Baden-Powell, founder of Scouting, describes a Scouts’ Own as “a voluntary uplifting of their hearts...in thanksgiving for the joys of life, and a desire to seek inspiration and strength for greater love and service for others.” It is NOT a religious ceremony and does not take the place of going to church, synagogue, mosque or temple. It expresses the spirit of Girl Scouting. It is called a Scouts’ Own because girls and leaders plan it themselves. It is an opportunity for girls to express their thoughts and feelings.

When is a Scouts’ Own done?
Ask the participants: Have you ever heard of Scouts’ Own Ceremonies? Can anyone share when they have done one?
- Anytime, anywhere—indoors or outdoors
- Open or close a meeting or special occasion
- Usually in a special spot or scenic area

Types of Scouts’ Owns”
- Inspirational
- International
- Sunrise

What makes a good Scouts’ Own:
Ask participants: What do you think would make a good Scouts’ Own? What does it need to include?
- Central idea to give it unity
- Address Girl Scouting Law or Promise
- Can coincide with National or Scouting Holiday
- Should begin and end silently with reverence
- Audience should participate not merely observe
- Use suitable material
- Plan should come from the girls with adult direction

Suggested Length of Ceremony:
- Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies 10 minutes
- Girl Scout Juniors 10-15 minutes
- Girl Scout Cadettes 15-20 minutes
- Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors 20-30 minutes
Friendship - Poem by Albert Camus

Don’t walk in front of me
I may not follow
Don’t walk behind me
I may not lead
Walk beside me
And just be my friend

Girl Scouts
Girl #1
G is for Girl, that’s why we are here
I is for Interest, without that we wouldn’t care
R is for Ready, to start to take our place in the world
L is for Living, the Girl Scout way

Girl #2
S is for Seeking, to learn and to explore
C is for Country, we’ll try to do our share and more
O is for Obligation, to live up to the Promise we’ve made
U is for Unity, together, one for all
T is for Trust, without that, we’d all fall

ALL I am a Girl Scout

Girl #3
I have a Promise - it has three parts. Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world are sisters and friends in this Promise.

ALL Repeat the Girl Scout Promise

Girl #4
I have a Law. This is the code by which I try to live. This law should be used daily in every Girl Scout’s life—in all she does in work and play.

ALL Repeat the Girl Scout Law and sing “Whene’er You Make a Promise.”

Girl #5
I have a motto—Be Prepared. This means that I can be depended upon whenever I am needed. This is my duty—to be ready when called upon.

ALL I am a Girl Scout

Girl #6
I have a slogan—Do a good turn daily. This means I will try to help other people.

ALL I am a Girl Scout

Girl #7
I have a sign. This I give whenever I repeat my Promise. It is important to stand erect and show my pride in belonging. This reminds me to think straight and to realize my duty as a citizen. I give the Girl Scout sign to other Girl Scouts and Girl Guides because it is the sign of friendship. The three fingers stand for the three parts of the Promise.

ALL I am a Girl Scout

Girl #8
I have a uniform and am proud to wear it. It must be neat at all times. When in uniform, I try harder than usual to obey the Girl Scout Law.

ALL Sing “On My Honor”
Promise and Law
What the Promise and Law mean to a Girl Scout:

P stands for Partnership with our fellow woman
R means Responsibility, which when accepted, makes us better people
O is Opportunities, many opportunities come to us through Girl Scouting
M is for Moments that we’ll treasure always
I is for Individuality, the mark of a strong person
S symbolizes Service, the keynote of Girl Scouting
E is for Experiences, little things and big things (can fill in with what Troop has done)

L stands for Laughter, an effective medicine for all aches and pains, emotional and physical
A symbolizes Adventure, the kind of thing that changes an ordinary day into a momentous one
W means Work, good and simple, without we could not live, merely exist

The Book of Trees
Reader: Those of us who are here tonight are fortunate enough to have come in contact with the organization which believes in making a “friend in need, a friend indeed.” Let us all imagine that we are in a great forest. The clearing through which all Girl Scouts enter is our ethical code. All who enter must make the Girl Scout Promise. But once inside, we find many paths, all leading to a way of life on which we can build a wholesome future. In Girl Scouting, we are able to help all our girls take this trail.

Girl #1: I am the Oak Tree - as sturdy and long-lived as I, so is the Girl Scout’s honor

Girl #2: I am the Holly Tree - constantly green and holding tight to my leaves as a Girl Scout is ever loyal

Girl #3: I am a Birch Tree - with my bark and my wood I am useful and help others as every Girl Scout does

Girl #4: I am a Linden Tree - my heart shaped leaves are like the hearts of Girl Scouts who are friends to all and sisters to each other

Girl #5: I am the Aspen Tree - my leaves softly whisper “Courtesy is Thoughtfulness” as every Girl Scout knows.

Girl #6: I am the Elm Tree - sheltering the little folk of the woods in my gracious branches and roots. I am a friend to all animals, just as every Girl Scout

Girl #7: I am the Poplar Tree - tall and straight as a soldier who obeys orders, so does every Girl Scout

Girl #8: I am the Maple Tree - brightening the spring, my leaves gay in the Fall, I am as cheerful as a Girl Scout

Girl #9: I am the Hickory Tree - tough of wood, I keep my nuts stored in strong, tight cases just as Girl Scouts are thrifty

Girl #10: I am the Dogwood Tree - in the spring, I stand clean and beautiful in the face, as does every Girl Scout, clean in thought, word and deed so stands in beauty

ALL (The Conservation Pledge): I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country - it’s soil and minerals, it’s forests, waters and wildlife

ALL: Sing “This Land is Your Land”
ALL: Juliette Gordon Low once said:

1st Solo: Did you ever think how wonderful it is that with every new spring, sap rises in trees? No one knows whence it comes, but it flows from root to branch and makes a dead, bare tree blossom with green leaves. So it is with Girl Scouting, it rises within you and inspires you to put forth your best. In every path of life, you have a chance to show what a Girl Scout can do...

ALL: Juliette Gordon Low knew that time flies swiftly. Today is soon tomorrow, and all of our tomorrows lie in the hands of youth. Her gift to youth was Girl Scouting, and her dream, a tree of fellowship grown from a tiny seed.

Half Group: She knew the seed would ripen

Remainder: The tree grew:

2nd Solo: Nourished by faith...

3rd Solo: Watered by service...

4th Solo: Tended by love.

5th Solo: “I've got something for the girls of Savannah and for all America and all the world.”

Half Group: She said, in the phone call that made history.

All: Yes, we started it that night. She brought the seed from England and we helped her plant that seed in the rich soil of Georgia, we twelve.

6th Solo: On my honor, I will try,

2 Voices: Each said

4 Voices: Soon, there were scores of us

6 Voices: Hundreds

8 Voices: Then thousands

All: Now, we are three million strong, each living the Promise

7th Solo: Let us all repeat it together

All: 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.

Half Group: Duty, Service, Loyalty...these were the ten challenges.

Remainder: These are the roots our founder planted many years ago

8th Solo: The tree grew strong and flourished

Half Group: It’s branches - delight in the out of doors, joy in the arts

Remainder: It’s leaves - fun, friendship, new things to do

All: Juliette Low knew what girls wanted. She said:

9th Solo: “If it isn’t right, the girls won’t take it and it won’t last”

All: Three million voices answer:

“It is right. It will last. Thanks to your inspiration, Juliette Gordon Low!”