior	Membership star with yellow disc	Bridge to Cadette award
Cadette	Membership star with white disc	Bridge to Senior award
Senior	Membership star with red disc	Bridge to Ambassador award
Ambassador	Membership star with navy disc	Bridge to Adult award

Should they Stay or Should they Go?

The chart below tells you which insignia belong on the current tunic, vest, or sash, and which move to the new one. All other insignia stay on the current tunic, vest, or sash.

From	To	Insignia
Daisy tunic or vest	Brownie sash or vest	World Association pin Membership stars
Brownie vest or sash	Junior sash or vest	World Association pin Membership stars
Junior vest or sash	Cadette vest or sash	World Association pin Membership stars Brownie Wings Girl Scout pin Bronze Award pin
Cadette vest or sash	Senior vest or sash	Keep using the same vest/sash; nothing is removed The Silver Award pin
Senior vest or sash	Ambassador vest or sash	Keep using the same vest/sash; nothing is removed Gold Award pin
Ambassador vest or sash	Adult uniform	World Association Pin Girl Scout pin Gold Award pin Bridge to Adult pin

Bridge to Brownie Award

What do Brownie Girl Scouts do?

Brownies have a lot of fun together! They can sing the Brownie Smile song, sleep in tents, go on hikes, and tell stories around the campfire under the stars. They may want to visit zoos, meet people who have interesting jobs, or exchange SWAPS (Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere) with new friends.

Earning the Bridging Award

To earn the Bridge to Brownie Award, complete one activity from the two bridging steps: Pass It On! and Look Ahead!

Bridging Step One: Pass It On!

Inspire younger Girl Scouts by sharing what it was like to be a Daisy Girl Scout.

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Teach younger girls the Girl Scout Promise and recite the Girl Scout Law to them. Share a story about how to put the Promise and Law into action.
- Share an activity from a badge or award that the troop enjoyed.
- Teach younger girls a favorite game or song and then play or sing along!
- Make a little something to give to younger girls that shows them what Girl Scouts are all about. This is a great time to introduce younger girls to SWAPS. Want to know more? Go to www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl- scouts/traditions.html.

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead!

Spend some time with Brownie Girl Scouts.

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Say the Girl Scout Promise together. Then find out if the Brownie Girl Scouts have a favorite part of the Girl Scout Law. Were they friendly and helpful, or courageous and strong?
- Ask some Brownie Girl Scouts to teach a favorite song or game, then sing or play it together!
- Work together to make special "tickets" into the world of Brownie Girl Scouts. Ask the Brownies to write down three things they had fun doing as Brownies and then decorate the tickets together.
- Ask the Brownies to show their awards and explain what they did to earn them. What did they learn?
- Start exploring ways to help the community.
  - Ask the Brownies to help you decorate a box or jar that will become a "Take Action Idea Bank."
  - Ask the Brownies how they helped their community.
  - Get more ideas by talking to an adult who works in the community such as at a fire station, hospital, library or mayor's office.
  - Take a walk to see if there are needs in your neighborhood. You can use the ideas to Take Action as Brownie Girl Scouts.
  - You can use the ideas to Take Action as Brownie Girl Scouts.
  - Attend a council event for Brownies in the spring before second grade.

Plan a Ceremony

Celebrate earning the Bridge to Brownie Award with a ceremony, then proudly add bridging patches to sashes or vests!

Bridging to Brownie Ceremonies

The Girl Scout Promise and Law

- Flag or opening ceremony
- Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Activity (see instructions/script)
- Cross the bridge
- Present certificates and other awards
- Closing ceremony

Supplies:

- Bridge, stepping stones, or arch
- Materials to make 13 daisies to represent the parts of the Girl Scout Law and Promise
- Copies of this script

Preparation:

- Write one part of the Girl Scout Promise or Law onto the back of each daisy following the instructions/script below.
- Invite guests (a Brownie troop or parents) to help. Inform them of the time and date of the ceremony and confirm their attendance. Send them a script.
- Distribute the daisies the girls made evenly among the Daisy troop. Let the girls know that they are responsible for reading the promise or law on the back.
- Use the script to practice.

Formation:
Line Daisies up in front of the bridge in order of speaking. Girls will step forward when they read. After reading is complete, girls will line up on one side of the bridge with one co-leader while another co-leader stands on the other side.

