

Celebrating 100 Years of World Thinking Day!



World Thinking Day 2026 Activity Guide

Our Friendship

Activities for Girl Scout Cadettes,
Seniors, and Ambassadors.



“Global sisterhood widens your point of view, makes you more empathetic to the world around you, and builds understanding when you realize how much of a bigger world there is and your role in it.”

— Quote from a Girl Scout

Join Girl Scouts and Girl Guides to make a difference on a global level!

Every year on February 22, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in more than 150 countries around the world celebrate World Thinking Day! Each year has a special theme, such as helping the environment, fighting poverty, making sure all kids can go to school, or speaking up for fairness and equality. On this day, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere honor their global community by doing activities around a shared theme.

We’re celebrating 100 years of World Thinking Day in 2026—what an exciting birthday! This year’s theme is Our Friendship. We invite you to join in as we explore our worldwide Girl Scout/Girl Guide community and celebrate the friendships that connect us all around the globe.

Earn your World Thinking Day award in four steps:

- 1. Explore** what World Thinking Day is all about.
- 2. Experience** it with purpose by taking part in meaningful activities.
- 3. Investigate** this year’s special theme.
- 4. Share** what you’ve learned and commit to building a better future.

Ready to think big and explore issues in your community and beyond?



The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is the largest voluntary movement dedicated to empowering girls and young women in the world.

Let's get started!

STEP 1: Explore World Thinking Day.

Choice 1: Get inspired by WAGGGS Global Advocacy Champions.

Just like Girl Scouts in the United States complete Take Action projects and awards, Girl Guides are doing things like raising awareness about diseases and fighting for access to education for all young people.

For this activity, learn about the latest [WAGGGS Global Advocacy Champions](#) by going online to read some of their stories. Did any spark something in you? If so, what made it significant for you? Do any stories inspire you to think about a project you could do in your own community? How can we learn from and celebrate our global community of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides? Have a discussion with your troop and family members and share answers to these questions.

Choice 2: Share the World Thinking Day story and theme with younger Girl Scouts.

Read through the story called **World Thinking Day History in Four Parts** and add part four about this year's World Thinking Day theme, then come up with a way to share the full story with a group of younger Girl Scouts. You might want to create a skit, video, or booklet about the story.

Choice 3: Create your own World Thinking Day symbol.

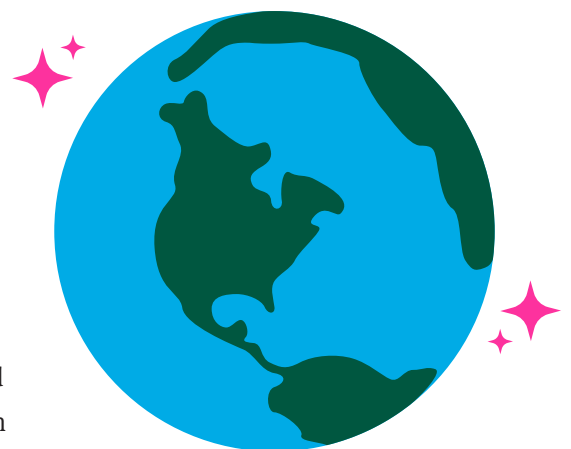
The World Trefoil pin is the unifying symbol of WAGGGS, and every part of its design has meaning. On it are three leaves representing the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise, with a flame that stands for loving all the people in the world. Come up with a symbol for the theme of this year's World Thinking Day.



The World Trefoil symbol's background is **blue** to represent the color of the sky. The outer ring's **gold band** represents sunshine. The inside **gold leaves** stand for the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise. There are two **gold stars**: one is for the Girl Scout Promise and the other is for the Girl Scout Law. The center **gold compass** needle is the safeguard between the Promise and Law. The **gold base** underneath the compass is the flame of international friendship.

STEP 2: Experience World Thinking Day with purpose.

World Thinking Day is more than just thinking. It is knowing that you have the power to make a difference alongside Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Create an experience for World Thinking Day that helps you learn more about the world and your place in it.



Choice 1: Interview each other.

The Girl Scout Movement is made up of many cultures. Culture is the customs of a particular group of people—generally we think about culture as tied to a shared country of origin, nationality, ethnicity, or race. Team up to interview another Girl Scout and share about your cultures. What are your cultural traditions? In your culture, what are the common foods, clothing styles, and music? Ask each other about communication styles, values, and relationship patterns across different generations. Talk about your family cultures. Family culture means the values, rules, and traditions that shape a family's life and routine. For instance, maybe you gather together with your extended family every weekend, but someone else might go to a reunion once a year. Discuss the differences and similarities. Once you have talked about your own cultures, you can also talk about cultures within the United States. What differences might exist between the east and west coasts? The Midwest and the South?

Choice 2: Investigate what's global in your community.

Plan a field trip with your troop or with a family member to explore what's global in your community. You might discover a parade, fair, exhibit, or festival celebrating culture. Who is participating in this cultural event? Where did the culture originate? Ask someone to help you check calendars in your community center to find an event with a global connection. Or explore your neighborhood to find signs of culture in your community. It might be the food at a restaurant or the practices used at various places of worship, or books for your age group in the library that explore various cultures. Draw or make a list of everything you find and create a journal about what you learned about various cultures.

