



THE MANY LANGUAGES OF THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE AND LAW

Girl Scouting in the United States is part of a worldwide movement called the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). It's nearly 8 million members are banded together under a common spiritual and ethical code known as the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Words and phrases might vary from country to country due to differences in language, but the meaning and ideals expressed in the Promise and Law remain the same everywhere.

The Girl Scout Promise expresses:

- service to God - abiding by the religious customs or traditions of one's choice;
- service to country - being a knowledgeable and involved citizen;
- service to humanity - helping people everywhere in any way possibly by being sensitive to the needs of others;
- living by the Girl Scout Law - using this ethical code of behavior to improve everyday life.

The Girl Scout Law serves as a guide to living the Promise. By following the Law, a Girl Scout comes closer to serving God, country, and humanity.

Because the Girl Scout Promise and Law are an important part of the Girl Guide and Girl Scout movement throughout the world, it is very important to help girls understand their special meaning. The most effective way of doing this is through the program activities at your troop meetings. You can turn every activity into an experience that will help girls understand that the Promise and Law are not just words spoken at the opening or closing of a troop meeting but the spiritual and ethical code by which all Girl Scouts should live. Every troop activity that provides social interaction between your girls can be used to encourage fairness, honesty, friendliness, and consideration of others.

Service projects carried out by the girls will develop a sense of responsibility and pride in the knowledge that they are helping others and the community in which they live.

Troop activities that focus on racial and cultural awareness help foster a sense of sisterhood among Girl Guides and Girl Scouts throughout the world.

Girls will gain an understanding of the Girl Scout Law when they learn to share items at troop meetings and use their resources and materials wisely.

Troop camping can provide an opportunity for girls to develop a greater awareness of the environment and the need to protect and improve it.

As their adult partner, you are also an important role model for the girls in your troop. They will learn to respect authority, themselves, and others through observing your behavior toward co-leaders, troop consultants, parents, and themselves.

Other ways to help your girls understand the Promise and Law are listed below.

- Discuss the meaning of the Promise and Law with your troop, asking the girls to put it in their own words. Encourage them to talk about how they should behave with their peers, family members, and neighbors using the Promise and Law as their guide.
- Help girls to develop a skit to dramatize what would happen at a troop meeting if the girls didn't follow the Promise and Law. Then dramatize a meeting at which the Promise and Law were followed. Discuss the differences and ask questions such as which skit most closely resembles your own troop meetings? How might you change their behavior to follow the Promise and Law more closely?

- Dived the troop into two teams to play a special game of charades. Give each team a different part of the Law to act out. Each part can be acted out in teams or individually, depending on the skill level of your girls.
- A troop service project could result from one part of the Law the girls select after a troop discussion. For example, they might decide to develop and carry out a service project based upon using resources wisely. After investigating the needs of their community, the girls might decide to collect cans, bottles, and newspapers for recycling; or they may decide to develop a pamphlet about water or energy conservation that could be distributed throughout the area.
- As an expanded activity, a troop service project could be developed based on one part of the Girl Scout Law and a topic covered in the Global Understanding projects that commemorate the recent World Conference; see the centerfold section in Girl Scout Leader, fall 1983, for project suggestions. For example, service projects based on the Girl Scout Law to help where needed and the global concern for a local hunger task group to set up a world hunger awareness event for the community.
- Help the girls identify role models in their community who share the characteristics identified in the Girl Scout Promise and Law - fairness, honesty, cheerfulness, and so forth. Have the girls list the names of these role models and explain why they felt these people lived the Promise and Law. Interviews with the role models could be conducted and developed into a newsletter and shared with other troops.
- Junior, Cadette, Senior Girl Scouts can help teach younger girls about the Promise and Law by using pictures from magazines and books that illustrate the basic beliefs. The older girls might develop a set of questions about different situations that the younger girls can answer using the Promise and Law as a guide. Some sample questions are suggested below.

What would you do if you found a wallet with money in it lying in the street?

