

# Celebrate World Thinking Day February 22, 2009



*World Thinking Day* is a very special day for Girl Scouts around the world. It is a day to remember our Girl Scout sisters who live in other towns, other states and especially other countries. It is a time to celebrate the many cultures that are a part of the Girl Guide/Scout movement. It is also a time to think about a world filled with peace and how we can help make that happen.

Do you know why we honor World Thinking Day on February 22? This date is the birthday of both the Founder of Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell, and his wife, Lady Baden-Powell. Juliette Gordon Low was a personal friend of Lord Baden-Powell and was so impressed with the Scouting program in England that she began a similar program for girls in America. So World Thinking Day, and in fact the whole month of February, furnishes occasions for international friendship and special ceremonies.

Listed below are some ways to celebrate World Thinking Day. When you have completed a World Thinking Day activity, your troop can order a World Thinking Day patch from your Girl Scout Shop.

- Have a ceremony and give out the World Trefoil Pins. REMEMBER: Just because you all have your World Trefoil pin doesn't mean you can't have a ceremony.
- Send postcards to other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. If you're online, email Girl Guide/Scout leaders and ask for their address. Get enough addresses so that each girl can make one postcard to send.
- Have a program for parents or other girls about how Girl Guiding/Scouting is different in other countries. Have each girl do something special from a different country. The books Wide World of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting and Trefoil Around the World are good resources.
- Teach girls songs, games, dances or languages from other countries. The books Wide World of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting and Trefoil Around the World are good resources.
- Have an international feast for your families. Have each family prepare a recipe from a different country.
- Learn the Girl Guide/Scout Promise and Law of another country.
- Invite someone who has been to another country to come in and tell you about it.
- Invite an exchange student to come and share things about their country.
- Trace your family tree and see how many countries you can "cover" from your combined family trees.
- Read about the World Centers in your Girl Scout handbooks.
- Go to the official Girl Scout Web site and learn more about World Thinking Day 2009: [http://www.girlscouts.org/who\\_we\\_are/global/world\\_thinking\\_day/default.asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/world_thinking_day/default.asp)

The theme for World Thinking Day 2009 is: Girls worldwide say "**We can stop the spread of AIDS, malaria and other diseases.**" For information and activities, log on to <http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/activities09>.

# World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

## Worldwide Movement

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), which was formed in 1928, is the largest and most diversified youth movement for girls and young women in the world. As a global youth movement with member organizations in 144 countries, and representing 10 million girls worldwide, WAGGGS is in a unique position to promote cross-cultural understanding.

Through its international education programs, Girl Guides/Girl Scouts:

- explore other countries and cultures through activities, projects, and exchanges.
- appreciate the similarity and diversity of people and cultures.
- gain an understanding of world events, their implications and their consequences.
- broaden friendships.

Members of WAGGGS adhere to the fundamental principles of the original Promise and Law, although the wording may be adapted.

### Original Girl Guide Promise

On my honor, I promise that I will do my best:

To do my duty to God and the King (or) God and my country

To help people at all times

To obey the Guide Law

### Original Girl Guide Law

A Guide's honor is to be trusted.

A Guide is loyal.

A Guide's duty is to be useful and to help others.

A Guide is a friend to all and a sister of every other Guide.

A Guide is courteous.

A Guide is a friend to animals.

A Guide obeys orders.

A Guide smiles and sings under all difficulties.

A Guide is thrifty.

A Guide is pure in thought, word and deed.

## Juliette Low World Friendship Fund

To honor Juliette Gordon Low's love of travel, of experiencing different cultures and of making new friends, Girl Scouts of the USA created the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund (JLWFF) in 1927. The purpose of the Fund remains the same: to extend Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding to girls around the world and to support international friendship through service projects, training events and exchange visits.

Donations may be sent at any time of the year, but popular times are **World Thinking Day** (February 22), **Juliette Low's birthday** (October 31) and during **Girl Scout Week** (the week that includes March 12).

Troop or service unit donations should be sent to the local Girl Scout council rather than to Girl Scouts of the USA, so donations can be submitted in periodic batches. Please include "JLWFF" in the memo line of checks to ensure the donation is properly credited.