Instructions/Script

Co-leader 1: *As our Daisy Girl Scouts prepared to bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts, we took the time to learn more about Girl Scouting and the Girl Scout Promise and Law. We've invited some friends to help us share what we learned.*

Guest: *These flowers represent the spirit of Girl Scouting. This spirit is often represented with the Daisy, which was our founder Juliette Low's nickname.*

Co-leader 2: *The first three flowers represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *To help people at all times.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *And to live by the Girl Scout Law.*

Co-leader 2: *The other daisies represent the Girl Scout Law.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *I will do my best: To be honest and fair.*

Guest: *This means that you will always tell the truth and that you will share things and take turns with others.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *To be friendly and helpful.*

Guest: *This means that you will ask a new girl to play with you and when you see a job that needs to be done, and you can do it, you will be willing to help do it.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *To be considerate and caring.*

Guest: *This means that you will respect the feelings of others and care about how they feel and what they think.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *To be courageous and strong.*

Guest: *This means you are willing to try new things, even though you may be a little scared, and that you will stand for what is right.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *To be responsible for what I say and do.*

Guest: *This means that you will be careful about what you say and do so that you don't hurt other people or things.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *To respect myself and others.*

Guest: *This means you will try to be the best person you can be, and will be courteous to others.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *To respect authority.*

Guest: *This means you will respect adults, obey the law, and will cooperate with others.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *To use resources wisely.*

Guest: *This means you will try not to waste paper, will turn off the lights, and turn off water faucets after you use them.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *To make the world a better place.*

Guest: *This means you will help with a neighborhood clean up, put litter in trash cans, and treat all animals kindly.*

Daisy Girl Scout: *To be a sister to every Girl Scout.*

Guest: *This means you will be a friend to everyone, not just a few people.*

Co-leader 2: *And there you have it! The Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law. (Make sure to leave some time to thank your guest(s), and for applause and photos!)*

Co-leader 1: *Great job! Now it's time to cross over the bridge and become a Brownie Girl Scout! But first let's put our daisies back and line up in front of the bridge.*

Bridging to Brownie Ceremonies

The Brownie Elf

- Flag or opening ceremony
- Read or recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Activity (see instructions/script)
  - Cross the bridge
  - Change tunic/vest from Daisy to Brownie
  - Join the Brownie Ring
  - Read the Brownie elf poem
  - Present Brownie pins
  - Tell new Brownies to do three "good turns"
  - Hand out certificates—use the Girl Scout Handshake
- Closing ceremony

Supplies:

- Bridge, stepping stones or arch
- A mirror to represent a pond
- The Brownie Story found in the Brownie Girl Scout Handbook
- A Brownie troop

Preparation:

- Invite a Brownie Girl Scout troop, parents, or helpers to help. Inform them of the time and date of the ceremony and confirm their attendance.
- Read the Brownie Story to bridging girls two or three times before the ceremony, so girls will understand the meaning of the ceremony.
- This ceremony has several parts, make sure to tell the girls what to expect and practice!
- Review the Girl Scout handshake and the Girl Scout slogan: "Do a Good Turn Daily."

Formation:
The Daisy troop should be lined up at the beginning of the bridge in their Daisy tunics/vests with one co-leader. Another co-leader/helper should be at the end of the bridge with new Brownie sashes/vests. If a Brownie troop is participating, they should be standing at the end of the bridge, waiting to welcome new Brownies into the Brownie Ring.

Instructions/Script

Cross the bridge and join the Brownie Ring
Once a co-leader calls a Daisy Girl Scout's name, the Daisy goes across the bridge. They are met on the other side by a Brownie Girl Scout, Troop Leader, or helper who helps the Daisy take their Daisy vest/tunic off and put their Brownie vest/tunic on. Once finished, the new Brownie joins the Brownie Ring.

Find the Brownie elf and receive the Brownie pin
(While the co-leader is speaking, another co-leader or helper sets up the "pond".)

Daisy co-leader: *To prepare for bridging today, our troop read "The Brownie Story," a story about girls who went to a forest in search of "very helpful persons" called Brownies. There they met a wise old owl who told them that they could find the Brownie if they looked upon the magic pond and finished a magic rhyme.*

Now we, too, will perform a little magic. I'd like to call all new Brownies to stand around the magic pond and listen carefully while I read this poem.

Cross your little fingers, stand upon your toes,
That's a bit of magic that every Brownie knows.
Now we all are standing inside a forest glade,
Listen very carefully; see the magic made.
And tucked inside this great big wood,
You'll find a pond that's pure and good.
Then turn yourself around three times,
Gaze into the pond; complete the rhyme.

One at a time, each new Brownie walks to the pond and is met by a co-leader or helper who turns her in a circle while another co-leader or helper says:

Twist me and turn me and show me the elf,
I looked in the water and saw...

New Brownie looks into the mirror and says:
"Myself!"

Each new Brownie then goes to their co-leader or helper who places a Brownie pin upside down on her new vest. Then she returns to the Brownie Ring.

Co-leader: *Congratulations to our new Brownie Girl Scouts! The Girl Scout slogan is "Do a Good Turn Daily." Go now and do three good turns for your family—one for each part of the Girl Scout Promise. When your good turns are done, have a member of your family turn your pin right side up.*

Bridge to Junior Award

What do Junior Girl Scouts do?