What might you do if some of your classmates were calling the new child in class terrible names?

What would you do if your leader were carrying a lot of packages?

A project such as the following might be expanded and applied toward a Girl Scout recognition.

- Have the girls discuss the different countries from which their ancestors came. Ask each girl to find the country(s) she names in Trefoil Round the World. The girls might learn to speak the Promise and Law in the language of that country and share it with the troop.
- After the girls have a better understanding of the Promise and Law, they may wish to share their knowledge with other troop, their families, or the community through songs, games, or skits in a planned event.

The Different Languages of the Girl Scout Promise and Law*

The following countries were chosen at random to illustrate the many different languages of the Promise and Law throughout the world. The English translation of each language shows the slight differences in the wording from country to country. This, however, does not change the basic beliefs followed by all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides.

Additional information about the different member countries of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts can be found in Trefoil Round the World. Girl Scouts may also enjoy information from the Wide World of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. Both books offer such information as the language of the Promise and Law, different activities of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and popular service projects for that country.

Translations of the Promise and Law are taken from the 1984 edition of Trefoil Round the World.

For SPANISH-SPEAKING GIRL SCOUTS in the U.S.A.

This Girl Scout Promise and Law are spoken by Spanish-speaking Girl Scouts in the U.S.A. The English translation follows the Promise and Law spoken throughout the United States very closely. Spanish is one of the three official languages of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; English and French are the other two.

LA PROMESA

Por mi honor, you tratare
De servir a Dios,
A mi patria, y a mi prójimo
Y vivir conforme a la ley de las
Girl Scouts.

LA LEY

Yo me esforzaré a:

Ser honrada

Ser justa

Ayudar donde y cuando se me necesite

Ser alegre

Ser amistosa y considerada hacia los demas

Ser hermana de todas las Girl Scouts

Respetar a mis mayores el mundo en que vivo

Usar los recursos razonablemente

Proteger y mejorar el mundo en que vivo

Respetar mi persona y respetar a los demas

Mediante mis palabras y mis acciones.

FINLAND

The Girl Guides program in Finland stresses the development of the total person. Activities are divided into seven sections which include outdoor activities and sports; service, principles, and ideas; knowledge of nature and conservation; creativity and self-expression; relating to society; and resourcefulness.

Finnish

PARTIOLUPAUS

Tahdon rakastaa jumalaani ja
Lahimmaistani,
isanmaatani ja ihmiskuntaa
toteuttaen elamassani
partiolhanteita.

PARTIOIHANTEET

Partiolaisen ihanteena on
kehittää itseään ihmisenä
kunnioittaa toista ihmistä
auttaa ja palvella muita
tuntea vastuunsa ja velvollisuutensa
rakastaa ja suojella luontoa
olla uskollinen ja luotettava
rakentaa ystävyyttä yli rajojen
etsiä elämän totuutta

PROMISE

I will love my God and my neighbor
my native country and mankind by
fulfilling the Girl Guide ideals in my
life.

Swedish

SCOUTLOFTET

Jag vill älska min gud och min nasta,
mitt land och mänskligheten,
I det jag söker förverkliga
scoutidealen I mitt liv.

SCOUTIDEALEN

En scouts ideal är...
att utveckla sig själv som människa,
att kanna aktning för andra,
att hjälpa och tjäna sin nasta,
att inse sitt ansvar och sina plikter,
att älska och skydda naturen,
att vara trofast och pålitlig,
att främja venskap över gränserna,
att söka sanningen i tillvaron.

IDEALS

The ideal of a Girl Guide is...

- to develop herself as a human being
- to respect other human beings
- to help and serve others
- to recognize her responsibility and duties
- to love and protect nature
- to be faithful and reliable
- to build friendship across borders
- to seek for truth in life.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

The Girl Scout Promise is shown in American Sign Language (ASL), a separate language used by individuals with severe hearing loss. In ASL, each sign denotes a whole word. While sign language may appear to be universal, it is not. Sign language differs from country to country.

