WORLD THINKING DAY
Facts, Fun & Activities

THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS (WAGGGS)

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc.
Revised 2010
¡Bienvenido! Wilkommen! Namaste!

Welcome to the family!

When you became a Girl Scout, you joined a very large family, one that has members all around the world. Our “family” is called the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS.) Your World Trefoil Pin shows you are part of this global family. Why both Girl Guides and Girl Scouts? Look at our “family history,” which begins on page 28, to find the answer!

Our Girl Scout/Girl Guide family celebrates a special day every February 22: World Thinking Day. On this international holiday, Guides and Girl Scouts send friendly and peaceful thoughts to their sisters around the world. Thoughts are translated into action when girls take part in international friendship activities and service projects, and through contributions to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. Each year WAGGGS chooses a theme for World Thinking Day, and troops often use that theme for a ceremony or event. (For resources on the current theme, go to www.wagggsworld.org, or to www.girlscouts.org. (Disponible in Español)

Learning more about Guides in other countries through international friendship events, service projects, ceremonies, and by exchanging greetings through cards, the internet, and amateur radio are just a few of the many ways Girl Guides and Girl Scouts celebrate the day. World Thinking Day is also when Guides and Girl Scouts take time to honor the life and works of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the Founder of the world-wide Scout and Guide Movement, and his wife Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, who was World Chief Guide. Lord and Lady Baden-Powell shared the same birthday, February 22, so that date was chosen for World Thinking Day. It was Lord Baden-Powell who introduced Juliette Gordon Low to the Girl Guides and inspired her to bring Girl Guiding – soon to be known as Girl Scouting – to America in 1912.

The Meaning Of The World Thinking Day Symbol (on the cover):

- The World Trefoil in the center represents the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)
- Arrows pointing toward the Trefoil represent action and give direction, because the World Association can both help and be helped by all its members.
- The circular design represents the world of the Girl Guide/Girl Scout Movement.
How Do We Celebrate World Thinking Day?

It’s easy: girls discover, connect and take action!

When girls come together to discuss, choose, plan and carry out their World Thinking Day activities, it’s a perfect opportunity to:

- Develop positive values (discover)
- Seek challenges in the world (discover)
- Promote cooperation and team-building (connect)
- Advance diversity in a multicultural word (connect)
- Feel connected to their communities, globally and locally (connect)
- Be resourceful problem solvers (take action)
- Advocate for themselves and other, locally and globally (take action)
- Educate and inspire other to act (take action)
- Feel empowered to make a difference in the world (take action)

Some specific examples of how girls can put their leadership skills to work for World Thinking Day include:

- Planning and carrying out projects and activities that support the World Thinking Day theme. In 2011 the focus will be on gender equality and girls worldwide say “empowering girls will change the world”. In 2012 the message will be girls worldwide say “we can save our planet.”
- Setting up World Thinking Day and WAGGGS displays in libraries, schools, shopping malls and other appropriate places; with permission, flying the WAGGGS flag at their school or other public building, raising it with a special ceremony; asking their local government to proclaim February 22 Girl Scout World Thinking Day in [your town]; wearing their sash or vest or World Trefoil pin at school. (Adults: wear your scarf and pins at work!)
- Hosting a party, cookout, or indoor feast with foods from a variety of WAGGGS member countries, or preparing food from a particular country or region. Before the feast, doing activities related to world hunger could help balance out the event.
- Having a musical event with songs from other countries -- Girl Guide/Girl Scout songs as well as national music, pop music and folk songs. Maybe some folk dances, too!
- Showing the video Sisters all ... Friends forever or the DVD Girls Worldwide Say...[available for checkout from the Girl Scout Resource Centers and also on YouTube] followed by a World Thinking Ceremony or World Trefoil pin presentation. Or, make up a quiz with questions about WAGGGS, the Four World Centres, and/or Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in other countries, then challenge other troops to a game of “World Trivia.” Any admission fees go to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.
- Organizing an imaginary trip to a WAGGGS member country in each of the five World Regions. Girls can make passports and stamps, and prepare both Girl Scout/Guide or traditional games, songs, stories, food
and crafts, as well as special challenges or projects as they explore the lives of girls and women in each of the countries “visited.” Girls dressed in a home-made version of Guide uniforms from that country welcome the visitors. Other girls might wear traditional attire.

