

January Recognition Tips

Great Question!

One of our new Recognition Coordinators asked, "Who pays for the monthly awards? Do I need to pay for them"? What a great question! Each Service Unit has a bank account where they should have money available to recognize volunteers. Also, don't count out your small local businesses who may want to donate a door prize or small gifts for each volunteer. Finding fun, inexpensive ways to recognize volunteers each month doesn't have to "break the bank". Look for ideas provided in your Recognition Coordinator training manual and past issues of *Recognition Tips*.

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Ceremony Ideas

Ceremonies in Girl Scouting are used to celebrate special occasions, to recognize accomplishments, or simply to begin or end a meeting. Ceremonies also provide a means of expressing feelings and values of friendship, patriotism, service, beliefs and so forth.

A ceremony may be informal, taking only a few minutes to prepare or, it may be of a more formal nature, requiring advance preparation.

Ceremonies are often used for a tree planting, making a presentation to a sponsor, thanking Troop Committee members or recognizing a special day.

Celebrating important events together helps bind adults together into a feeling of sisterhood. It becomes a special time for reflection on the "oneness" of being a Girl Scout.

Want more ceremony ideas? Go to: www.scoutingweb.com.

Candle Ceremony

This candle ceremony can be adapted for Thinking Day, a holiday event, a wish for the new year, or anything where each person can make a wish. You can buy some little tea candles (ten to a box at the local dollar store) and put each candle in a baby food jar.

For a Thinking Day Ceremony, turn out the lights and ask each adult to make a wish as and then light the candle. The wishes began with, "My wish for girls everywhere . . ."

For a holiday event, you might try something to be thankful for, or a wish for the new year, or a wish for your girls.

Investiture or Rededication

This can be used at a meeting to invest, or rededicate new leaders.

The Recognition Coordinator or Service Unit Director should lead the adult members in saying the following pledge:

We, the volunteers of Service Unit (name or number), members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, united by our acceptance of the Girl Scout Promise and Law,

And inspired by the vision of the founder of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States, Juliette Gordon Low;

Do dedicate ourselves to the purpose of inspiring girls with the highest ideals of courage, confidence and character, to make the world a better place.