

# SHORT & SNAPPY (S&S) Investitures & Rededications

## What is a Short and Snappy?

- A short interactive group discussion provided at a Service Unit (SU) meeting for volunteers to share at the troop level.
- Any SU team member, interested volunteer, or learning facilitator may guide a S&S.
- Ideas for presentation: One person can facilitate to a group, or small groups can present an assigned section to the room.

## Objectives

- Learn about Investitures & Rededications and the differences between them.
- Learn the components of a successful ceremony.
- Ability to share this information with others and host their own ceremonies.

## What is it?

- A time when girls visit (or re-visit) the Girl Scout Promise and Law and dedicate themselves to walking the Girl Scout path.
- Investiture refers specifically to new members who are making the promise for the first time.
- Rededication includes all members who are renewing the Promise and Law and considering what those important words mean to them.
- Ceremonies should always have a theme, or thoughts or ideas that tie the ceremony together.
- Can be expressed in songs, literature readings, or other activities.

## Group Activity

- Make a list of themes you may consider for your Investiture/Rededication.
- Discuss what dates would be ideal for this ceremony. What locations are appropriate?
- Why do you think your troop & families would enjoy an Investiture/Rededication?

## Planning a Ceremony

- Every ceremony has an opening, middle, and closing.
- The opening sets the mood and focuses the participants.
- Examples: candle-lighting, campfires, a welcoming poem or greeting, processions.
- Middle activities carry out the ceremony's purpose and theme.
- Receive recognitions, read poems, sing together, perform a skit, or express personal feelings.
- The closing should pull everything together.
- Can use friendship circles, moments of silence, special songs, or closing statements as examples.

## Remember...

- Activities being girl-led is part of the GSLE. Girls should do as much planning for their ceremony as possible.
- As they get older, girl responsibilities should expand progressively. Always keep in mind that different age levels or even different groups of girls will have different abilities.
- Be flexible! Let the girls make mistakes and learn from them. The ceremony doesn't have to be perfect
- Your job as a leader is to guide the group and provide an atmosphere that promotes creativity!

## Did You Know?

- While no one knows for certain who invented the S'more, the first published recipe was in *Tramping and Trailing with the Girl Scouts* in 1927. Loretta Scott Crew made them for Girl Scouts by the campfire and is credited with this recipe. This story/activity could be an excellent addition to your ceremony!
- Check out the Girl Scout Blog's list of Investiture Ceremony ideas, polled from leaders like you!  
<https://bit.ly/investitures>

## Keep it Girl-Led

- Participation in planning and conducting ceremonies will increase with age and experience.
- Daisies can choose songs to sing or who to invite.
- Brownies can use their creativity to make invitations, help with set-up, and serving refreshments.
- Juniors are capable of choosing their ceremony's theme and location. They can also make the refreshments and serve them, and they can also clean up.
- Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors can build skills by helping younger girls plan and carry out their own ceremonies. After all, the best way to master a skill is to teach it to others!
- Seniors and Ambassadors can also use these skills to plan an area-wide ceremony, select the site, coordinate the arrangements, and contact invitees for the guest list.

## Ready to Plan Your Own?

Investitures and Rededications, like all Girl Scout ceremonies, are important experiences for girls to feel connected with and invest in their Girl Scout Path. It is a reminder of why they continue to live their Girl Scout Promise and Law. Girls of all program levels can participate in planning and carrying out of Investiture or Rededication, and should be encouraged to do so! Remember, ceremonies are perfectly imperfect, and girls learning from the experience is more important than everything going according to plan. Just because it is marking an occasion doesn't mean it has to be boring! Encourage them to have fun with their ceremonies, to make them their own, and to learn from the process. When you do, both you and your girls will want to celebrate many more occasions with more ceremonies!

## I'll Bring the Casserole!

What items do you need to carry out the girls' vision? Things to consider are:

- Flags for Flag Ceremony during opening/closing
- Pins, vests, and sashes for presentation in the ceremony
- Candles, holders, drip catchers, and matches for decorations or activity
- Backup venue in case of inclement weather
- Food, serving utensils, and silverware

Making lists for items and preparation materials you need is always helpful, and you can help instill this practice in the girls, too!

## Public Speaking

With Investiture/Rededication ceremonies, it's important for girls to really consider what being a Girl Scout means to them and why they have joined or continue to invest in this journey. Public speaking lets them explore those feelings and also build on that skill at the same time!

- Encourage your girls to volunteer for speaking roles, but be sensitive to those who are not comfortable with speaking in front of groups. Be sure there are plenty of non-speaking roles for girls who are not yet ready to be speakers.
- Reassure them it is natural to be nervous, but that proper preparation and practice will build their confidence and skill.
- Coach them to make eye contact with their audience, stand with good posture, avoid distracting behaviors, and speak loud enough for all audience members to hear.
- Teach them how to hold and speak into a microphone.
- Let them practice enough that they are comfortable in their roles, but not so much that they become bored with the experience.