



Bridging to



Girl Scout Brownie Girl Scout Junior Girl Scout Cadette

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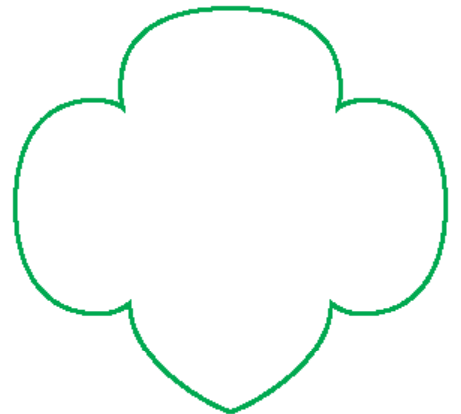
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Intro to Bridging

Bridging is an important transition in a Girl Scout's life. It's a defining moment when a girl becomes aware of her achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities. It is an activity that is recognized as a transition amid the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and is designed to emphasize the continuity in the Girl Scout Program.

Through bridging, girls move from one program level to the next. There are six levels of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience:

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

Bridging ceremonies often utilize a bridge as a prop. The act of crossing the bridge is both a physical and symbolic step into the future. Bridges can be made for one time or repeated use at ceremonies, or troops can use an actual bridge at a local park or scenic area.

Bridging ceremonies can include groups or individuals at different levels and can be combined with other activities such as camp. This gives girls the opportunity to get to know girls at the next level and to do activities with them. It is also a good way to include individually registered girl members who want the bridging experience with other girls.

During bridging ceremonies, girls are honored for their progression and growth. Girls can work with volunteers to create bridging ceremonies that mark milestones as they move to the next level.

Suggestions for a successful ceremony:

- Make sure the girls are involved in the decision making and planning of the ceremony. As girls get older, let them take on more responsibility. Getting girls involved helps them feel that the ceremony is *theirs*, not just another activity to take part in.
- Make sure the girls know their duties and responsibilities.
- Gather supplies and practice well ahead of time.
- If family and friends are invited, distribute invitations. If you are including another troop, make sure they are informed of the date and time and of their responsibilities.
- Remind girls, parents and guardians that vests or sashes and uniform pieces need to be ready for the ceremony.
- Have simple activities available to keep younger girls or siblings busy—coloring pages and crayons are often enough.
- Make sure to have copies of song lyrics on hand so girls can have a reminder if needed and guests can sing along.
- Games can add a celebratory feel to the ceremony. Make sure to take the time to review the rules of the game so everyone can play. A group game can be a great icebreaker.

Bridging Ceremony Essentials

A bridging ceremony can be very simple or elaborate; remember, it is up to the group to plan the ceremony. Most ceremonies include:

- A flag or opening ceremony
- Reciting of the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Crossing of a bridge
- The Girl Scout Handshake
- Presentation of certificates, patches and other awards
- An ending 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

Plan a Ceremony

Celebrate earning the Bridge to Girl Scout Brownie Award with a favorite ceremony from the Daisy Journey—or make up a new one. Then proudly add bridging patches to sashes or vests!

For more ideas, see our **Girl Scout Bridging Ceremonies** document along with these online resources:

www.pinterest.com/gsnorcal

www.girlscouts.org

www.scoutingweb.com

www.makingfriends.com

If girls are working online, remember to sign the *Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge*.

Bridging Ceremony Basics

These insignia are traditionally presented to girls as they bridge:

| Age Level | Automatically Given | Earned |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Daisy | Membership Star with blue disc | Bridge to Brownies Award |
| | Ending Certificate | |
| | Girl Scout Brownie pin | |
| Brownie | Membership Star with green disc | Bridge to Juniors Award |
| | Girl Scout Brownie Wings | |
| | Girl Scout Pin | |
| Junior | Membership Star with yellow disc | Bridge to Cadettes Award |
| Cadette | Membership Star with white disc | Bridge to Seniors Award |
| Senior | Membership Star with red disc | Bridge to Ambassador Award |
| Ambassador | Membership Star with navy disc | Bridge to Adult Award |

These insignia are moved from their current program level to the new.
All others stay on their current uniform

| 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 |
| Cadette vest or sash | Senior vest or sash | The vest/sash is the same so you add to it; nothing is removed The Silver Award |
| Senior vest or sash | Ambassador vest or sash | The vest/sash is the same so you add to it; nothing is removed |
| Ambassador vest or sash | Adult Uniform | World Association Pin Girl Scout Pin Gold Award Pin Bridge to Adult Pin |

Bridge to Girl Scout Brownie



Blast Off to Girl Scout Brownie!

Even before there were Girl Scouts, there were Brownies—magical elves who did helpful things. Today, girls who become Brownies still help people by going on Journeys **like *Brownie Quest, WOW! Wonders of Water, or A World of Girls*** with their Girl Scout sisters.