Junior Girl Scouts can take part in cool new experiences like going on an overnight at a science museum, attending a baseball game, visiting a wildlife preserve, making a robot, or trying new sports like archery. They can earn leadership awards too, like the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

Earning the Bridging Award

To earn the Bridge to Junior Award, complete one bridging activity from the two bridging steps: Pass It On! and Look Ahead!

Bridging Step One: Pass It On!

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Teach a group of Daisy Girl Scouts a favorite song, game, or craft they did this year.
- Have girls talk to Daisies about their favorite Brownie memories. Tell the Daisies what they have to look forward to. Show Daisies what skills they learned as Brownies or pictures of favorite trips.
- Help Daisies create and decorate small message books. Pass the books around and write messages to the Daisies, telling them what makes them special or what they can look forward to as Brownies. Make sure each Daisy writes her name on the cover of her book!
- Have girls share what they have learned about becoming Junior Girl Scouts and why they are excited to "fly up".

Brownie Girl Scout Wings



All Brownie Girl Scouts who become Junior Girl Scouts "fly up." Girl Scout Wings should be given to each Brownie when they bridge to Junior Girl Scouts.



Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead!

Spend some time with Junior Girl Scouts.

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Ask Junior Girl Scouts what activities they loved doing as Juniors and why. Ask them to share their favorite memories of working as a team. See if they are willing to teach a favorite game or special Girl Scout activity. If any of the girls were also Brownie Girl Scouts, ask them how being a Junior was different from being a Brownie.
- Talk to one or more Junior Girl Scouts who earned their Bronze Award. Wow! That is a big accomplishment. How did they choose their project? Who was on their team? What did they learn? What hints or tips can they share?
- Attend a council event for Juniors in the spring before fourth grade.

Plan a Ceremony

Celebrate earning the Bridge to Junior Award with a ceremony, then proudly add bridging patches to sashes or vests!

Bridge to Junior/Fly-Up Ceremony

Wings to Fly

- Flag or opening ceremony
- Recite Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Activity (see instructions/script)
- Present certificates and other awards
- Closing ceremony

Supplies:

- A large piece of cardboard for tree/nest
- Wings for each Bridging Brownie (cardboard, material, tape, etc.)
- Paint, markers, general craft supplies
- Bridge, stepping stones, or arch

Preparation:

- Have the troop come up with their own words to describe the letters of the word "Junior."
- Invite a Junior Girl Scout troop or other helpers to assist during the bridging ceremony. Inform them of the time and date of the ceremony and confirm their attendance. Send them a copy of the script.
- **Make a tree and nest:** The design is up to the troop. Some groups have painted a big nest on a tree branch on one long side of a cardboard refrigerator box and braced the "nest" on the ends so it will stand up using a triangle of 2x4s. Others have built a bowl-like nest on the ground.
- **Make wings:**
  - Draw an outline of a bird wing on heavy paper or cardboard. Wings should be about 4 to 6 feet long.
  - Have each Bridging Brownie paint both sides of her wings.
  - After the paint is dry, cover the underside of the wings (the side facing the girls' back) with clear contact paper. This adds strength to the wings and keeps paint from rubbing off on clothing.
  - Make handles (loop around arms) or straps (like a backpack) so girls can hold the wings.
- Ask Bridging Brownies to write down definitions of each letter of "Junior" (see sample).
- Make sure Junior Girl Scout vests are ready.
- Practice before the event (with your guests if possible).

Formation:
All Bridging Brownies duck down behind the "nest" and one-by-one pop-up, say their letter lines, and pop down again.

Instructions/Script

Troop Leader: *Today we are bridging from Brownie Girl Scouts to Junior Girl Scouts. In Girl Scouting that is called "flying up". Let's listen to the girls as they describe what they think Junior Girl Scouts are.*

Bridging Brownies:

J is for _____
U is for _____
N is for _____
I is for _____
O is for _____
R is for _____

All Bridging Brownies stand together and say:
We are ready to fly up and become Junior Girl Scouts!

Bridging Brownies form a Brownie Ring behind the nest.

Troop Leader:
Two years have passed since you first stood,
By the magic pond and learned you could,
Do lots of things in a Girl Scout way,
And truly live by the words you say.
So Brownie Girl Scouts fly up and find,
That Junior Girl Scouts are true and kind.
And so we give you Brownie wings,
That you may fly to bigger things!

All: *Now it is time to say goodbye. Break the ring and out you fly.*

- First Bridging Brownie is GENTLY pushed out of the nest by the second one, then goes across the bridge and is met by a Troop Leader and a Junior Girl Scout or caregiver who help her take off the Bridging Brownie wings and Brownie Girl Scout vest, and put on their Junior Girl Scout vest.
- The last Bridging Brownie in the nest can be pushed out by a Troop Leader OR they can "trip" out of the nest herself.

Bridging Brownies stand together in front of the nest.

Troop Leader: *Please welcome Junior Girl Scout Troop___ !*

Bridge to Cadette Award

What do Cadette Girl Scouts do?

