How to perform a Girl Scout flag ceremony

The start of a new Girl Scout membership year is a great time to learn or brush up on traditional ceremonies your troop or group might be asked to perform in the community. Here is a simple way to perform a flag ceremony.

When to perform a Girl Scout flag ceremony:
• Opening or closing meetings
• Opening or closing special events
• Beginning or closing a day
• Honoring a special occasion or special person
• Retiring a worn flag

Adults planning questions:
Things to consider if you have younger girls in your troop or group:
1. Who will carry the flag?
2. Who will be the color guards?
3. Who will give the directions for the ceremony?
4. What song will be sung? Who will sound the pitch and start the song?
5. Will a poem or quotation be included? Who will say or read it?
6. After the Pledge of Allegiance, will the Girl Scout Promise and the Law be said?
7. In what order will the parts of the ceremony take place?
8. When will the group practice?
9. Where will the flags be placed at the end of the ceremony?

Commands for a Flag Ceremony
“Girl Scouts, attention.”
“Color guard, advance.”
“Color guard, post the colors”
“Color guard, honor your flag.”
“Please join us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.”
OR
“Color guard, honor your flag.”
“Color guard, retire the colors.”
“Color guard, dismissed.”
“Girl Scouts, dismissed.”

Handling the American Flag
Display of the American flag is governed by law to ensure that it will be treated with the respect due the flag of a great nation. This is known as the United States Flag Code.

Some of the rules most useful for Girl Scouts are:
• The American flag must be placed in the center, and higher, when displayed with a group of state, local, or organizational flags flown from staffs. It may also be positioned to the right of other flags. (If girls were to hold the flag while facing their audience, their right side would be the flag’s own right.)
• When displayed from a staff in a house of worship or public auditorium, the flag of the United States must hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergy’s or speaker’s right as he or she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergy or speaker or to the right of the audience.
• The flag is to be hoisted briskly and lowered slowly with dignity.
• The flag should never be allowed to touch anything beneath it, nor should it ever be carried flat or horizontally—always aloft and free.
• Never use the flag as a cover or place anything on top of it.
• No disrespect of any kind should be shown to the flag of the United States. It should be kept clean.
• The flag, when carried in a procession with other flags, should be either on the marching right or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.
• When you display the flag on a wall or in a window where people see it from the street, it should be displayed flat with the blue part at the top and on the flag’s own right (which is the observer’s left).
• When displayed after dark, the flag should be illuminated.

For more information about flag ceremonies, see The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting.

Things to Celebrate

August
Aug. 3  National Watermelon Day
Aug. 10 National S’mores Day
Aug. 13 Left Hander’s Day
Aug. 30 National Marshmallow Toasting Day

September
Sept. 7  Labor Day
Sept. 11 9/11 Remembrance Day
Sept. 13 Grandparent’s Day
Sept. 17 Constitution Day
Sept. 21 International Peace Day
Sept. 25 Native American Day
**Song Corner**

Singing songs together is an easy way to open or close a meeting, keep girls entertained during extra or down time or have fun at camp! Here’s a tune to try at your next Girl Scout gathering:

**BOOM BOOM TA RA RA**

Tune: “Roll Out the Barrel”

Give thanks for good friends,
We have a barrel of fun.
Give thanks for good food,
Don’t waste one single crumb.
Boom Boom Ta-ra-ra!
Sing out a song of good cheer.
Now’s the time to give our big thanks,
For the friendship’s here!

**Create a storytelling mural**

Show your artistic side and make the world a better place at the same time! Girl Scouts can team up with their fellow troop members to create a mural that tells their story in a big, beautiful way. Then they can share their message with pride by unveiling the completed work at a community center, school or place of worship—and start a dialogue that inspires positive change in the world! If you don’t get permission to paint on any walls, just grab a few large poster boards, and when you’re done, hand them in your homes.

Looking for more ideas? Visit forgirls.girlscouts.org for activity ideas anytime.

---

**Watermelon S’mores**

What’s better than s’mores? How about refreshing and sweet s’mores with watermelon? Because August hosts both watermelon and s’mores day, try your hand at making this delicious recipe.

**Ingredients:**
- Graham cracker crumbs
- Melted dark chocolate
- Slices of seedless watermelon
- Mini marshmallows

**Instructions:**
1. Place a watermelon rectangle on a plate.
2. Sprinkle cracker crumbs over watermelon, followed by melted chocolate and marshmallows.

**The Good Grace**

Here’s a quick and easy spoken grace for your next meeting.
Good bread,
Good meat,
Good gracious,
Let’s eat!

---

**Celebrate Constitution Day September 17**

**Constitution Day: A History**

On September 17, 1787 the last signature was added to the United States Constitution. That day delegates met for the last time, and today we remember our constitutions historic significance by meeting together and celebrating their courageous efforts that brought America to independence.

The law that created this day of observance was established in 2004 by Senator Robert Byrd. Before the law was enacted, it was known as “Citizenship Day,” and therefore is also a day where those who have become U.S. citizens are celebrated.

This day not only gives girls a chance to learn about American History, but to celebrate the constitution, and each other for their contribution to their communities, and country.

**Activity Ideas for Constitution Day**

Ready to celebrate Constitution Day with your girls? Here’s a few activities to make the most of your day:

1. **Learn the stories of the founding fathers, and memorize an inspiring quote they said. Think about how they are like you—How did they help their communities and country and think about how you can make an impact.**

2. **Reenact the signing of the constitution by reading a copy aloud together and signing your names to the bottom, just like the founding fathers did over 100 years ago!**

3. **Take the Constitution Day Quiz and test your knowledge of our founding document! Go to http://www.scholastic.com/browse/quiz.jsp?id=35681 for Part 1 of the quiz.**

**Badges to Earn**

Here are a few badges Girl Scouts of every level can earn that have a tie in to learning more about our country and its government system. All badge requirements can be found in The Girls Guide to Girl Scouting.

- **Daisy - Respect Authority Petal**
- **Brownie - Celebrating Community**
- **Junior - Inside Government**
- **Cadette - Finding Common Ground**
- **Senior - Behind the Ballot**
- **Ambassador - Public Policy**