- Hosting a Campfire or other gathering to celebrate the spiritual and inspirational dimensions of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting. (Also a good time to honor the life and works of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.)
- Having a dawn meeting and become part of the chain of World Thinking Day thoughts and greetings, which begin at dawn in the Pacific on February 22 and end at dusk in the West Coast of the Americas or Hawaii.
- Planning and carrying out World Thinking Day ceremonies:
  - Candle ceremonies, or similar ceremonies with oil lamps/torches
  - Ceremonies with paper doves, symbolizing peace
  - Ceremonies involving "chains of friendship" (clasped-hand chains, linked paper chains, paper dolls.)
  - Reflections, readings, quotations, pictures and music drawn from the cultures and traditions of other countries
  - Music, dance, and drama illustrating the Movement; use “The World Song” and/or “World Thinking Day Song”
  - Use discs, tapes, CDs of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting music from other countries.

**We asked Girl Scout and Guide Leaders in the USA and the UK:** “How are you celebrating World Thinking Day this year?”

🌟 We held a sleepover for the Guides last night. We were all in bed by midnight and at midnight the Guides all shouted “Happy Thinking Day!” That wasn’t organized - they did it without any suggestion from us. Then they were very good and went to sleep. We got them up at 5.30 this morning and after a quick drink and a cereal bar we set off for a 45 minute walk through the woods to a high place where we could see to the east. The idea was to see the sun rise on World Thinking Day! It was cloudy and no sunrise, but at sunrise time (7.04) we lit sparklers and all renewed our Promises on top of the hill.

Then we walked back, meeting several bemused dog walkers wondering what a host of girls were doing out in the woods at that time of the morning during half term [school break]; we cooked them a good breakfast, they cleared and did the washing up and tidying while the leaders sat and chatted. They were all collected at 10.00, 2 leaders went off to work and the rest of us have gone home having celebrated World Thinking Day. It was lovely. Happy Thinking Day to all those yet to Celebrate,
We rent a school cafeteria and auditorium. The girls (Daisy through Senior) choose a WAGGGS member country to learn about. They study their country, make up a table display, prepare a skit (5 min. or less), and prepare swaps (presentos) from their country to pass out to the other participants. Some years we include passports which the girls have stamped at each table. In those years we do not have skits. This year our troop represented Mexico, and performed the song “Celito Lindo” with the audience joining in on the Aye, Yi, Yi, Yi, and served vanilla wafers dipped in caramel sauce (This was served to us at Our Cabaña). My Senior troop traveled to Our Cabaña and Ticalli [in Mexico] this past summer. Our intention is to share our experiences with the younger Girl Scouts.

(Linda B., Senior Troop 1293 & Service Unit Manager)

We had Guides dressed up in other uniforms (improvised sometimes), in saris and henna-painted hands from India, and Brownies dressed up in clogs and Dutch caps singing 'A mouse lived in a windmill'! After this each Guide picked up a passport from the 'World Bureau' and had it stamped as they visited each area of the room (Country) and tried the food that the Guides had brought along. At the end we had a ceremony where Guides lit candles for England, and then for all the countries we had represented, and brought their Thinking Day pennies. We then sang a Thinking Day song and 'Brownie Bells' and 'Taps'.

("Brown Owl" – a Brownie Unit Guider from the UK)

My service units have done everything from Tasting Teas and International Fairs to "Dance Throughout the World." A small service unit (125 girls) did a day-long event on the Four World Centres. The girls rotated through the four stations, spending about an hour learning about the Centres, the country itself, a craft and some food. The day was a great success. I like the idea of using the Four World Centres for a first time World Thinking Day!! We have done several in our Neighborhood, but using the Centres allows the girls to learn about WAGGGS, and Juniors can earn the Girl Scouting Around the World badge. They can participate by setting up a booth for their country, showing food, Guide/Girl Scout info, games and songs. The countries are interspersed between the centers.
Use articles from the newspaper or materials from international relief agencies to help girls learn more about the problems being faced by Guides in other countries. (It helps to have a world map or atlas and a copy of *Trefoil Round the World* or internet access.) Play a simulation game: hold a World Food Banquet where 20% of the diners get 80% of the food – that’s what the world’s food distribution looks like! You need a card for each girl, with the name of country written on it, and a large bag of raisins or candy. Girls draw a card, then you give them a raisin/raisins according to which country she drew: 20 raisins for USA, Canada, the UK and Western European countries, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Five raisins each for Eastern European countries, Korea, the states of the former Soviet Union. One raisin each for African, Latin America, or Asian countries. Discuss as a troop if this is fair; if everyone should have the same; whether there are enough raisins for everyone to have 20; how the total number of raisins could be divided fairly. Does this reflect reality? How do they feel about redistributing wealth?

*(USA Girl Scout Cadette Advisor)*

**You Don’t Have to Travel Far to Talk to Your Sister Guides and Girl Scouts in Other Countries:**

Tune In to World Thinking Day On the Air!