Cadette Girl Scouts take the lead! They may organize a basketball league for girls in their community, help plan a badge workshop for younger Girl Scouts, or volunteer with an organization that aligns with their interests.

They also set their sights on the world outside their local area. They can plan a group getaway to another state or go on a **Destinations** trip with Girl Scouts from all over the country.

Cadettes have several leadership award options, including the Girl Scout Silver Award—the highest award a Cadette can earn.

Beginning in 6th grade, Girl Scouts can participate in the prestigious Mackinac Island Scout Service Program.

Earning the Bridging Award

To earn the Bridge to Cadette award, complete one bridging activity from the two bridging steps: Pass It On! and Look Ahead!

Bridging Step One: Pass It On!

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Make a short video of Bridging Juniors speaking about their favorite Junior Girl Scout memory and why they can't wait to climb up to Cadette. Show the video to a group of Brownie Girl Scouts.
- Invite Brownies to attend a meeting and demonstrate a skill that will make them look forward to becoming a Junior Girl Scout. For example, show them photos from a favorite outdoor adventure and demonstrate how you prepared for the trip.
- Invite girls who are the same age, but who aren't Girl Scouts, to join you in a fun Girl Scout activity. If you are doing a Take Action project, ask your buddies to tag along! Inspire them to pitch in for their community.
- Have Girl Scouts that earned the Bronze Award hold a question and answer session for other Girl Scouts wishing to earn the award. Describe how projects were chosen, the planning process, and any obstacles along the way. Inspire them to go for the Bronze, too!



Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead!

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Ask a Cadette to talk about their experiences and maybe even teach a new skill they learned as a Cadette. Can they share a favorite experience from their time as a Cadette?
- Discover what it takes to earn the highest award a Cadette can earn—the Girl Scout Silver Award.
- Find a Cadette that has earned this honor and ask her what was involved and what they learned.
- Do some investigating to find out what the Cadette leadership awards are. What are their themes, which awards interest the group the most?
- Ask a Cadette troop that has traveled out of state to share their experience.
- Ask a Cadette who has participated in the Mackinac Island Scout Service Program to share their experience with the program.
- Attend a council event for Cadettes the spring before sixth grade.

Plan a Ceremony

Celebrate earning the Bridge to Cadette Award with a ceremony, then proudly add bridging patches to sashes or vests!

Bridge to Cadette Ceremony

The Silver Key

- Flag or opening ceremony
- Recite Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Bridging ceremony
- Present certificates and other awards
- Activity (see instructions/script)

Supplies:

- Whatever Bridging Juniors decide is needed for their bridging ceremony
- 1 silver key per Bridging Junior in a glass bowl

Preparation:

- Work with Bridging Juniors to determine how and when they want to do this portion of the ceremony.
- Distribute the lines from the script evenly among troop members. They may end up with more than one line, but they only get one key.
- Ask Bridging Juniors to make sure new Girl Scout vests/sashes are ready for the ceremony.

Formation: To be decided during the planning process. Make sure to place the bowl of keys where Bridging Juniors can reach them and the audience can see them.

Instructions/Script

Troop Leader: *Now we will present each member of our troop with a silver key, which will symbolize that you are seeking to unlock the door to Cadette Girl Scouts as you begin your work on the Girl Scout Silver Award.*

Troop Leader: *You are about to enter another phase of Girl Scouting. You will find yourself entering a world of new experiences where you will gain an understanding of your own self worth and individuality.*

As you accept more responsibility you will experience a growth in your knowledge, abilities, and judgments. Use these tools wisely.

Troop Leader: *(Name of new Cadette Girl Scout), are you willing to accept the challenges and responsibilities of a Cadette Girl Scout?*

Girl Scout: *I am.*

Bridging Juniors read the lines below and take a silver key from the bowl as a symbolic gesture to show they are willing to accept the challenge of Cadette Girl Scouting.

1. *I challenge myself to have confidence in myself and my abilities and to achieve my goals.*
2. *I challenge myself to form beliefs and values based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law.*
3. *I challenge myself to gain skills that will prepare me for a positive, healthy, and independent future.*
4. *I challenge myself to develop a positive attitude toward learning and seek opportunities to expand my knowledge and skills and to set challenging goals for myself and take appropriate risks.*
5. *I challenge myself to examine ideas from a variety of viewpoints.*
6. *I challenge myself to have more positive and trusting relationships with others.*
7. *I challenge myself to have a greater understanding of team building.*
8. *I challenge myself to have a greater understanding of how conflict-resolution skills contribute to effective leadership.*
9. *I challenge myself to be more aware of people from various backgrounds.*
10. *I challenge myself to understand the importance of community networks.*
11. *I challenge myself to address deeper causes of issues in my community.*
12. *I challenge myself to seek out community support and resources to help achieve my goals.*
13. *I challenge myself to recognize the importance in advocacy in accomplishing positive changes.*
14. *I challenge myself to show increased commitment to educating others on how to better our community.*
15. *I challenge myself to use my leadership skills to affect change in my life and my community.*

Bridge to Senior Award

What do Senior Girl Scouts do?

