

What You'll Need

Leaders and Advisors

Moderator

Pen and paper for each group

GSUSA publications:
Let's Celebrate!
Girl Scout Ceremonies
or
Ceremonies in Girl Scouting

Time: 15 - 30 minutes

Questions? Comments?
Contact the Girl Scout
office nearest you.
1-800-922-2770
203-239-2922

www.gsofct.org

COURT OF AWARDS



The end of the Girl Scout year is nearing. Final badges are being completed, spring campouts are approaching, and the girls are already planning for the fall. You've had a great year, and you want to honor it with a great Court of Awards. A **Court of Awards** is a special ceremony at which Girl Scouts receive recognitions and insignia they have earned. It can be held anytime during the year, any location, and as often as the Troop wants.

In small groups, brainstorm ideas for making your Court of Awards special. Additionally, spend some time generating creative notions for honoring one of our most precious resources: our helping adults!

"Mix and Match" Court of Awards Planning Activity

Preparations: This activity will work even better if you give a little advance notice. Ask your Leaders to bring ideas for a Court of Awards, including tokens of thanks they have used.

Instructions: Split into small groups – 2 or 3 in each group. If you have a small Service Unit, it may be preferable to split into two groups or even stay together as one larger group.

Activity: This is a "Mix and Match" Court of Awards activity because each group will come up with several options for each part of the Court of Awards ceremony. To create a complete ceremony, Leaders and girls can intermix an opening with an activity and so on!

The categories include:

- Opening
- How to present the Daisy Learning Petals/Brownie Try-Its/ Girl Scout Badges/Interest Project patches/pins
- Girl participation (such as a song or presentation)
- What to present to adult helpers
- Closing



Just add refreshments and you've got a Court of Awards!

Give each group a category and 10 – 15 minutes to come up with as many ideas as they can. Make sure lists are as detailed as possible, rather than listing "song" for girl participation, be more specific such as "song learned to earn 'x' badge or try-it. This will make the lists more user-friendly for new Leaders.

To get them thinking in the right direction, advise them to "put themselves in someone else's shoes" such as the audience. Sometimes things that were really exciting when they happened aren't quite as exciting when retold. Have Leaders imagine what the audience would enjoy hearing about and how to present it in a fun, lively manner. Make sure they also take the age levels into consideration and offer various age-appropriate recommendations, particularly for girl participation.

Coming together: Have the groups report out their ideas. Allow for additional ideas from other groups as time permits. Be sure to be considerate of new Leaders. It is very intimidating to be the only one who doesn't know a given song or game. Ask a volunteer to type up the ideas. You might consider laminating them or putting them on index cards for your Service Unit library.

Potential Resources:

Let's Celebrate! or Ceremonies in Girl Scouting - GSUSA publications

http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/ceremonies

[http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/ceremoies/ceremony_planner.pdf](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/ceremoies/ceremoies/ceremony_planner.pdf)