Thinking Day On the Air (TDOTA) links members of the Girl Guide/Girl Scout movement by amateur radio. It is an opportunity for the members of the Guide Association/Girl Scouts from the youngest Rainbow (Daisy) to the oldest Trefoil Guild member to talk to other members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world via Amateur Radio. TDOTA gives the girls an opportunity to have fun trying to talk to members in other countries.
TDOTA will always be on the third weekend in February. For most years this will not be the nearest weekend to World Thinking Day but when the two weekends coincide the celebrations will be extra special.

If you would like to take part in TDOTA you will need the services of a licensed radio amateur (“ham.”). This person does not need to have links to Guiding/Girl Scouting, as long as they are willing to operate a station and they fill in a W/R form. Please note that girls should not be left unsupervised with radio amateurs. A leader or adult helper should always be present.

Licensed radio amateurs are usually very pleased to use their equipment to set up a station. It may be possible to use local authority premises, church halls and so on. Some amateur radio clubs have a meeting place with a permanent place for erecting aerials. Leaders and licensed radio amateurs should discuss the requirements of the station and possible venues well in advance as the address of the station has to be on the license application.

Messages may be up to five minutes long; each participant can speak once to any suitable station contacted; more than one participant can speak to each station. The contact remains under the control of the licensed radio amateur who advises on procedures. More than one radio can be operated simultaneously and a special call sign allocated will enable the station to be readily identified as a special station, which usually increases the number of contacts.

The Event

The station may run on its own as a World Thinking Day activity, or may be part of a larger World Thinking Day Event, with other activities besides the radio. Whichever you choose there are various possibilities for the radio station. The licensed radio amateur will explain what is available.

Activities

There are several activities specifically connected with operating the station for which the girls can take responsibility; these include:

- Pre-event preparation
- Making QSL cards – try the website http://www.hfradio.org/wb8rcr/ for a free QSL card making program
- Keeping the log
- Keeping visitors informed about contacts using displays and maps
GAMES FOR WORLD THINKING DAY

Girls might choose to celebrate World Thinking Day by playing games that Brownies, Guides, and Rangers in other countries play; a good resource is World Games and Recipes, available for checkout from the Girl Scout Resource Centers. Or take advantage of the many Guide/Girl Scout Web sites that share games. Here is a sampling of WAGGGS-themed games:

※ World Pin Relay

Equipment needed:
- One envelope for each team, containing paper cut-out pieces of the World Trefoil pin and labels explaining the meaning of each part
- Space to run

To Play:
Two or more teams line up in relay formation at one end of the playing area. Each team’s envelope is at the other end. At the signal “Go!” one person from each team goes to her team’s envelope, removes one piece, and places it in position corresponding to where it appears in the World Trefoil. After doing so, each runner goes back to her team and tags the next girl in line. The second girl goes to her team’s envelope, removes one piece, and continues the process. Only one piece may be set down in a turn. If a player sees an error in her team’s arrangement of the symbol pieces, she may use her turn to make one correction. The first team to correctly complete its “pin” is the relay winner.

※ World Trefoil “Beetle”

If you’re ever played “Cootie” you know what a “Beetle” is! This game from the Girl Guides of the United Kingdom helps girls understand that they are part of WAGGGS. It can be played by teams or in a group. The girls throw a dice to collect all the pieces they need to construct the World Trefoil.

Each girl or team will need: (these are made from construction paper; a pattern is in the Appendix)
- one large blue circle
- one gold/yellow ring
- three gold/yellow trefoil leaves
- two gold/yellow stars
• one gold/yellow “needle”
• one yellow/gold “stalk”
• one dice

1. The team takes it in turns to throw the dice. They must throw a six to take their first piece, which is the blue background (circle)
2. They continue to take turns to throw the dice to collect all the pieces. They pick up a piece according to the number they throw:
   1 = the needle
   2 = a star
   3 = the stalk
   4 = a leaf of the trefoil
   5 = the outer ring
   6 = the blue background circle (must be thrown first)
3. They can only collect one piece per throw; for example, they must throw two sixes to collect both stars.
4. Each time they pick up a piece they must place it correctly and say what it symbolizes.*
5. The team to complete their World Trefoil first wins.

* look on pages 23-24 for the symbolism of the World Trefoil parts.

※Lines in Common

*Equipment needed for each group (3-5 girls per group):
  ▪ A current world map for each team
  ▪ A list of all of the WAGGGS Member Associations (see Appendix)
  ▪ Paper and pencil

*To Play:
Give each group a map, a list, and paper and pencil. Instruct the groups to find all of the countries of WAGGGS that are on the same latitude or longitude as your council, and to list them on their papers.

