

Girl Scout Sunday & Sabbath Service Ideas

Girl Scout Sunday and Girl Scout Sabbath take place during Girl Scout Week. The week revolves around March 12, the birthday of Girl Scouting. Girl Scout Sunday is the first Sunday before March 12 and Girl Scout Sabbath is the preceding Saturday of March 12. The purpose of this special day is to emphasize that we take the Girl Scout Promise seriously -- "On my honor, I will try to serve God." It is a time for Girl Scouts to reflect upon the importance of the words, "to serve God."

The Motivating Force in Girl Scouting is Spiritual

We, the members of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, united by a belief in God and by acceptance of the Girl Scout Promise and Law,...

Do dedicate ourselves to the purpose of inspiring girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens.

We believe that the motivating force in Girl Scouting is a spiritual one. We affirm that the Girl Scout Movement shall ever be open to all girls and adults who accept the Girl Scout Promise and law.



~Preamble of the Constitution of the Girl Scouts of the USA

These words from Girl Scouts of the USA's constitution express our most fundamental beliefs and are affirmed by over 3.2 million Girl Scout members in the USA when they make the Girl Scout Promise.

Girl Scout Week Religious Observances

Every effort should be made to hold ecumenical interfaith service when celebrating the spiritual foundation of Girl Scouting. The varied personal beliefs of our members necessitate including sensitivity towards inclusiveness. There is no set structure to an inter-faith service. Listed below are the "ingredients" that are usually found in formal ecumenical services arranged by and for Girl Scouts.



The Girl Scout Sunday/Sabbath observance may be as simple as the girls and adults in Girl Scouting attend a religious service of their choice in Girl Scout uniform. Of course, anything beyond that during the service must be worked out with the local clergy.

1. Procession

The procession may be arranged many ways. Troops may proceed in first with flags. If readings will be taken from the Bible, Torah and/or Qur'an, girls may proceed in with these texts.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise

A brief welcome and introduction may be made by the clergy or by an appropriate participant. Girls stand and make the Girl Scout Promise.

3. Song

The song should express the theme of the service.

4. Readings by Girl Scouts or Clergy

The readings need not pertain to Girl Scouts, but to the theme. Readings may come from famous Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, etc. texts. A few words about Girl Scouting and its mission may be made by the clergy, a Girl Scout adult or Girl Scout. If any of the Girl Scouts are to receive a religious award, it may be presented at an appropriate time.

5. Group Prayer

Group prayer would be one which is either recited by all such as a psalm or petitions to which the group responds by a short phrase. If desired, this could be followed by a few minutes of silent prayer during which time the troop members could be asked to share their thoughts or prayers.

6. Sermon or Homily

The sermon or homily is given by one or all of the clergy presiding.

7. Retire the Colors

8. Closing Prayer

One of the presiding clergy closes the worship service with a prayer.

9. Recessional

The recessional may be music or a song which expresses the theme of the service.



Ecumenical Prayers

Prayer for Jewish Girl Scouts

O, Lord, our God, we ask Thy blessing upon us and upon our sister Girl Scouts. Give us strength of character and of purpose so that we may fulfill our Promise and faithfully obey our Law. Teach us to understand that by living up to the ideals of our Movement we are helping to build a better tomorrow for ourselves and all people. AMEN

Prayer for Catholic Girl Scouts

Dear Jesus, we ask you to bless us and all other Girl Scouts. Give us grace to serve you and our country and to keep our Girl Scout Promise and Law. Make us humble and friendly, eager for adventure, alert and prepared for service. Give us the courage to dare to do right; make us both strong to fight and steadfast to endure; and may our lives be filled with joy that spreads happiness everywhere. AMEN

Prayer for Girl Scouts of Christian Faith

Dear Father in Heaven, we know we are your children, we want to serve you faithfully, and we want to keep our Girl Scout Promise. Help us to listen to your voice; help us to be willing and quick to do your work; help us to be friendly and loving; and help us to thank you every day for all your gifts to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Prayer for Girl Scouts of Hindu Faith

O Lord God almighty, May there be peace in celestial regions. May there be peace on earth. May the waters be appeasing. May herbs be wholesome, and may trees and plants bring peace to all. May all beneficent beings bring peace to us. May your Vedic Law propagate peace all through the world. May all things be a source of peace to us. And may your peace itself bestow peace on all.

Muslim Prayer for Girl Scouts

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the controversial teachings of arrogance, divisions and hatreds which have badly infected our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; reunite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish Your purposes on earth; that, in Your good time, all nations and races may jointly serve You in justice, peace and harmony. AMEN

Native American Prayer for Girl Scouts

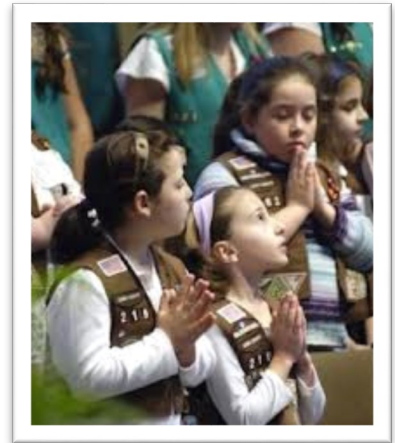
Oh Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world. Hear me! We are small and weak, we need your strength and wisdom. Let us walk in beauty and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make our hands respect the things you have made and our ears sharp to hear your voice. Let us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us wise so that we may understand. We seek strength to understand your lessons you have taught to us.