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 Award

Girls will learn more about what it is like to be a Girl Scout Brownie by earning their Bridge to Girl Scout Brownie Award. Plus, they will be taking part in the great tradition of Girl Scout bridging!

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

Bridging Step One: Pass It On!

Inspire younger girls by sharing what it's like to be a Girl Scout Daisy.

As girls prepare to become a Girl Scout Brownie have them think back to how exciting it was when they became a Girl Scout Daisy. Have them share some of their favorite memories or activities with younger girls. Complete at least **one** of the following activities—or do them all!

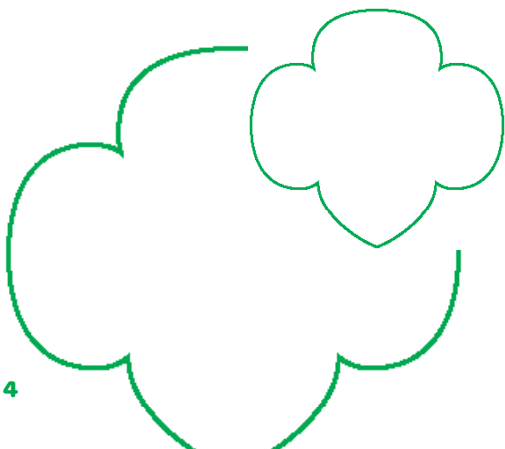
- Teach younger girls the Girl Scout Promise and recite the Girl Scout Law to them. Share a story about how girls learned to put the Promise and Law into action.
- Tell the younger girls about Amazing Daisy, Lupe, Tula, and the other flower friends from the Journey books. Who was their favorite? Why is she their favorite? What did they learn from the flower friend about making the world a better place? Help the younger girls color pictures of the flower friends to take home.
- Teach the younger girls a favorite game or song and play or sing along!
- Make a little something to give to the younger girls that shows them what Girl Scouts are all about. Make a picture of a flower friend or a puppet. Write the Girl Scout Law or a special message on a card. Whatever you make, be sure to explain what it means to the girls.

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead!

Find out what Girl Scout Brownies do.

Spend some time with some Girl Scout Brownie sisters. After all, they know about the fun and adventures Girl Scout Brownies can have together. Do at least **one** of the following activities—or do them all if you want.

- Say the Girl Scout Promise together. Then find out if the Girl Scout Brownies have a favorite part of the Girl Scout Law. Were they friendly and helpful, or courageous and strong?
- Ask the Girl Scout Brownies to teach a favorite Brownie song or game, then sing or play it together!
- Work together to make special “tickets” into the world of Brownies. Ask the Brownies to write down three things they had fun doing as Brownies and then decorate the tickets together. Take the tickets home as a reminder of all the fun that is in store for Girl Scout Brownies.
- Ask the Girl Scout Brownies to show their Journey awards and tell the girls what they did to earn them. How did they make the world a better place? What new friends did the Brownies meet in their Journeys?
- 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. For example, you might see playground equipment that needs to be fixed. Write the ideas down and put them in the idea bank. You can use them to Take Action when you are Girl Scout Brownies.



Bridging to Girl Scout Junior

Bridging Step One: Pass It On!

Girls share talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts something they learned to do as a Girl Scout Brownie.

- Teach a group of Girl Scout Daisies a favorite song, game, or craft from their Brownie Journey.
- Have girls talk to the Daisies about their favorite Girl Scout Brownie memories. Tell the Daisies what they have to look forward to when they are Girl Scout Brownies. Inspire the Daisies to climb the ladder of leadership.
- Help the Daisies create and decorate small message books by stapling blank pages between two pieces of construction paper. Make sure each Daisy writes her name on the cover of her book! 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.
- Have girls share what they have learned about becoming Girl Scout Juniors and why they are excited to “fly up.”
- Invite Daisies to attend one of your meetings to find out what being a Girl Scout Brownie is all about. Show the Daisies what skills girls learned as Brownies or pictures of favorite trips.

Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead!

Find out what Girl Scout Juniors do.

The best way to find out what it really means to be a Girl Scout Junior is to talk to girls who are already Girl Scout Juniors! To complete this step, get together with Girl Scout Juniors and do one or more of the following activities:

- Ask Girl Scout Juniors what activities they loved doing as Juniors and why. Ask them to share their favorite memories of working as a team. See if the Girl Scout Juniors are willing to teach a favorite game or special Girl Scout activity. If any of the girls were also Girl Scout Brownies, ask them how being a Junior was different from being a Brownie.
- Talk to one or more of the Girl Scout Juniors who earned her Girl Scout Bronze Award. Wow! That is a big accomplishment. How did she choose her project? Who was on her team? What did she learn? Ask what advice she would give to someone who wants to earn her Bronze Award.