※ Juliette Low World Friendship Fund Story-Game

*Actions* - as the story is read, girls listen for these words and do the action:
“WORLD” Girls stand and spin around once [or turn your wheelchair, etc.]
“JULIETTE” Girls wave and say, “Daisy!”
GIRL SCOUTS/SCOUTING; GIRL GUIDES/GUIDING Girls smile, make Scout/Guide sign with right hand
“Once upon a time, there was a lady from Savannah, Georgia, whose name was JULIETTE GORDON LOW. Her friends all called her Daisy. JULIETTE married an Englishman and moved to England. She learned about GIRL GUIDING from her English friend Lord Baden-Powell [say, “BAY-den pole”] who had also started the Boy Scouts.

JULIETTE LOW became a GIRL GUIDE leader in Scotland and in London. She had so much fun, she wanted to tell the girls in Savannah and all of America and all the World about GIRL GUIDING! American girls decided they wanted to be called GIRL SCOUTS and JULIETTE LOW agreed. She traveled throughout our country helping to start more GIRL SCOUT troops. In fact, JULIETTE LOW thought GIRL SCOUTING AND GUIDING was such a fine thing, she wanted to see troops all over the WORLD. She knew GUIDING AND SCOUTING would help girls from different countries become friends and would help build WORLD peace and understanding.

After JULIETTE LOW died in 1927, her friends decided the greatest tribute that could be paid to such an amazing woman was to help Daisy’s dream of WORLD friendship come true. They started a memorial fund, and named it the JULIETTE LOW WORLD Friendship Fund. Each year, GIRL SCOUTS have the opportunity to give money to this fund, which helps GIRL SCOUTING AND GUIDING all over the world.

When GIRL SCOUTS put money in their JULIETTE LOW WORLD Friendship Fund box, they can imagine the far places of the WORLD to which this money will travel, and the way it will help other GIRL SCOUTS AND GUIDES. Maybe your money will help send teenage GIRL SCOUTS from the USA to Our Chalet, an international hostel in Switzerland where GIRL SCOUTS AND GUIDES from all around the WORLD meet to learn more about each other. Or maybe your money will help bring a Pathfinder all the way from Germany to learn about her sister GIRL SCOUTS here in America. Some of your money will help new GIRL SCOUT troops get started in other countries, or help replace GIRL GUIDE books and uniforms and camping equipment lost in a flood or earthquake or war.

No one knows to what part of the WORLD her money may travel! No one knows the ways it may come back to us in new friends. But we all know that when we give our money to the JULIETTE LOW WORLD Friendship Fund, we are helping spread GIRL SCOUTING all around the WORLD.

※ International Kim’s Game

You’ll Need: At least nine objects from other WAGGGS countries, four long sticks or pieces of string to make a tic-tac-toe grid, and a towel or blanket that will cover everything; paper and pencils for each player.
**How to Play:** Place each object from another country in a square of the grid. Cover before the girls come into the room. Explain that an opportunity will be given to view nine different objects from nine countries that have Girl Scouting/Guiding. Remove the cover for approximately two minutes. After viewing, they should list or draw each of the objects. Discuss what each object is made of, what it might be used for, and what information the object might provide about the country of origin.

※ **We Belong!**

This is a game that can be played after a troop has learned about the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

**You’ll Need:** A current list of all the member countries of the World Association [see Appendix]

**How to Play:** The group is seated in a circle and players are numbered consecutively. The odd numbers compete with the even numbers. The game leader calls out one odd and one even number, then counts three seconds. The first player to name a country belonging to the World Association scores one point for her team. The winning team is the one that scores ten points first.

**Variation:** If a globe or world map is available, the team gets an extra point if the girl who names a country can locate it on the map or globe.

**World Thinking Day “Yell” (Chant)**

The group is divided into four sections. Each section chooses two countries where there are Girl Guides. The leader points to each section in turn and the section yells the name of its first country. The leader points to each section again and the section yells its second country. Finish up with all yelling Happy World Thinking Day!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Round</th>
<th>Second Round</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1: Belgium</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2: Korea</td>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3: Netherlands</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4: Greece</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALL: Happy World Thinking Day!!

FROM: *Campfire Activities*, by Girl Guides of Canada/Guides du Canada:
“HEY, HEY, HEY - IT'S WORLD THINKING DAY!”

Test yourself with a World Thinking Day Quiz: how much do you know about this international Girl Scout/Girl Guide celebration?