Senior Girl Scouts embrace new adventures and challenges. First up: Leadership—it is what Girl Scouts is all about! Seniors can become a member of a teen board like the GSSEM Girl Advisory Board. There is even an opportunity to serve as a GSUSA national delegate. High school girls can choose to be active in the Girl Scout Advocacy Center, a group that advocates for change on behalf of girls by promoting issues in Congress and state legislatures.

This is also a perfect time to travel. Seniors can take advantage of council and international trips as well as go on extended trips with the troop. There are also several leadership awards to earn like the Girl Scout Gold Award—the highest award a Girl Scout can earn.

Earning the Bridging Award

To earn the Bridge to Senior Award, complete one bridging activity from the two bridging steps: Pass It On! and Look Ahead!

Bridging Step One: Pass It On!

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Take a group of Junior Girl Scouts to your favorite hiking spot, demonstrate something about outdoor safety and talk about Leave No Trace. Or, share memories of a favorite Cadette adventure. Teach them a favorite Girl Scout tradition. Inspire girls to climb up to Cadette!
- Inspire Juniors to earn their Girl Scout Silver Award! Share the details of the project with a presentation and talk them through the steps of the project. Let them know how tough times were overcome and the fun that was had along the way!
- What about younger girls who are not in Girl Scouts yet? Inspire them to join! And, don't forget the adults out there–in the community, at school or in the state legislature. Share with them how Girl Scouting helps girls.

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead!

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Seniors can take part in all global travel opportunities offered by the Girl Scouts. Find out through your council if any Seniors in your area have traveled internationally or to a national conference. Ask them the best way to learn more about the opportunities Girl Scouts can offer, across the country and around the world. Learn more about the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and forums at the four World Centers, or take a look at GSUSA resources such as The Girl Scout Guide to Global Travel.
- Plan a weekend or overnight trip with some Seniors to their favorite canoeing, horseback riding, or surfing spot. Make sure to find out what they enjoyed most about being Seniors and ask them to share their favorite Girl Scout traditions.
- Connect with Seniors already working on a Girl Scout Gold Award project—online, on the phone, or in person—and get some advice on how to choose a project.
- Find out about council and national delegate opportunities for Girl Scouts. What does it take to be a council or national delegate? What does it take to become a member of GSSEM's board of directors or to serve on the advisory board?
- Find a Senior Girl Scout troop that has attended camp as a Counselor in Training or Program Aide to learn about their experiences leading other Girl Scouts in the outdoors.

Plan a Ceremony

Celebrate earning the Bridge to Senior Award with a ceremony, then proudly add bridging patches to sashes or vests!

Bridge to Senior Ceremony

Candle Lighting Ceremony

- Flag or opening ceremony
- Recite Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Activity (see instructions/script)
- Present certificates and other awards
- Closing ceremony

Supplies:

- Bridge, stepping stones, or arch
- 1 candle per bridging Cadette Girl Scout
- Candle lighter or large candle to light others from

Preparation:

- Invite a Senior Girl Scout troop to help during the bridging ceremony. Inform them of the time and date of the ceremony and confirm their attendance. Send them a copy of the script.
- Ask girls to make sure new Cadette Girl Scout vests/ sashes are prepared for the ceremony.

Formation:
Bridging Cadette Girl Scouts form a horseshoe on one side of the bridge while Senior Girl Scouts form a horseshoe on the other. Co-leaders stand in the middle.

Looking for more ideas?

- Check out all of the bridging ceremonies in this book and adapt them to your group or level.
- Find other ideas on the internet (make sure girls sign the *Internet Safety Pledge*.)
- Remember, those bridging to the Cadette and higher levels should do most of the planning.
- Ask another troop what they did for their bridging ceremony.

Instructions/Script

Troop Leader: *We are going to use a candle lighting ceremony to celebrate bridging to Senior Girl Scouts. The candle ceremony represents one's commitment to Girl Scouting and making the world a better place. It means that Girl Scouting has become a part of you and will remain as you go forward on your life's path.*

One by one, each bridging Cadette walks to the middle of the bridge. When she reaches the center of the bridge, she is met by a co-leader who will hand her a candle. (The bridging Girl Scout should hold the candle in her left hand so her right hand is free to make the Girl Scout sign.) She will also be met by a Senior who will light the bridging Cadette's candle.

Troop Leader: May I present Cadette Girl Scout (name), who is eager to accept the challenge of Senior Girl Scouting.

Senior Girl Scout: I, (name), challenge you, (name), to serve your sister Girl Scouts, your community, and your country, as we have served you. If you accept this challenge, I will light your candle knowing that you will live it to the best of your ability. Do you accept this challenge?