Plan a Ceremony

Celebrate earning the Bridge to Girl Scout Junior Award with a favorite ceremony from your Brownie Journey—or make up a new one. Then proudly add bridging patches to sashes or vests! For more ideas, see the *Girl Scout Bridging Ceremonies* document.



Fly Up to Junior!

Girl Scout Juniors can take part in cool new experiences like going on an overnight at a science museum, working on a farm, attending a baseball game, visiting a wildlife preserve, making a robot, or trying new sports like archery. Girl Scout Juniors become role models for younger Girl Scouts—think about hosting activities for them such as a Daisy Flower Garden Party.

Girl Scout Juniors can choose to go on any or all of three Journeys: *Agent of Change*, *Get Moving!*, and *aMUSE*. On a Journey, girls can team up to make a difference in the world. Every time girls complete a Journey, they earn three awards. After finishing one Journey, girls will be able to earn their Girl Scout Bronze Award—one of Girl Scouting’s highest awards.

Earning the Award

To earn the Bridge to Girl Scout Junior Award, complete one bridging activity for each of these bridging steps: Pass It On! and Look Ahead! These steps will help girls pass down something they have learned to a younger Girl Scout and look forward to what is waiting at the next level.

Girl Scout Brownie Wings



All Girl Scout Brownies who become Girl Scout Juniors “fly up.” Girl Scout Wings should be given to each Brownie when they bridge to Girl Scout Juniors.

Bridging to Girl Scout Cadette



Climb Up to Cadette!

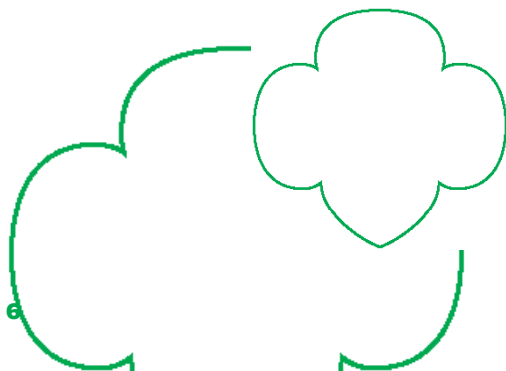
When girls climb up to the Girl Scout Cadette level, they should get ready to lead! Organize a basketball league for girls in your community, help plan a badge workshop for younger Girl Scouts, or volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. Cadettes can try a **destinations** trip on their own, or plan a group getaway to another state.

Girl Scout Cadettes can choose from three different Journeys: Explore the twists and turns of friendship in **aMAZE**; investigate what is really in the air with **Breathe**; or channel their creativity into an awesome project through **Media**. Once girls have completed a Journey, they can embrace an issue they care deeply about and change their community for the better by completing a project to earn their Girl Scout Silver Award—the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn.

Girl Scout Cadettes can also earn the Leadership in Action award by helping their younger Girl Scout sisters.

Earning the Award

To earn the Bridge to Girl Scout Cadette Award, complete one bridging activity from each of the two bridging steps: Pass It On! and Look Ahead! These steps will help girls pass down something they have learned to a younger Girl Scout and look forward to what is waiting at the next level.



Bridging Step One: Pass It On!

Girls share talents and skills by teaching others something they learned to do as a Girl Scout Junior.

Girl Scout Juniors have the power to create an amazing impact on the world around them! Here are some ideas for sharing what they learned as Juniors.

Have girls choose one of the ideas listed below, or come up with their own ideas.

- Make a short video of girls speaking about their favorite Girl Scout Junior memory and why they can't wait to climb up to Cadette. Show the video to a group of Girl Scout Brownies.
- Invite Brownies to attend a meeting and demonstrate a skill that will make them look forward to becoming a Girl Scout Junior. For example, show them photos from your group's favorite outdoor adventure and demonstrate how you prepared for the trip. Get Brownies excited to spend time outdoors with their Girl Scout sisters.
- 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 girls who earned their 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!

Find out what Girl Scout Cadettes do.

Girl Scout Cadettes set their sights on the world outside their local area. They ask what lies beyond their neighborhood.

Use one of the ideas below to get you started, or come up with your own ideas to look ahead:

- Ask a Girl Scout Cadette to talk about her experiences and maybe even teach a new skill she learned as a Cadette. Does she have a favorite experience from her time as a Cadette?
- Discover what it takes to earn the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn—the Girl Scout Silver Award. Find a Cadette that has earned this honor and ask them what was involved and what they learned along the way.
- Do some investigating to find out what the Cadette Journeys are. What are their themes, which Journeys interest the group the most?

Plan a Ceremony

Celebrate earning the Bridge to Girl Scout Cadette Award with a favorite ceremony you learned on your Junior journey—or make up a new one. Proudly add bridging patches to sashes or vests! For more ideas, see the *Girl Scout Bridging Ceremonies* document.