1. What is the date of World Thinking Day? ______________________________

2. Why was this date chosen as World Thinking Day? ________________________

3. When and where does World Thinking Day start each year? ________________


5. What country proposed the idea of the World Thinking Day Fund? ____________

6. What amount was first given to the Fund? _______________________________

7. What was the Fund first used for? ______________________________________

8. What is the Fund used for today? _______________________________________

9. How do Girl Scouts in the USA contribute to the World Thinking Day Fund? ______

10. What do the Boy Scouts celebrate on February 22? _______________________

ANSWERS on the next page.
“Hey, hey, hey – it’s World Thinking Day!”*  Answers

1. World Thinking Day is always on February 22.

2. February 22 was chosen as World Thinking Day to honor both Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the Founder of Scouting and Guiding, and his wife Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, the first World Chief Guide. February 22 was their joint birthday!

3. Traditionally World Thinking Day began at sunrise in New Zealand, where Girl Guides would climb to a hill or mountain top to light a bonfire and start the chain of friendly thoughts around the world. Now new member country Kiribati lies closer to the International Date Line, and the chain of thoughts begin with the Guides there.

4. Honor the memory of the founders, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, and think about, learn about, and send friendly greetings to their sister Girl Scouts and Guides around the world.

5. A Guider (leader) from Belgium proposed the idea of a Thinking Day Fund at the 1926 World Conference.

6. Each member was asked to give a penny, because of the old saying, “A penny for your thoughts.”

7. At first the Fund was used to help Guiding or Girl Scouting get started in other countries.

8. The Fund still helps Guiding/Girl Scouting in countries with fewer resources than others. It also helps out when there is a natural disaster, like an earthquake or flood, in a Girl Guide/Girl Scout country.

9. Girl Scouts in the USA contribute to the World Thinking Day Fund through the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund (JLWFF.) Part of the money you give to the JLWFF goes to the Thinking Day Fund. Part of it helps pay for American Girl Scouts to go to events in other countries, and for Girl Guides to come to events in the USA.

10. For Boy Scouts, February 22 is Founder’s Day, because it is the birthday of the founder of the Boy Scouts (and Girl Guides/Girl Scouts,) Lord Robert Baden-Powell.

* That’s the first line of the “Thinking Day Song”
OUR HISTORY...A Living Story

The Founder of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide/Girl Scout Movements was an English soldier, General Robert Baden-Powell (later Lord Baden-Powell) known universally as B-P. The Boy Scout Movement was officially founded in 1908. In 1909, a Boy Scout rally was held at Crystal Palace in London, and Baden-Powell was taken aback when a number of girls attended, proclaiming themselves to be Girl Scouts. He decided that if they wanted to join in, they should have their own name and Movement, and a program suited to their needs. The result was “The Scheme for Girl Guides” which appeared in the November 1909 issue of the Boy Scout Headquarters' Gazette. Baden-Powell chose the name Girl Guides after the famous military corps of guides in India who were "distinguished for their general handiness and resourcefulness under difficulties, and their keenness and courage...

Baden-Powell felt that an organization for girls should be run by women, so in 1910 he asked his elder sister Agnes to adapt his book Scouting for Boys, for use with girls – and that was the official beginning of the Girl Guide Movement. Meanwhile, Guiding had spread to Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and South Africa! It was during this time that B-P met the American widow of an Englishman: Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, Georgia. B-P encouraged her to become involved in Guiding, and in 1912 Mrs. Low sailed back to Savannah to organize America’s first Girl Guide group – which she changed to “Girl Scouts” in 1913! (Japan, Korea, France, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and Taiwan are among the countries today who either use the name “Girl Scout” or use “Scout” for both boys and girls.)

Also in 1910, Baden-Powell, now Sir Robert Baden-Powell, retired from his army career and devoted himself to Scouting and to the beginning of Guiding. He attended camps, rallies and jamborees all over the world, and it was during a world tour in 1912 that he met Olave Soames, his future wife. (Juliette Low was onboard the same ship, bringing “the biggest thing yet” – Girl Scouting – to America.) Olave accompanied her husband on visits and tours, and soon became actively involved in the Guide and Scout Movements. Later, Olave’s commitment to Guiding/Girl Scouting took on an international dimension.

In 1920, Baden-Powell was elected Chief Scout of the World (and in 1929 he was created Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell.) In 1930 Olave Baden-Powell was appointed World Chief Guide.
Before the Fifth International Conference in Hungary in 1928, Lord Baden-Powell sought the opinions of all known Girl Guide/Girl Scout organizations on forming a World Association, and asked them to consider the proposition seriously. Conference delegates from 26 countries finally decided that the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts should be established, with a World Bureau based in London as its secretariat.

In the 1930s, Lord Baden-Powell's failing health meant that the couple undertook less strenuous activities than in previous years. They decided to move to the warmer climate of Kenya, where Baden-Powell spent the last years of his life, and died peacefully in 1941.