Bridging Cadette Girl Scout: I will accept this challenge.

(Upon accepting the challenge, the Senior will light the Cadette's candle.)

Troop Leader: *(Name of new Senior Girl Scout), would you please make the Girl Scout sign and recite the Girl Scout Promise.*

New Senior Girl Scout:
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.

Both Girl Scouts move to stand in the horseshoe with their Senior Girl Scout sisters.

The same procedure is repeated until all Cadettes are bridged to Senior.

Bridge to Ambassador Award

What do Ambassador Girl Scouts Do?

Ambassador Girl Scouts are excited to get involved with people and causes they care about, and want their voices to be heard. They use the confidence they've developed to challenge themselves and look to the future.

They can spend the night on a college campus or learn how to lobby elected officials—and urge them to act. They can take leadership roles at camp and plan extended or international trips.

Ambassadors can earn awards including the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award.

Earning the Bridging Award

To earn the Bridge to Ambassador Award, complete two bridging activities from the two bridging steps: Pass It On! and Look Ahead!

Bridging Step One: Pass It On!

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Inspire Cadette Girl Scouts by giving them a glimpse of life as a Senior Girl Scout. Invite them on a campout, overnight trip, or other fun event. Share favorite experiences and memories.
- Inspire other girls to join Girl Scouts by showing pictures of trips and favorite Girl Scout activities.
- Blog about a Take Action project.
- Report back to the council after attending the Girl Scout National Convention.

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead!

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Invite Ambassadors to a round table. Start with some tasty snacks and a few "getting to know you" games. Ask the Ambassadors about their achievements and challenges. Find out about their most surprising, funny, or moving moments as Girl Scouts. Get their tips on how to make the most of your Ambassador experience.



- Meet with Ambassadors online by establishing a Facebook, Google, or Yahoo! group. Tap the widest network you can, to find out how others chose their Girl Scout Gold Award projects, how they connected with mentors, what outdoor adventures and trips they went on, or anything else of interest. Start a to-do list!
- Find out how Girl Scouting in the United States and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts strive to effect change around the world.
- Look into Girl Scout travel opportunities such as Destinations. Travel to the World Centers, attend WAGGGS conferences and other forums open to Ambassadors. If you have already traveled through the Girl Scouts, reflect on how your experience might help promote social change.
- Join a council event, camping trip, overnight, or Take Action project that involves Ambassadors. See what you can learn about expanding your current interests as you move into your next step in Girl Scouting.

Plan a Ceremony

Celebrate earning the Bridge to Ambassador Award with a favorite ceremony or create a new one. Then proudly add the bridging patch to a sash or vest!

Bridge to Ambassador Ceremony

The Girl Scout Promise and Law Candle Ceremony

- Flag or opening ceremony
- Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Present certificates and other awards
- Activity (see instructions/script)

Supplies:

- Bridge, stepping stones, or arch
- 10 white candles
- 3 green candles
- Candle holders
- Candle lighter
- 13 silk daisies
- Ribbon in colors: purple, blue, orange, red, gold, white, yellow, green, brown, and silver

Preparation:

- Attach a daisy to each candle
- Tie a colored ribbon around each white candle
- Place candles on one table in front of the bridge

Formation:
All Bridging Seniors stand behind the table in a horseshoe in front of the bridge.

Instructions/Script

Troop Leader:

The trail of Girl Scouting winds wide and long,
From Brownies elves and sit-upons.
To campouts with Junior Girl Scouts,
and badges to earn;
So much to do, so much to learn!
Then over the bridge and on to Cadettes,
With memories you'll never forget.
And when you were Seniors, you reached for the stars
And learned more about who you really are.
Now take this last step, Girl Scouts tried and true,
Ambassador Girl Scouts are waiting for you.

A co-leader presents awards and hands one white candle to each girl. Bridging Girl Scouts cross over the bridge and form a horseshoe around the table.

Troop Leader: *The daisy symbolizes your dedication to the Girl Scout Movement, which was started by our founder, Juliette Gordon Low. Juliette's nickname was Daisy. You are following in her footsteps as you become a unique and caring influence in today and tomorrow's world.*

Bridging Girl Scouts light the appropriate candle.

