



Girl Scout Bridging Guide

What Bridging is All About

Bridging is an activity held to let girls be recognized and welcomed into another level of Girl Scouting. A bridge crosses a gap and makes it easy to get from one side to another. So it is in Girl Scouting. Through bridging, girls who move from one membership grade level to another have something to help ease the jump. There are a number of differences between the six levels of Girl Scouting. Bridging is designed to emphasize the continuity in the Girl Scout program, to introduce girls within each grade level to what lies ahead, and to give older girls a sense of personal responsibility for younger girls. Bridging from Brownies to Juniors is also referred to as "Flying Up." Bridging Ceremonies typically take place toward the end of the school year and are easily combined with a Court of Awards Ceremony.

In order to receive a Bridging Award a girl will need to complete the requirements listed in their handbooks or Daisy Leader Guide.

Bridge to Brownies Award, Daisy Girl Scout Leader Guide, pp. 62-64

Bridge to Juniors Award, Brownie Girl Scout Handbook, pp. 136-137

Bridge to Cadettes Award, Junior Girl Scout Handbook, p. 201

Bridge to Seniors, Cadette Girl Scout Handbook, p. 142

Bridge to Ambassadors will be available in Spring 2009 and can be earned retroactively

Bridge to Adults, Senior Girl Scout Handbook, p. 143

All About Bridges

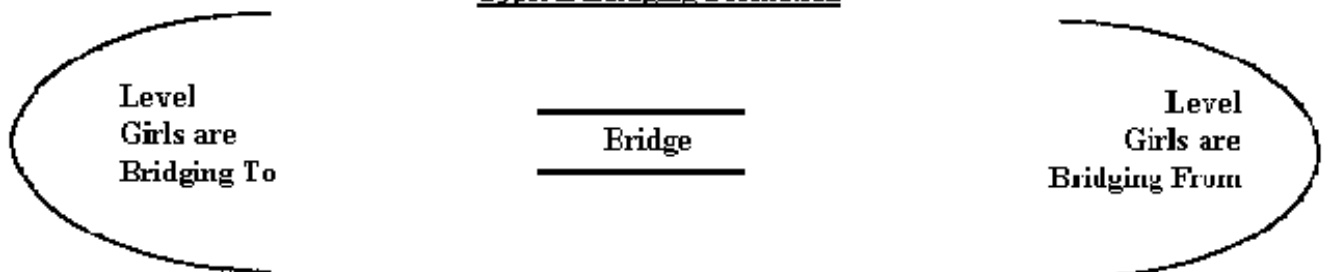
A bridge can be constructed out of just about anything; the point is for it to be a symbolic crossing from one level to the next. The following are some ideas for you to use or adapt:



- A rustic bridge out of doors.
- An arch of colored paper.
- Stepping stones cut out of cardboard.
- A card table turned upside down and crepe paper strung between the legs.
- Anything else the girls can think up!

Wooden bridges are available for check out at the Girl Scout Store. (reserve in advance)
Call early!

Typical Bridging Formation





These insignia are traditionally presented

to girls as they bridge:



Age Level	Automatically Given	Earned
Daisy	Membership Star with blue disc Ending Certificate Brownie Girl Scout Pin	Bridge to Brownies Award
Brownie	Membership Star with green disc Brownie Girl Scout Wings Girl Scout Pin	Bridge to Juniors Award
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Association Pin • Membership Stars
Brownie vest or sash	Junior sash or vest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Association Pin • Membership Stars
Junior vest or sash	Cadette vest or sash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Association Pin • Membership Stars • Brownie Wings • Girl Scout Pin • Bronze Award until Silver Award is earned (Bronze Award is then moved to right side of vest or sash)
Cadette vest or sash	Senior vest or sash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vest/sash is the same so you add to it; nothing is removed • The Silver Award is moved to the right side of vest or sash when Gold Award is earned
Senior vest or sash	Ambassador vest or sash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vest/sash is the same so you add to it; nothing is removed • The Silver Award is moved to the right side of vest or sash when Gold Award is earned.
Ambassador vest or sash	Adult Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Association Pin • Girl Scout Pin • Gold Award Pin • Bridge to Adult Pin

Planning Ceremonies

Girl Scouting operates on the principal that girls grow, learn and have fun by making decisions, doing and discovering for themselves. That is why it is important that the girls do as much of the planning for ceremonies as possible. Ceremonies are opportunities for the girls, not the adults, to express themselves. Girls should have a part in making their own memories.

Planning should include the girls' ideas and input. As the girls get older, their responsibility for planning should expand. Keep in mind that different levels and/or groups will have different abilities. Be flexible—let the girls make mistakes and learn from them. It is your function to guide the group and provide an environment for creativity. The Ceremony Worksheet will help with troop planning.

Here are some ways girls at each level can be involved in ceremony planning.

Daisy	Brownie	Junior	Cadette	Senior/Ambassador
Choose a favorite song to sing	Choose a favorite song to sing	Decide on a 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 who they want to invite and make invitations	Find songs and readings	Select site and make 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
				Clean up

Please remember, these are only guidelines. You know the maturity level of your girls better than anyone!

More information on insignia and ceremonies:

1. Girl Scout Journeys and Level Handbooks
2. Girl Scout Uniforms, Insignia, and Recognitions Guide, GSUSA
3. *Let's Celebrate!* – Girl Scout Ceremonies book
4. GSUSA Web site- <http://www.girlscouts.org>
5. Scouting Web - <http://www.epilogsys.com/scoutingweb/Traditions/Ceremonies.htm>
6. *The GS Leader Center* - <http://www.fortunecity.com/millennium/puppet/989/cere/ceretoc.html>
7. Brownie Troop #698 in North Carolina - <http://www.geocities.com/brownies698/ceremonies.html>

CEREMONY WORKSHEET

Name of the ceremony _____

Purpose of theme _____

Date of the ceremony _____

Place of the ceremony _____

Length of the ceremony _____

Who will attend? _____

How will the ceremony begin? _____

What songs, poems, quotations will be included? _____

What will the main section consist of? _____

What formations will be used in presenting the ceremony? _____

How will the ceremony end? _____

Who will do each part? _____

Who will record the ceremony for your troop archives? _____

What decorations or props do we need? _____

Who will bring the needed items?

Item _____ Who will bring _____

Will refreshments be served? What will they be? Who will bring them? How much? Cost?

When will a rehearsal be scheduled for the ceremony? _____

Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma

TROOP BRIDGING WORKSHEET

BRIDGING TROOP

MENTORING TROOP

SERVICE UNIT		
PROGRAM GRADE LEVEL		
TROOP NUMBER		
LEADER NAME		
LEADER PHONE #		
LEADER EMAIL ADDRESS		
NUMBER OF GIRLS BRIDGING		
TROOP MEETING DAY/TIME		
LOCATION		

1. Troop with bridging girls should complete “Bridging Troop” column.
2. If mentoring troop is known, they should complete the “Mentoring Troop” column and turn in to Service Unit Manager.
3. If mentoring troop is unknown, turn form in to Service Unit Manager, who will assign a mentoring troop.
4. The Service Unit Manager will give each troop and the Membership Executive a copy of the completed form.
5. Each troop with bridging girls will receive a bridging packet.

Bridging Troop Responsibilities:

- Obtain new level handbook to discover new level information
- Help girls decide what activities to do
- Make sure activities happen
- Give girls guidance in planning ceremony

Mentoring Troop Responsibilities:

- Be willing and helpful in guiding the bridging troop
- Help girls plan activities that will be enjoyable for both troops
- Make sure activities happen
- Give bridging troop ceremony ideas
- Participate in ceremony