In June 1977, millions mourned the loss of Olave Baden-Powell, World Chief Guide, who died peacefully in her sleep. The World Chief Guide had traveled the world until 1970, covering many thousands of miles in order to encourage and inspire girls and young women.

“History of the Movement” Relay

From Guiding in Australia

Play in teams of 6:
- Give each member of the patrol or team a name: Robert Baden-Powell, Agnes Baden-Powell, Olave Baden-Powell, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides.
- As each name is mentioned in the story (below) the girl runs down the room, round a chair and back to her place, first back scoring for patrol.
- On the words World Thinking Day the whole team/patrol join hands and run together.

The Story – to be read aloud, pausing when girls are running:

In 1907, English General Robert Baden-Powell, who had returned from the Boer War with ideas for the training of boys, ran an experimental camp on Brownsea Island. The following year, he published “Scouting for Boys” in fortnightly parts, and all over the country boys began meeting together and calling themselves “Boy Scouts”. In September 1909, scouts attended the rally at Crystal Palace. As the marched past, Robert Baden-Powell noticed at the back a group of girls. “Who are you?” he asked. “We are Girl Scouts,” they replied. “But there aren’t any Girl Scouts,” he said. “Yes, there are, for here we are,” was the rejoinder. Robert Baden-Powell realized that something would have to be done for the girls, so he asked his sister, Agnes Baden-Powell, to organize them as Girl Guides; in 1910 the first
companies were registered, the very first being the 1st Pinkney’s Green (Miss Agnes Baden-Powell’s own). In 1912 Robert Baden-Powell began an eight-month tour, visiting Boy Scouts in the West Indies, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. On board ship, he met Olave St Clair Soames, and by the end of the journey they were engaged. They married on October 30, 1912, and their wedding gift from the Boy Scouts was a motor car, for which each scout gave one penny. Olave Baden-Powell quickly became involved in her husband’s scouting activities and in 1916 she became County Commissioner for the Girl Guides of Sussex. By this time, the country was at war, and Robert Baden-Powell had offered his services, although he was nearly 60. But the King told him that his work with the Boy Scouts was more important. In 1920 he was proclaimed Chief Scout of the World, and in 1930 Olave Baden-Powell was proclaimed World Chief Guide. In 1926 a French Guider made a suggestion that since Robert Baden-Powell and Olave Baden-Powell shared the same birthday, February 22, this day was a special day to all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world and so World Thinking Day began to be celebrated. Following an idea of a Belgian Guider in 1932, everyone was encouraged to give one penny on that day, towards the World Thinking Day fund to help Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in difficulties. So now you know that guiding began in 1910, founded by Robert Baden-Powell, and Agnes Baden-Powell, and that every year Girl Guides and Girl Scouts throughout the world celebrate the joint birthday of Robert Baden-Powell and his wife, Olave Baden-Powell on February 22, World Thinking Day.

FAMILY TRADITIONS!

Every family has certain traditions they share. These are things that link the generations together and make us feel like “family.” The world family of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding has its own traditions – special symbols that all Guides and Girl Scouts share. Wherever we meet sister Guides, we all know about:

- **The World Trefoil:** this is the unifying symbol of WAGGGS. Every part has a meaning. The golden Trefoil on a bright blue background
represents the sun shining over all the children of the world. The three leaves represent the original three-part Promise; the base of the stalk represents the flame of the love of humanity; the vein pointing upward through the center of the Trefoil represents the compass needle pointing the way; and the two stars represent the Promise and Law. The World Trefoil pin may be worn by all Girl Guides/Girl Scouts, both girls and adults, in or out of uniform.

- **The World Flag:** The World Trefoil on a blue background is the focal point. A white blaze in the lower right-hand corner represents WAGGGS’ commitment to peace; this is crowned by three golden blocks symbolizing the three-part Promise.

- **The Motto:** The Motto, “Be Prepared” shares the Founder’s initials – BP – and is a reminder of the educational purposes of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting: it’s not enough to want to help, you must know how!

- **The Good Turn:** The Good Turn symbolizes the service given by all members of the Movement to the community. In the USA, “Do a good turn daily” is the Girl Scout Slogan.

- **The Sign or Salute:** When giving the Sign or Salute, Girl Guides/Girl Scouts raise three fingers of the right hand (thumb holding down little finger) as a reminder of the three-part Promise. Girl Scouts in the USA only use the Sign.