Prayer for Buddhist Girl Scouts

When someone is wronged he must put aside all resentment and say, My mind shall not be disturbed; no angry word shall escape my lips; I will remain kind and friendly, with loving thoughts and no secret spite.

A Girl Scout Prayer

Lord, help us to be good Girl Scouts, ones whom the world can trust.
Help us to respect our neighbors' rights, and never be unjust.
Help us as Americans, to be worthy of the flag we bear.
Help us as real Girl Scouts, to be proud of the uniform we wear.
Help us to be clean, Dear Lord, in thought, word and deed.
Help us to follow the law that is in the Girl Scout creed.
Help us to love all people of the world, and then to serve them, too.
Help our actions to count, Dear Lord, in everything we do.
Help give us strength to carry on and do our part each day.
Make a place in this world for us and help us fill it, we pray.
Make us what we ought to be, and in Thy footsteps fall.
Help us to live for others, O great Scout Master of us all.



A Girl Scout Speech

Today is Girl Scout Sunday/Sabbath which is observed during Girl Scout Week, an event recognizing the founding of the Girl Scouts on March 12, 1912. We would like to honor and thank the Girl Scouts in our congregation for their courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Thank you to all the adult volunteers who give of their time and talents to our Girl Scout troops. And a special thank you to **house of worship leader** and the congregation at **name of house of worship** for their leadership and financial support of our Girl Scout troops.

(If you have the time, then please give thanks by troop(s) #s and age-level and the name of the troop leaders.)

(If you have additional time... have the Girl Scouts in your house of worship to be recognized.)

These girls represent the leaders of tomorrow. They are the Girl Scouts of today – an organization that has adapted over its 100 years to meet the changing needs of girls, but one thing remains the same today as it did when Girl Scouts was founded: support for girls to grow strong in faith, and a belief that the motivating force in Girl Scouting is a spiritual one.



(Joined by the girls, you can recite the Girl Scout Promise)

On my honor, I will try:

To serve God and my country,

To help people at all times,

And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Reception after the Service

Many troops have a Girl Scout reception after services on Girl Scout Sunday/Sabbath. It is very simple to serve Girl Scout Cookies and punch to the worshipers as they are departing the service. This is especially important if the troop meets regularly at the religious facility. Girls should take part in planning the reception and serving the refreshments.

The troop could also make a special desert out of Girl Scout Cookies. Or they can order or make a cake with the Girl Scout logo on it. S'mores are a specialty Girl Scout campfire treat. Girls could also make an indoor version of this treat.

Indoor S'mores

INGREDIENTS

4 cups honey graham cereal

3 tablespoons margarine

1 ½ cups milk chocolate chips

6 cups of miniature marshmallows

¼ cup light corn syrup

DIRECTIONS

Coat a 9x13 inch dish with cooking spray. Place cereal into a large bowl; set aside.

In a medium saucepan over low heat, melt margarine. Add marshmallows and corn syrup and stir until melted and smooth. Stir in chocolate chips until melted. Remove from heat and pour over waiting cereal; stir well to coat. Press into prepared pan. Cool completely before cutting into squares.



Other Activities During Girl Scout Week

- ▶ Create a picture display of service projects, events attended, troop activities, etc. to be on display during Girl Scout Week. Prepare a display about Girl Scouting for a hallway or bulletin board. A photo and clippings spread of troop activities in your congregation could be a nice part of your display, it helps people see what Girl Scouts do.
- ▶ Have membership forms, join/volunteer info and other take-home materials available.
- ▶ Put up indoor and/or outdoor signs or a banner advertising Girl Scout Week celebrations, including worship services.
- ▶ Order our council's special Girl Scout Sunday/Sabbath bulletin/insert which can be personalized with the local troops at your place of worship. Or include a special paragraph in the church bulletin:

Please join us as we recognize the Girl Scout girls and volunteers in our congregation today in honor of Girl Scout Sunday/Sabbath. Celebrating 101 years of community service on March 12, the Girl Scouts remain committed to building girls of courage, confidence and character who help make the world a better place. We thank all of you who have given your time, talents and financial donations so the Girl Scouts can continue their legacy of service to others.

- ▶ Conduct a "Scouting for Food" drive as a part of Girl Scout Week. Let the congregation know that your troop will be collecting canned goods and other non-perishable items before, after or during the service.
- ▶ Offer to run the nursery during the service so the regular members can worship with their families.
- ▶ Serve as greeters or ushers for the service.
- ▶ Sit together in the front pews during the service. This will allow the congregation to see you and make your troop more visible to church members. You could mark the reserved pews with green bows/ribbons or Girl Scout trefoils.



- ▶ Recognize Girl Scouts present. Ask past and current Girl Scouts, volunteer leaders, Gold Award recipients to stand.
- ▶ Present Adult Leader Religious Award recognitions. See the PRAY website: www.praypub.org. These awards are by nomination only. It is a great way to recognize members of the congregation who have been involved in Girl Scouting over a number of years.
- ▶ Conduct a service project after the service, and invite the entire congregation to participate. Perform the service project onsite which directly benefits the place of worship. Ask your religious leader for suggestions.