

What You'll Need

- Leaders and Advisors
- Moderator
- Pen and paper for each group

Time: 15–30 minutes

Questions? Comments?
Contact the Girl Scout
office nearest you.

Sioux Falls
800.666.2141

Rapid City
800.658.3391

Fargo
877.904.8168

Grand Forks
800.437.4399

Minot
800.279.5306

Bismarck
800.326.4745

www.gsdh.org

COURT OF AWARDS

A Court of Awards is a special ceremony when Girl Scouts receive recognitions and insignia they have earned. It can be held anytime during the year, any location and as often as the troop wants. Remember, girls should be receiving their badges and awards as they earn them and not saved for the end of the year.

In small groups, brainstorm ideas for making your Court of Awards special. Additionally, spend some time generating creative notions for honoring one of our most precious resources: our volunteers!

“Mix and Match” Court of Awards Planning Activity

Preparations: This activity will work even better if you give a little advance notice. Ask your leaders to bring ideas for a Court of Awards, including tokens of thanks they have used.

Instructions: Split into small groups with 2 or 3 people in each group. If you have a small service unit, it may be preferable to split into two groups or even stay together as one larger group.

Activity: This is a “Mix and Match” Court of Awards activity because each group will come up with several options for each part of the Court of Awards ceremony. To create a complete ceremony, leaders and girls can intermix an opening with an activity and so on!

The categories include:

- Opening
- How to present the Journey awards/badges/pins
- Girl participation (such as a song or presentation)
- What to present to volunteers
- Closing



Give each group a category and 10–15 minutes to come up with as many ideas as they can. Make sure lists are as detailed as possible, rather than listing “song” for girl participation, be more specific such as “song learned to earn ‘x’ journey or badge. This will make the lists more user friendly for new volunteers.

To get them thinking in the right direction, advise them to “put themselves in someone else’s shoes” such as the audience. Sometimes things that were really exciting when they happened are not quite as exciting when retold. Have volunteers imagine what the audience would enjoy hearing about and how to present it in a fun, lively manner. Make sure they also take the age levels into consideration and offer various age-appropriate recommendations, particularly for girl participation.

Coming together: Have the group report their ideas. Allow for additional ideas from other groups as time permits. Be sure to be considerate of new volunteers. It is very intimidating to be the only one who doesn’t know a given song or game. Ask a volunteer to type up the ideas. You might consider laminating them or putting them on index cards for your service unit library.