American Sign Language is an attempt to standardize a method of communication for the hearing-impaired in the United States. Since ASL is not English, its grammatical structure is different, and small words such as "the," "is," and "as" are not used. Some of the words of the Promise have been changed to accommodate this different language without changing meaning.



GIRL



SCOUT



PROMISE



ON



MY



HONOR



I



WILL



TRY



TO



SERVE



GOD



MY



COUNTRY



AND



PEOPLE



AND



TO



OBEY



GIRL



SCOUT



LAW

TANZANIA

Girl Guides in Tanzania are involved in many activities. Service projects are very popular and girls spend many hours helping others through hospital work and literacy projects.

AHADI ZA MASKAUTI WA KIKE

Natao ahadi kiwa nita-fanya bidii kutimiza yote yanipasayo kwa Mwenyezi Mungu na Taifa langu; ku-wasaidia watu wote siku zote; nakutii kanuni za Maskauti wa kike.

KANUNI ZA MASKAUTI WA KIKE

- Skauti ni mwaminifu.
- Skauti ni raia mwema.
- Wajibu wa Skauti wa kike ni kuwa mtu wa kufaa na kuwasaidia watu kwa hiari.
- Skauti ni rafiki kwa watu wote na ndugu kwa maskauti wote.
- Skauti huwa na adabu na heshima.
- Skauti huwahurumia na kuwapenda wanyama na viumbe vyote vyenye uhai.
- Skauti hutii amri kwa furaha.
- Skauti huchangamka hata katika shida taabu yoyote.
- Skauti ni mwangalifu, na mtuzaji pia huweka akiba.
- Skauti ni safi kwa ma-wazo maneno na ma-tendo.

GUIDE PROMISE

I promise on my honor to do my best:
To do my duty to God and my nation;
to help other people at all times;
And to obey the Guide law.

GUIDE LAW

- A Guide's honor is to be trusted.
- A Guide is a good citizen.
- A Guide's duty is to be useful and help others.
- A Guide is a friend to all and a sister to every other Guide.
- A Guide is kind to animals and all creation.
- A Guide obeys orders cheerfully.
- A Guide is courageous and cheerful.
- A Guide is thrifty.
- A Guide is pure in thought, word, and deed.

KOREA

Korean Girl Scouts work in remote villages instructing people in hygiene, reading, and writing.

SUN-ON

Na-neun na-e myung-ei-rul wi-ha-yo da-um-
e jo-mo-geul gut-ge-ji-ki-get sum ni-da:
Ha-na-nim-gwa na-ra-reul wi-ha-yo na-e
him-eul da da-get seum-ni-da.
Hang-sang da-run sa-ram-ul do-wa joo-get
sum-ni-da.
Girl Scout-ui-geu-eu-reul jal ji-ki get sum-
ni-da.

GEU-EUL

- Girl Scout-un jin-sil ha-da.
- Girl Scout-un choong-sung han-da.
- Girl Scout-un na-mal dob-ko yu-ki-han i-rul han-da.
- Girl Scout-un u-ai hamyo da-run Girl Scout-ul hyung-je-ro yu-gi-go jun-se-gei sa-ram-ul dong-po-ro-yo-gin-da.
- Girl Scout-un yei-rul jon-joong han-da.
- Girl Scout-un dong-mu-rul ai-ho han-da.
- Girl Scout-un soon-jong han-da.
- Girl Scout-un kew-hwal ha-da.
- Girl Scout-un gum-yak han-da.
- Girl Scout-un mom-gwana-um-ul get-geu-si ga-zin-da.

PROMISE

On my honor, I will try:
To do my duty to God and my country;
To help other people at all times;
To obey the Girl Scout Law.

