



## Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

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## WAGGGS Mini-Training

Anyone who is a Girl Scout or a Girl Guide is automatically a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). WAGGGS is the umbrella organization for 144 Member Organizations, which are organized into five regions – Africa, Arab, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Western Hemisphere. Countries become Member Organizations when their constitution has been approved by the World Board and they have fulfilled all the required criteria.

Membership of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts means:

- You are part of a worldwide family of 10 million members in 144 countries. Together we have the power to build a better world.
- You are part of the world's largest international voluntary organization for girls and young women.
- You are the leading voice of girls and young women around the world.
- You can take advantage of unique opportunities for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts internationally.

### What does WAGGGS do?

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) offers nearly 10 million girls and young women in Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting an international family. Girls and young women across the world are joined by common bonds of understanding, friendship, the Promise and Law, and their aspirations to make the world a better place.



Through its Member Organizations, WAGGGS provides a high quality, non-formal, educational program. Activities are designed to provide dynamic, flexible, and values-based training in life skills, leadership, and decision-making. Projects and programs at an international level enable girls to be responsible world citizens through teamwork, service, and action in the community. The organization provides a platform for discussion, debate, and decision making about issues that affect girls and young women.

Through WAGGGS, young women have the opportunity to meet with their peers around the world. Girls can participate in exciting international projects with major international UN and non-governmental organization partners.

## How It All Began...

A Boy Scout rally at Crystal Palace in 1909 may not seem the most obvious birthplace for the Girl Guides. This was, after all, an era when skirts were ankle length and ladies didn't run. But a small group of girls who demanded entry to the rally proved to be the catalyst for today's Guide Movement.



History does not relate exactly how many "girl scouts" came, but they obviously made quite an impression. Within months they had their own name and program.

Baden-Powell chose the name Girl Guides after the famous Guides corps in India. By 1910, Baden-Powell's sister Agnes had adapted the book *Scouting for Boys* for the Girl Guides' use and the Guide Movement was born.

## Around the World

The Guiding Movement may have been born in Britain but events were moving rapidly around the world. By 1912, Guiding had gained a foothold in ten countries. Groups of girls had diverse uniforms, badges, rules, and names, but all shared the same ideals.

The First World War did not stop the Movement's progress. By 1930, another fifteen countries, including Brazil, China and Estonia, had introduced Girl Guide groups.

This rapid growth was due to the efforts of many enthusiastic, resourceful, and forward-looking women, all of whom saw the Guides as a wonderful opportunity for the education of girls. Women, such as Juliette Low (founded Girl Scouting in the USA), Olga Malkowska (founded the Movement in Poland), and Antoinette Butte (founded the Movement in France) helped to create the Movement we know today.



## Four World Centers

Four World Centers - Sangam in India, Our Chalet in Switzerland, Pax Lodge in the United Kingdom, and Our Cabaña in Mexico - belong to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Each Center is a "home away from home," providing a warm, comfortable, friendly place to stay. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world feel part of a family of new and old friends.

The centers each offer a high standard of attractive activity programs that are relevant to WAGGGS and meet the evolving interests and needs of girls and young women. They provide the chance to learn about international aspects of the Movement while meeting people from different countries and cultures.



**Sangam**

**Our Chalet** (center top)

**Our Cabana** (center bottom)



**Pax Lodge**

The World Centers are residential and training centers. Girls and young women develop leadership and life-skills through international friendships, challenges, adventures, and self-development.

WAGGGS members and non-members can stay at the World Centers as a participant in an organized program of activities. Girls can also visit as independent guests, with optional beds, breakfasts, and evening meals.

Each World Center is staffed by a small international team of volunteer and professional staff. WAGGGS adult members from around the world can volunteer to work at World Centers for six weeks to ten months, helping with program and house duties. The centers provide quality workplace opportunities focusing on personal and professional development. The contribution of volunteers is recognized and valued.

## World Thinking Day, February 22

“... be a sister to every Girl Scout.”

This Girl Scout Law takes on special meaning each year on February 22.



World Thinking Day is a day unique to the Girl Scout/Girl Guide Movement. The Girl Guides of New Zealand gather for a sunrise service in the hills. Good wishes and thoughts start their way around the world. From continent to continent their wishes fly, over national borders, above hills and high mountains, across oceans and lakes. As these thoughts and wishes travel, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world add their own wishes until the whole world feels the special glow of international friendship.

February 22 is not only the birthday of the father of our country, George Washington, it is the birthday of the founder of "Scouting." Lord Baden Powell, the founder of Boy Scouting, and his wife, Lady Baden Powell, the World Chief Guide of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides, were both born on this day.

In 1926, World Thinking Day was proclaimed to celebrate these joint birthdays and to pay tribute to Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. It is a day when all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides think of their sisters in special friendship.

