

Basic Gold Award Ceremony Format

Flag Ceremony: Younger Troop members/ Other Girl Scouts.

Welcome Message / Keynote Speaker: Advisor, Master of Ceremony, or Inspirational Speaker.

Invocation: (Optional) Important adult or religious person.

Promise and Law: Basic Promise and Law Ceremony can include special Gold Award Candle. Examples: Candle Light Ceremony, Flowers of Friendship Promise, and Law Ceremony.

Introduction of the Gold Award Recipient(s): Have them come to the front.

Introduction of Honored Guests: Important guests should be introduced as witness to the presentation of the award. May include parents, family members, or local government officials.

Introduction or Definition of the Girl Scout Gold Award: Council representative, key volunteer, Advisor. May include history of the award.

Focus on the Recipient(s): Biography of the Girl Scout and her development into a young woman - funny stories, personal triumphs. This can be done by any adult that knows her well.

Recipients Qualifications: Advisor or other knowledgeable explains what was done to accomplish the Gold Award.

Presentation of the Gold Award: Significant Person, Council staff, committee member, or Advisor presents the Gold Award Pin to the recipient, or the parent or Advisor, who will then pin it on her uniform.

Recipients Thank You: Recipient(s) comment on how she earned the award and thanks those who helped can present Gold Award Parent Pin at this time.

Messages of Congratulations: Any letters from the President of the United States, local government, Letter from GSUSA, or special guests can speak (letters can take time so plan accordingly).

Messages to Younger Girls: Recipients offer words of encouragement to younger Girl Scouts along with words on what Girl Scouts means to her.

Girl Scout Challenge and Pledge: Advisor, Troop Leader, or Council Staff will read the challenge and recipient(s) repeat the pledge.

Closing Comments: General closing comments invites everyone to the reception.

Closing Song: (optional)

Closing Flag Ceremony: Younger Girl Scouts.

Reception

Ceremony Planning Worksheet

Name of Ceremony:

Date:

Time:

Length:

Setting:

Purpose:

Theme:

Audience:

Introductory Remarks:

Songs, poems, quotations included:

Props needed:

Formations used:

Opening section:

Main section:

Closing:

Participants:

Decorations:

Troop archivist/ photographer:

Media or Publicity:

Invitations:

Refreshments:

Budget:

Rehearsal:

Sample Ceremonies

Sample Gold Award Charge and Pledge

Equipment: Candle for each recipient past and present of Gold Award, Curved Bar, and First Class given to them prior to start Matches or lighter. Optional – substitute handheld electric candles and screw bulb in to ‘light’ it.

Arrangements: One person at podium reading charge. Other persons can be anywhere in audience. Have some persons holding lighters or matches at the ready who can ‘pass the flame’ at the indicated moment in ceremony.

Ceremony: Speaker: I challenge you to accept this Girl Scout Gold Award in the spirit in which it is given to you. Know that with this award comes responsibility. As you enter this covenant of esteemed women, know that you are regarded with honor and respect. Live worthy of this by living by the Girl Scout Law.

I challenge you to remain honest and fair in all your dealings in this world. Never sell out and never give less than your very best. Always remain true to yourself. Always guard your honor.

I challenge you to be friendly and helpful to everyone you meet as you go through life.

Celebrate the diversity of your fellow human beings. Give service freely, expecting nothing in return.

Seek to improve life for others.

I challenge you to be considerate and caring to all living things, human and animal. Always being mindful of those in need, and the feelings of others. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

I challenge you to be courageous and strong in all you do. Stand strong in the face of adversity and share your courage with those around you, especially those smaller and weaker than you.

I challenge you to be responsible for what you say and do. Think before you speak and act. Be sure everything you say and do reflect well on you and your family.

I challenge you to respect yourself, so you may respect others. Continually strive to improve your mind, body and spirit. Strive for excellence in all you do and recognize the accomplishments of others.

I challenge you to respect authority. Follow the laws of your country and nature. Be mindful of your rights as well as your responsibilities as a citizen of this great nation. Remember that freedom is not free.

I challenge you to use resources wisely. Never waste the resources of nature or those of yourself and the people around you. Use your talents to better the world, and to protect our planet. Seek out the beauty that is all around you.

I challenge you to make this world a better place. Use all your abilities to leave this world in a better condition than you found it. By your words, actions and deeds you can make a difference.

I challenge you to be a sister to every Girl Scout. Help younger girls to reach the top as you have. Support them on their road to the Girl Scout Gold award. Do your best to give back to Girl Scouting that which has been given to you and a little more.

By accepting this challenge you become a changed woman. You become part of an elite group who recognize that receiving this Girl Scout Gold Award is not one celebratory moment but a lifetime commitment.

May I please have all Gold Award Recipients, past and present, as well as, all women who have received the Golden Eaglet, Curved Bar or First Class Award please stand and light your candle.

[pause while candles are lit]

If you accept this challenge, please repeat after me:

I affirm my dedication to live by the Girl Scout Promise and Law. I understand my obligation to live with honor and to lead by example because the highest award of Girl Scouting has been entrusted to me. I will remain worthy of respect as one forever bound to the ideals of Girl Scouting. Please pause for a moment to reflect on your accomplishments and then blow out your candle.

Sample of Old Glory Flag Ceremony

Equipment: Ahead of time, place a U.S. flag floating upon a staff or hanging from above (use a fan to get the flag to “wave”), spotlight the flag from the back of the room; use a microphone for the speakers, if necessary. Have the four speakers out of sight, if possible.

Arrangement: Audience is seated facing a stage or the front of the room with the flag displayed alone.

Ceremony:

Girl Scout #1: I am the flag of the United States. The symbol of a nation that has loved, above all else, its freedom, justice, rights, and equality.

Girl Scout #2: I am the country’s glowing Stars and Stripes. Red is for endurance, courage and strength; white is for the purity of high ideals; and blue is for loyalty, truth and faith.

Girl Scout #3: I am Old Glory -flag for which people serve, that right may conquer; flag for which people strive for better and higher ideals.

Girl Scout #4: I am the flag of the United States. Let us rise and pledge allegiance to our flag. [recite pledge]

Here is another outline for a Gold Award Ceremony when the ceremony includes dinner. You can personalize your ceremony and change the order of events. This is just an example.

1. Welcoming remarks. Girls from troop lead grace. Meal is served.
2. Introduction of honored guests: These may include the honoree's school principal, pastor, parents, mayor, Gold Award Project Advisor, etc.
3. Candlelight ceremony: Each candle represents an age level in Girl Scouts, tells story of how she came to be a Senior Girl Scout 4: Address by the Gold Award Project Advisor
4. Explanation of the Girl Scout Gold Award by Project Advisor or representative from Girl Scout Council
5. Description of honoree's Gold Award Project by girl or her leader
6. Presentation of the Gold Award pin by city mayor
7. Presentation of additional certificates
8. Presentation of gifts from other Girl Scout families (led by Service Unit Manager)
9. Speech by recipient
10. Closing song and/or poem
11. Dessert is served