All: *On my honor, I will try*

Green candle #1: *To serve God and my country*

Green candle #2: *To help people at all times*

Green candle #3: *And to live by the Girl Scout Law*

All: *I will do my best to be*

Purple candle: *Honest and fair. The purple ribbon represents a Girl Scout's sense of honesty and fairness. A Girl Scout works honestly and keeps her promise. They are fair in all they do and to those they meet.*

Blue candle: *Friendly and helpful. The blue ribbon represents a Girl Scout's sense of friendship and thoughtfulness. Girl Scouts are amiable and loyal to their friends. They help others wherever and whenever they can.*

Orange candle: *Considerate and caring. The orange ribbon represents a Girl Scout's sense of kindness and warmth. A Girl Scout works well with others and looks out for their well being.*

Red candle: *Courageous and strong. The red ribbon represents a Girl Scout's sense of adventure and independence. Girl Scouts attempt new tasks and brave new endeavors. They are confident and self assured in their actions.*

Gold candle: *Responsible for what I say and do. The gold ribbon represents a Girl Scout's sense of ownership and pride in their work. They readily admits strengths and weaknesses and are aware of the consequences of their actions. A Girl Scout is up front with their intentions.*

All: *And to:*

White candle: *Respect myself and others. The white ribbon represents a Girl Scout's sense of integrity. A Girl Scout directs their thoughts and deeds to encompass their own beliefs and to be sensitive to, and respectful of the beliefs of those around them.*

Yellow candle: *Respect authority. The yellow ribbon represents a Girl Scout's sense of regard for another's position. A Girl Scout understands the importance of having a leader of a group to make final decisions. They work with that leader to make the best decisions for the good of the group.*

Green candle: *Use resources wisely. The green ribbon represents a Girl Scout's sense of being careful with resources. A Girl Scount uses materials, money, time, and energy wisely. A Girl Scout does not waste the Earth's resources.*

Brown candle: *Make the world a better place. The brown ribbon represents a Girl Scout's sense of improvement. A Girl Scout strives to clean, conserve, and enrich the world around them. A Girl Scout believes it is important to leave a place better than they found it.*

Silver candle: *Be a sister to every Girl Scout. The silver ribbon represents a Girl Scout's loyalty to sisters all over the world. A Girl Scout is always ready to accept more friends into their ever-widening circle. They treat all of her sisters with kindness, acceptance, and warmth.*

All Girl Scouts return to the horseshoe.

Bridge to Adult

Bridging to an adult Girl Scout is a time for Ambassador to embrace what they have learned in Girl Scouting, honor how it will forever be a part of who they are, and step into the world as a young leader of courage, confidence, and character.

Ambassadors who bridge to adult join millions of Girl Scouts and Girl Scout alums. Whether they want to build their resumes, blaze a career path, or make new friends based on a shared Girl Scout experience, they've got a worldwide sisterhood to add richness and fun for the rest of their lives!

Earning the Bridging Award

To earn the Bridge to Adult Award, complete one bridging activity from the two bridging steps: Pass It On! and Look Ahead!

Bridging Step One: Pass It On!

Find a way for these experienced Girl Scouts to share knowledge, skills, enthusiasm, and spirit.

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Spend some time with Seniors bridging to Ambassadors and share favorite parts of the Ambassador experience like Take Action projects, trips, and leadership lessons learned.
- Teach something to younger Girl Scouts. Show off all those leadership skills! Help them earn badges or awards. Hold a fitness clinic or dance class. Teach them rock climbing, graphic design, cooking, karate, or another special skill learned from their time as Girl Scouts.
- Volunteer to help Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan, a community group, or a global organization. Show others what being a Girl Scout means.

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead!

Find out what adult Girl Scouts do.

Talk to adult Girl Scouts and find out what inspires them. Reflect on how Girl Scouting has been a positive influence.

Do one or more of the following or create your own:

- Get together with an adult Girl Scout. Ask about the endurance of the Girl Scout legacy. What do they embrace about being adults in Girl Scouting?
- Say thank you! Hold an appreciation breakfast or lunch for the adult Girl Scouts who have been supportive. Share memories, photos, or even a poem to tell them how much their help was appreciated.
- Take a walk down memory lane! Create a "Favorite Moments of Girl Scouting" slideshow. Add some music and gather friends, family, and Girl Scouts to share the Girl Scout memories.

Plan a Ceremony

Celebrate earning the Bridge to Adult Award with a favorite ceremony or create a new one. Then proudly add the bridging patch—the last one!—to sashes or vests. After bridging, young women may register as an adult member of GSUSA. A special lifetime membership, at a reduced cost, is offered to registered Ambassador Girl Scouts at the time of their high school graduation, provided they apply for the lifetime membership before their current annual membership expires.



Service Unit or Multi-Troop Fly-Up and Bridging

Larger bridging ceremonies can be very moving and powerful. Pre-planning, communication, and organization are the keys to a successful event. Make sure to include a flag ceremony, the Girl Scout Promise, and some classic Girl Scout songs.

Planning Ahead will Lead to Success

When you plan an event for a large group you need to embrace the Girl Scout motto: "Be prepared!" Communicate with Troop Leaders ahead of time to make sure everyone knows their roles and responsibilities.

Who will you invite/where will you hold the ceremony?
Expect that each bridging Girl Scout will invite three guests. Make sure that your event will be held in a space large enough to fit everyone and is accessible to those of all abilities. Reserve a space if necessary. If you choose an outdoor site consider setting a rain date or make sure there is a safe space indoors to hold the ceremony.