- **The Left Handshake:** Baden-Powell suggested a left handshake (while making the Sign or Salute) to recognize other members of the Movement, and it is still widely used today. He related a legend told to him in West Africa: two hostile, neighboring tribal groups decided to try and live together in peace. They flung down their shields, which
were carried on the left arm, and advanced unprotected to greet each other with their left hands extended in peace and friendship.

- **The World Thinking Day Symbol**: The World Trefoil in the center represents the World Association; the arrows pointing toward the Trefoil represent action and direction. The circular design represents the world of the Girl Guide/Girl Scout Movement.

![World Thinking Day Symbol](image)

- **The World Song**: The music was adapted with the approval of the Finnish composer, Jean Sibelius, from his March, Opus 991b. It was originally composed as the march for one of Finland’s oldest Scout troops. The World Song highlights the principles and spirit of the Movement. You can find the words to “The World Song” in the Appendix.

![Image of Our Cabaña](image)

### THE FOUR WORLD CENTRES

WAGGGS operates four World Centres, hostels which welcome Girl Guides/Girl Scouts from around the world. Each offers very different activities which reflect the countries in which they are located. Girls 14 and older may apply to visit Our Chalet, Our Cabaña, and Pax Lodge; girls must be at least
16 to visit Sangam. You can find the most up-to-date program and application information on each Centre’s Web site.

**OUR CHALET** – set among the peaks of the Bernese Alps in Switzerland, Our Chalet is the oldest of the Centres. It was given to WAGGGS in 1932 by Helen Storrow, to bring together people of many nations to meet, share, and grow in understanding and friendship. Visitors to Our Chalet hike and climb in the summer and ski and toboggan in the winter.

[www.ourchalet.ch](http://www.ourchalet.ch)

**OUR CABAÑA** aims to challenge girls and young women to live international friendship, offering a program that is unique to Mexico and usually includes community service. A campfire, international festival, Mexican fiesta and visits to local places of interest are included in most sessions.

[www.ourcabana.org](http://www.ourcabana.org)
PAX LODGE is the hostel portion of Olave Centre, an international gathering place providing opportunities for friendship, education and accommodations (it’s the ideal place to stay while visiting London.) A variety of programs and seminars are offered throughout the year, focusing on women’s issues, the environment, topical events, and the history and culture of London.  

www.paxlodge.org

SANGAM is the Sanskrit word for “coming together, and it is a safe, neutral place for girls and adults to come together and share their Girl Guide/Girl Scout experiences as well as the culture and traditions of their homelands. Participants take part in community service projects, visit in the homes of Sangam’s neighbors, shop at the bazaar and visit places of interest. Sangam’s calendar is filled with international events centered on UN issues and WAGGGS’ themes and goals.  

www.sangamwagggs.org.uk
**ACTIVITY: “World Centre Windows”** (GirlguidingUK – United Kingdom)

**You’ll Need:** Photocopies of the World Centres; crayons of colored pencils; scissors; empty cereal boxes; gluesticks; poster paint; fine sand, like play sand; large artist’s paint brushes; empty plastic containers (margarine, yogurt, etc.); decorations for frame (glitters, sequins, etc.)

1. Use a photocopier to enlarge the drawings of the World Centres (above.) Leave a good 2” margin around the edge of the paper as a frame. Put the pictures face down on a table and let the girls pick one at random.

2. Girls can use their imagination to choose which colors they want to use to decorate their picture. They could even put a tiny photo of themselves in a window!

3. Each girl cuts out two oblongs of cardboard from the cereal box, making them the same size as her picture or piece of paper.

4. Keeping the **plain** side up so it doesn’t spoil the picture, girls glue their World Centre picture onto the cardboard backing.

5. While the glue dries, take the second oblong of cardboard and cut out the middle. Leave and unbroken margin of about 2 “ as a frame (Younger girls will need some help with this.)

6. Next, mix a little sand into the poster paint for an unusual texture.

7. Keeping the paint quite thick, girls decorate the plain side of the frame. They can make it special by adding glitters, sequins or other decorations.

8. Once both parts of the frame are dry, girls stick the front frame over the backed picture, lining up the edges carefully so they don’t overlap.
APPENDIX

1) HOW WAGGGS “WORKS”

The World Association is made up of three bodies: the World Conference, the World Board, and the World Bureau.

The World Conference is the formal structure of the Guide Movement at the world level, and meets every three years in a different area of the world. It determines the policy and standards of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting throughout the world and elects the World Bureau to act on its behalf between meetings. It also approves National Organizations as Full Members of WAGGGS. Each member nation sends delegates to the Conference.

The World Board is composed of 12 members, elected by the World Conference to act on its behalf between triennial meetings. The members don’t represent their own National Organization but consider the interests of the Movement as a whole. The Board appoints committees to carry out different areas of work.

