

Court of Awards Ceremonies

What is a Court of Awards?

At a Court of Awards, Girl Scouts receive recognition for their accomplishments in the form of patches, badges, pins, and certificates. Court of Award ceremonies are held several times during the Girl Scout year and even more frequently for very young girls. A Court of Awards may be used as a closing ceremony for a project the whole troop has worked hard on, with each girl receiving the patch or badge that symbolizes her effort. Recognitions individual girls have earned over a period of time may also be distributed at the Court of Awards.

What's in a Court of Awards?

Presentation of awards is the main activity of a Court of Awards ceremony. There are many creative ways to present girls with recognitions. Demonstrations or displays of what was done to earn the awards can add interest to the ceremony. Girls may wish to include candle lighting in the ceremony. Much of the Promise and Law candle lighting used for investitures is also appropriate for Court of Awards ceremonies. It could also be a simple ceremony with the troop leader presenting girls with recognitions at the end of a regular troop meeting. Whatever form the Court of Awards takes, it should be an opportunity for girls to feel proud of their accomplishments.

Things To Think About:

- ☞ Prepare recognition items ahead of time, packaging each girl's awards together.
- ☞ Emphasize the effort each girl made to earn whatever awards she is receiving, rather than the number earned.
- ☞ Hold award ceremonies frequently, especially with younger girls.
- ☞ Girl Scout Brownies and young Girl Scout Juniors receive recognitions as soon as they have earned them to help them understand that the award is a symbol of their work. These can be very simple ceremonies with just the troop present.
- ☞ Recognize each girl individually by name. If possible, comment on what was done to earn the recognition.

To save time, pin the awards to ribbons and then pin the ribbons on the girls.

Creative Ways for Presenting Girl Scout Recognitions

Some successful ideas gathered from Girl scouts everywhere:

- ☞ **Staple to Vest:** Staple directly onto the vest/sash so parent knows exactly where to sew it!
- ☞ **Poster Board Sash:** Cut a sash out of poster board or a brown paper bag and attach the patches/badges.
- ☞ **Ribbon:** Staple patches onto a wide ribbon with a pin at the top so the ribbon can be fastened to the vest/sash. Attaching a sticker/label to the top of the ribbon with the girl's name helps to identify each ribbon quickly. When presented, attach to her sash/shirt to make them feel very special.

- ☞ **Balloons – talk about creative!:** Use big balloons and put the badges inside of the balloon and blow up with a helium tank. How fun to watch the girls try and figure out how to get the badges out!
- ☞ **Trefoil Shapes:** Make trefoil shapes out of poster board as a troop and tie it into the idea of Girl Scout traditions. Have each girl make one. You can attach the patches with double-stick tape. Simple, but eye catching.
 - ▲ Cut a huge trefoil out of green poster board. Put green crepe paper streamers behind the trefoil—1 streamer per girl and attach their patches and awards to it.
 - ▲ Cut green trefoils – about 4” size and write each girl’s name on them. Staple to a gold wire edged ribbon (about 2 ½” wide) and staple patches, awards and membership stars to each one. You can pin this to their vests using the membership star.
 - ▲ Cut trefoil shapes that open like a book and then paste the patches on the inside of the folder. Write the girl’s names on the front.
- ☞ **Flower Pots:** Purchase small clay pots for each girl. Sponge paint or decorate the pots. Attach one badge to a paper cupcake cup, then to a green chenille stem. In other words, make each patch into a flower, add leaves, etc. “Plant” them in florist foam in the clay pot.
 - ▲ Another variation – fill the clay pots with Styrofoam. Hot glue the badges to pipe cleaners and arrange with silk leaves or flowers as an arrangement. You can paint each girl’s name on the pot and hand out as a bouquet of flowers.
- ☞ **Outdoor theme:** Attach badges to leafy branches or pine boughs, or how about in a bandana on a stick.
- ☞ **People theme:** Attach badges to a paper doll chain or to international flags.
- ☞ **Arts theme:** Attach badges to paint brushes, sheet music or put them in crayon boxes.

Keep it Girl Led

Daisies can:	Brownies can:	Juniors can:	Cadettes can:	Seniors and Ambassadors can:
Choose a favorite song to sing	Choose songs and poems related to the theme	Decide theme	Decide theme	Plan and put on an area ceremony
Decide who they want to invite	Decide who they want to invite and make invitations	Decide when they want the ceremony	Find songs and readings	Select site and make all arrangements
	Set up before ceremony	Find songs and poems	Work with Junior sister troop to plan bridging	Contact participants
	Serve refreshments	Make and serve refreshments	Make own props	Choose what to put in ceremony
	Help clean up	Clean Up	Clean Up	Conduct ceremony