How will you invite attendees?
Will you use flyers and email, or invitations? Talk with Troop Leaders and discuss the best way to reach everyone. Combining methods is always a good idea to ensure that everyone gets the message.

When will you hand out certificates?
To save time, you might choose to have each troop hand out certificates separately after the bridging ceremony.

How will you handle handing out special awards?
You may want to save some time after the bridging ceremony to pay special attention to Girl Scouts who have earned special awards such as leadership awards.

What about uniforms?
Can the entire group organize changing uniforms from one level to the next at the event, or should bridging Girl Scouts show up wearing their just their new uniform?

Don't forget to assign kapers!
Decide who will be in charge of tasks such as setting up and tearing down, or organizing food and music.

Other things to consider:

- Assign an event leader/emcee (this is a great task for older Girl Scouts).
- Make programs or a slide show so attendees know the order of events.
- Think about the availability/need for electricity.
- Coordinate food collection and set up (if any).
- Coordinate a photo opp. Lots of people will want to take pictures or video. Try to keep this from detracting from the ceremony by making sure people can get close enough for photos/video, or by organizing a photo opp after each bridging session and letting the audience know ahead of time.



Service Unit or Multi-Troop Fly-Up and Bridging Ceremonies

Multi-Level Simple Ceremony

- Flag or opening ceremony
- Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Bridging ceremony by level (see instructions/script)
- Present certificates and other awards
- Closing ceremony

Supplies:

- A bridge, stepping stones, or arch (made by Girl Scouts of another level using arms or branches)

Preparation:

- Identify an event leader/emcee.
- Post one Troop Leader from each bridging troop at the start of the bridge ready to call out names
- Post a Troop Leader from the level Girl Scouts are bridging to at the other end of the bridge, ready to give a welcome and Girl Scout handshake.

The formation:
For this ceremony troops and guests sit together in a large area. Bridging is held one troop and one level at a time. When troops are ready to bridge, they stand and go to the bridge. They return to their seats once they have bridged.

Instructions/Script

Event leader: *I'd like to invite **all bridging Daisy Girl Scout troops** and their Troop Leaders to the beginning of the bridge and a Brownie Troop Leader to the end of the bridge.*

(Daisy Girl Scouts bridge to Brownie Girl Scouts.)

Event leader: *And now I'd like to invite **all bridging Brownie Girl Scout troop**s to the beginning of the bridge and a Junior Troop Leader to the end of the bridge.*

(Brownie Girl Scouts bridge to Junior Girl Scouts.)

Event leader: *And now I'd like to invite **all bridging Junior Girl Scout troop**s to the beginning of the bridge and a Cadette Troop Leader to the end of the bridge.*

(Junior Girl Scouts bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts.)



Event leader: *And now I'd like to invite **all bridging Cadette Girl Scout troops** to the beginning of the bridge and a Senior Troop Leader to the end of the bridge.*

(Cadette Girl Scouts bridge to Senior Girl Scouts.)

Event leader: *And now I'd like to invite **all bridging Senior Girl Scout troops** to the beginning of the bridge and an Ambassador Troop Leader to the end of the bridge.*

(Senior Girl Scouts bridge to Ambassador Girl Scouts.)

Event leader: *And now I'd like to invite a**ll Ambassador Girl Scouts** that will be **bridging to adult Girl Scouts** to the beginning of the bridge and a Daisy Troop Leader to the end of the bridge.*

(Ambassador Girl Scouts bridge to adult Girl Scouts.)

Swap SWAPS!

Multi-level events are a great time to exchange SWAPS (Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere). How does it work? Each troop makes a little something to give to other girls that represents their troop, where they're from, or what they like to do in Girl Scouting. Go to www.girlscouts.org/en/members/for-volunteers/traditions-and-ceremonies.html#swaps for more information.

Service Unit or Multi-Troop Fly-Up and Bridging Ceremonies

Multi-Level Simple Ceremony

In this ceremony all groups start by standing around the bridge together (see diagram) while the audience watches from their seats. Girl Scouts ready to bridge to the next level are called to the bridge and then cross to join Girl Scouts in the next level.

- The key to this ceremony is communication. Let all groups know necessary details well ahead of time.
- With large crowds you will want to remind people of the Girl Scout quiet sign. You may also want to find a voice amplifier so the emcee or Troop Leaders can be heard.
- You may want to set up chairs or tell Girl Scouts they can sit after they bridge. Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts have a hard time sitting still for long periods of time.
- If groups are really large, you might want to skip saying each Girl Scout's name and simply announce troop numbers. If you can, list names in a program or slide show.
- Hand out certificates and awards AFTER the bridging ceremony. This ceremony is supposed to be symbolic and move fluidly from one level to the next.
- Organize your photo opps ahead of time.
- Schedule time to practice before the ceremony.

Multi-Level Bridging Ceremony Formation