The World Bureau is the secretariat (administrator) of the WAGGGS. It provides services to, and is a link between, WAGGGS’ 145 Member Organizations, and helps new Member Organizations working toward Associate or Full membership. The World Bureau assists with the overall planning and coordination of World Conferences and World Board meetings, and implements decisions made at those conferences and meetings. The work of WAGGGS is conducted in its three official languages: English, French, and Spanish.

The World Association is divided into 5 different regions, each with its own symbol and pin (and its own place on the WAGGGS Web site.) Members of the Girl Scouts of the USA may wear the Western Hemisphere pin on the right side of their uniform.

WORLD REGIONS – SYMBOLS
2) HOW WAGGGS IS FUNDED

$ Each and every Member Organization pays “dues” to WAGGGS; it is a condition of membership, and allows WAGGGS to provide services to its members.

£ Donations, bequests, and special grants made by Member Organizations, businesses, trust and individuals can be made for a specific purpose or the general work of WAGGGS.

¢ World Thinking Day Contributions, the voluntary gifts of girls and adults around the world, are one of WAGGGS’ major sources of income. Girl Scouts in the USA contribute through the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.

An Endowment Fund, established in 1984, helps safeguard the future finances of WAGGGS. The Development Fund, established in 1990, is used to support development, promotion, training, and projects.

The Olave Baden-Powell Society (OB-BS) promotes Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting by recognizing and honoring major donors ($7,500 or more) to the Movement; by the donor’s choice the money goes either to the Endowment or Development Fund.
3) “The World Song”

“The World Song” was adopted at the 13th World Conference, in 1950. The music was adapted with the approval of the Finnish composer, Jean Sibelius, from his March Opus 9b. It was originally composed as the march for one of Finland’s oldest Boy Scout troops. The English words are by Gavin Ewart and reflect the feelings of post-World War II Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting.

Scouting and Guiding were among the first groups banned when Hitler took over a country and many Guides, Scouts, and leaders were executed by the Nazis. Other Guides and Scouts were killed in action, both on the front line and in the Underground. The Movement itself went underground, with troops meeting in secret, carefully hiding any handbooks or pins. As soon as the war was over, surviving members began to rebuild Guiding and Scouting in the ruins of Europe, Asia and the Pacific.

Our Way is clear as we march on
And see! Our flag on high
Is never furled throughout the world
For hope shall never die!
We must unite for what is right
In friendship true and strong
Until the earth
In its rebirth
Shall sing our song! Shall sing our song!

All those who loved the good and true
Whose promises were kept
With humble mind, whose acts were kind, whose honour never slept
These were the free!
And we must be
Prepared like them to live,
To give to all
Both great and small
All we can give! All we can give!

You can hear “The World Song” at:
www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/waggs/world_song.asp
Send a SOSSI WORLD THINKING DAY Greeting Card

Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) is a nonprofit philatelic organization specializing in the collecting, study, and enjoyment of stamps and other postal items celebrating the Boy Scout and Girl Scout (Guide) movements.

SOSSI Salute to World Thinking Day

Girl Guides and Scouts on Stamps

Sending a card is easy. Go to http://www.sossi.org/cards.html and follow the instructions at each step along the way. The cards are stored in a non-indexed directory at our SOSSI website so only you and the recipient will know how to find the card.

After you have completed the card, you will be shown a preview. If you do not like your card, you may edit it and then send it, or just cancel the request. The recipient will receive an e-mail with the location of the card at the SOSSI website that can be viewed for 14 days before automatic removal.

SOSSI provides Greeting Cards free of charge and without registration required for site visitors. No database is maintained of these activities. Youth visitors should not participate in these areas without express permission of a parent or guardian. Read the SOSSI Internet Privacy Policy for more details.
### WAGGGS MEMBER COUNTRIES (July 2008)

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To find out which Member Organizations have a Web site, go to http://www.waggsworld.org/en/world and click on the country you are interested in.
World Trefoil Pattern
Cumming Service Center and Badge & Sash Store
133 Samaritan Dr., Suite 102, Cumming, GA 33040
(770) 702-9299

Dalton Service Center and Badge & Sash Store
2204 E. Walnut Ave., Dalton, GA 30721
(706) 226-1435

Griffin Service Center and Badge & Sash Store
350 Airport Road, Griffin, GA 30224
(770) 702-9499 or toll free at (800) 327-4475

Mableton Service Center
5601 North Allen Road, Mableton, GA 30126
770-702-9100 or toll free at (800) 771-1139 toll
Badge & Sash Store: 770-702-9199
Girl Scout Resource Center: 770-702-9610

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Girl Program
Margaret Paschal
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