World Thinking Day gives girls the opportunity to learn more about Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding around the world. Different countries wear different uniforms and pins, but the World Association Pin is always the same. Camping is a special Girl Scout/Girl Guide activity enjoyed by all. Service is an important part of every troop's activities – everywhere. Visit the WAGGGS website, [www.wagggsworld.org](http://www.wagggsworld.org) and explore Internet links to member organizations in other countries. You will be surprised at how Girl Scouts and Girl Guides are so similar, no matter where they live or what language they speak.

## **Suggestions for World Thinking Day Activities and Celebrations**

Celebrate:

- Hold a World Trefoil ceremony (page 6) to explain the meaning of the World Association Pin. Present pins to the Girl Scouts who are without this special pin.
- Plan a World Thinking Day party, dinner, or gathering. Use decorations, favors, activities, and foods to celebrate our global sisterhood. A birthday cake for Lord and Lady Baden-Powell could be included.
- Hold a musical event with songs from Girl Scout/Girl Guide countries. Songbooks and music CDs are available in the council's Girl Scout shop.
- Invite someone who has lived outside the United States to speak at the event. Include slides or movies highlighting her country's people, landmarks, traditions, and landscapes.
- Ask a Girl Scout who has visited one of the four World Centers to talk about her experiences.

Learn:

- Study Girl Scouts or Girl Guides in a WAGGGS member country. (Trefoil 'round the World is a good resource. It is available to purchase in the Girl Scout shop or to borrow from the VISTA's resource libraries.)
- Plan an International Fair with other troops in your school, community, or VISTA. Each Girl Scout troop should choose a different country. Girl Scout troops can present displays or performances to inform others about Girl Scouting or Girl Guiding in their chosen country. Girls can make "passports" and have them stamped at each display they visit.
- Play *SAY IT! BINGO* (pages 8 - 11). This activity will teach common phrases in five different languages.

## The Juliette Low World Friendship Fund

World Thinking Day is a perfect time for Girl Scouts to make a financial donation to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. This fund was established to honor Juliette Low's commitment to promoting the global sisterhood of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding.

Juliette Gordon Low was a prolific traveler with friends around the globe. A friend, Lord Robert Baden-Powell of England, introduced her to the concept of Girl Guiding. Juliette knew immediately that girls in the United States would benefit from the Girl Guiding Movement. In 1912, she took it upon herself to create Girl Scouts of the USA. While she developed and nurtured Girl Scouting in the USA, she never forgot her friends overseas. She believed strongly in the global sisterhood of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding, offering the benefits of Girl Scouting to more and more girls around the globe.

To honor Juliette's love of traveling, experiencing new cultures, and making new friends, Girl Scouts of the USA created the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund (JLWFF) in 1927. The purpose of the Fund is to extend Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding to girls around the world, by supporting service projects, training events, and exchange visits.

Contributions to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund help make it possible for girls and young women in the United States to connect with girls in other countries. The Fund also advances the work of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), and helps strengthen other Girl Guide/Girl Scout organizations. Specifically, the Fund subsidizes girls' travel to WAGGGS endorsed events through the Girl Scout *destinations* program.

Anyone can give to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund -- girls, adults, organizations, councils, and troops. Send donations to:

Juliette Low World Friendship Fund  
Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana  
Vernon Hills Regional Service Center  
650 North Lakeview Parkway, P.O. Box 8116  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061



## World Trefoil Pin Presentation Ceremony

Supplies:

- World Trefoil Pin(s)
- WAGGGS symbol cut out of gold felt or construction paper (see pattern on page 7)
- World Association flag - if available
- Large piece of dark blue felt or poster board on which to mount the symbol pieces

GIRL SCOUT LEADER says: Today you are receiving your World Trefoil Pin. As a member of Girl Scouts USA, you are also a part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. There are over 10 million girls around the world who wear this same pin. The pin represents a sisterhood that spreads around the globe.

GIRL SCOUT #1: I place the blue field that represents the blue sky that is over us all. (place piece)

GIRL SCOUT #2: The gold band symbolizes the sun that shines over all lands. (place piece)

GIRL SCOUT #3: The word Trefoil means three leaves. These three leaves stand for the three parts of the Promises said throughout the world. (place piece)

GIRL SCOUT #4: The first star is for the Promise of the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. (place piece)

GIRL SCOUT #5: The second star stands for the Law by which girls all over the world live. (place piece)

GIRL SCOUT #6: This piece is the vein. It symbolizes the compass needle that points the way to better Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. (place piece)

GIRL SCOUT #7: The base of the trefoil is a flame. It is the flame of sisterhood that burns in the heart of every Girl Guide and Girl Scout. (place piece)

GIRL SCOUT LEADER says: As you receive this pin, remember your responsibility to all the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts who wear the same symbol. You must be the best Girl Scout you can be so that they will all be proud to have you as their sister. (attach pin, give Girl Scout handshake)

Close the ceremony by singing "It's a Small World" (or other appropriate song).

Note: Ceremony can be preceded by a flag ceremony. Combine it with a collection for the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.