LAW

- A Girl Scout's honor is to be trusted.
- A Girl Scout is loyal.
- A Girl Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
- A Girl Scout is a friend to all and a sister to every other Girl Scout.
- A Girl Scout is courteous.
- A Girl Scout is a friend to animals.
- A Girl Scout obeys orders.
- A Girl Scout is cheerful.
- A Girl Scout is thrifty.
- A Girl Scout is clean in thought, word, and deed.

JAPAN

The Girl Scout program in Japan focuses on three major points – self-development, human relations, and nature. Some of the Girl Scout activities include working with the disabled, planting trees, and protecting the environment from floods and air pollution.

YAKUSOKU

Watakushi wa meiyō ni kakete;
Kami to kuni to ni taisuru tsutome o okonai;
Itsumo tano hitobito o ta-suke;
Gaaru Sukauto no okite o mamoru yoni
itashimasu.

OKITE

- Gaaru Sukauto no meiyō wa shinrai sareru koto de arimasu.
- Gaaru Sukauto wa chu-jitsu de arimasu.
- Gaaru Sukauto no tsu-tome wa, hito o tasuke hito ni yakudatsu koto de arimasu.
- Gaaru Sukauto wa sub-etenō hitobito no tomo-dachi de ari, tano Gaaru Sukauto towa ta-gaini shimai de ari-masu.
- Gaaru Sukauto wa reigi o tadashiku shimasu.
- Gaaru Sukauto wa iki-mono o kawai-gari masu.
- Gaaru Sukauto wa kir-itsu ni shitagai masu.
- Gaaru Sukauto wa kai-katsu de arimasu.
- Gaaru Sukauto wa ken-yaku shimasu.
- Gaaru Sukauto wa ornoi nimo, kotoba nimo, okonai nimo junketsu de arimasu.

PROMISE

On my honor, I will try:
To do my duty to God and my country;
to help other people at all times;
To obey the Girl Scout Law.

LAW

- A Girl Scout's honor is to be trusted.
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- A Girl Scout is courteous.
- A Girl Scout is a friend to animals.
- A Girl Scout obeys orders.
- A Girl Scout is cheerful.
- A Girl Scout is thrifty.
- A Girl Scout is clean in thought, word, and deed.

INDIA

In 1915, the Girl Guide Associate (India) merged with the nationally recognized Joint Movement which became known as the Bharat Scouts and Guides (Bharat is an ancient name for India). Girl Scouts and Girl Guides enjoy jamborees, campfires, and special events together, but their training and camping programs are carried out separately. One of the four international friendship centers is in Sangam, India.

PRATIGYA

Main maryada purvak pra-tigya karti hoon ki yathas-hakti Ishwar aur apne des ke prati apne kartvya ka palan karungi. Sada dusron ki sahayata karungi. Guide Niyamon ka palan karungi.

NIYAM

- Guide ka wachan wish-vasaneeya hota hai.
- Guide vafadar hoti hai.
- Guide ka kartavya hai ki wah Ishwar, ka sam-man, apne Desh ki seva aur doosron ki sahayata kare.
- Guide sab ki mitra hoti hai aur pratyek doosri Guide ki behan hoti hai-chahe vah kisee bhee desh, Jati aur Dharma ki ho.
- Guide vinamra hoti hai.
- Guide pashu pakshi ki mitra hoti hai.
- Guide anushasansheel aur agyakari hoti hai.
- Guide veer hoti hai aur appatti men prassan-nachitta rehti hai.
- Guide mitavyayi hoti hai.
- Guide man, vachan aur karma se shuddha hoti hai.

PROMISE

On my honor I promise that I will do my best:
To do my duty to God and my country;
To help other people at all times;
to obey the Guide Law.

LAW

- A Guide's honor is to be trusted.
- A Guide is loyal.
- A Guide's duty is to revere God, serve her country, and help others.
- A Guide is a friend to all and a sister to every other Guide no matter to what country, class, or creed the other may belong.
- A Guide is courteous.
- A Guide is a friend to animals.
- A Guide is disciplined and obeys orders.
- A Guide is brave and smiles under all difficulties.
- A Guide is pure in thought, word, and deed.