Choice 3: Get to know someone from another culture.

There are many cultural differences among people who grew up in the United States, and there may be even more between people who grew up in a country outside of the United States. Let's learn! Connect with someone in your community—maybe in your own troop or family—who grew up outside of the United States. Ask if they'll speak to your troop about the culture they were raised in and what it was like coming to a new country. Think of ideas together and invite one or more of these people to a meeting where you can ask questions. Make sure to come up with ideas for questions beforehand. Ask your guest if they can bring something from their culture to show the group, such as a food or a piece of clothing. Is there a special dance or song they can teach you from their home country? Or maybe they can teach you how to say hello or show respect to adults in their culture.



STEP 3: Investigate this year's World Thinking Day theme.

The theme for **World Thinking Day 2026** is **Our Friendship**.

In Step 1, you explored what World Thinking Day is all about. Every year on February 22, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world celebrate friendship and their global bonds—it's like one big, worldwide friendship! The very first World Thinking Day took place in 1926. Now it's 2026, which means we're marking 100 years of friendship, fun, and making the world a better place. That's a whole lot of good deeds, good times, and good friends! Hand in hand and heart to heart, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere make the world a better place. Be part of this shared experience. Pick one of the activities below to celebrate the special friendships that connect Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere.

Choice 1: Discover how Girl Scouts was founded in friendship.

Juliette Gordon Low, lovingly called “Daisy,” is the founder of Girl Scouts. Daisy started the first U.S. Girl Scout troop in Savannah, Georgia, in 1912. She laid the foundation for the huge organization you're part of today.

Daisy has received many posthumous honors for her work. In 1979, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. In 2012, then-president Barack Obama awarded her the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom. Daisy has appeared on postage stamps around the world—and in 2025, the U.S. Mint even released a quarter bearing her image!

Daisy earned every bit of this praise through her hard work and big ideas. But did you know her inspiration came from across the ocean? Daisy learned about a group called the Girl Guides that started in England. She loved the idea of girls learning new skills, having fun, and building lifelong friendships, so she started her own Girl Guide troops (then called “patrols”) right here in the United States. The idea took off—and just as Daisy had hoped, friendships bloomed! The name changed to Girl Scouts a few years later, but the connection between Girl Scouts and Girl Guides has stayed strong ever since. To learn more about this special bond, read **A Global Movement, Founded in Friendship** at the end of this guide.

Try this activity:

After reading the story, take it a step further! Find a Juliette Gordon Low U.S. quarter and make a rubbing in your notebook or somewhere you'll see it often. If you can't find the actual quarter to make a rubbing, copy the picture on this page. Keep the drawing or the quarter in a special place to remind you that one person can change the world.



The U.S. Mint's American Women Quarters Program ran from 2022 through 2025. Each year, this program honored five important American women. Juliette Gordon Low quarters were made in 2025 only, but they'll be around for decades yet to come. So be sure to check your quarters whenever you get them—you might just see Daisy's face!

Next, search for “Girl Scouts Girl Guides stamps” online. Explore the many commemorative postage stamps that have been printed to celebrate Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. What uniforms, logos, or symbols do you see? If you’d like, make a slideshow of your favorites to share. Think about Daisy’s role in bringing her part of this global dream to life!

Choice 2: Map the WAGGGS Member Organizations.

WAGGGS has nearly 11 million youth members in 153 chapters around the world. These chapters are called Member Organizations. Most are based in their home countries, though some—like Girl Scouts—have branches abroad. About three-quarters of the world’s countries host WAGGGS Member Organizations.

See how WAGGGS spans the globe! Print a world map, or draw one by hand. Then visit the [WAGGGS](#) website. Start by reading about the five WAGGGS regions and outline each one on your map in a different color. Next, check the site’s regional listings. Find each country with a Member Organization and either color it in or mark it with a dot. It might take some time—there are a lot of them!

When you’re done, admire your colorful map and think about the global friendships it represents. For over 100 years, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides have built a worldwide community—so wherever you go, there’s a new friend just waiting to be discovered!

Choice 3: Learn about a WAGGGS Member Organization.

Every WAGGGS Member Organization is unique, with its own uniform, motto, songs, and traditions. Pick one and learn as much as you can about this part of your global Girl Scout/Girl Guide community!

Start by visiting the [WAGGGS](#) website and browsing the Member Organization listings. Look for one with its own website or social media—these links are included in the listings. Explore what you find! As you do this, compare the Member Organization’s traditions with your own. How is this organization different from Girl Scouts? How is it the same? What do Girl Scouts and Girl Guides have in common as part of WAGGGS?

Feeling inspired? Don’t stop there! Choose another country and learn about a new Member Organization. Keep exploring as long as you like—there’s a whole world for you to discover!

**According to the National Center for Education Statistics, School Year 2016–2017.



WAGGGS World Centres

As a Girl Scout, you can visit the WAGGGS World Centres—five amazing destinations made just for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. They’re fun, affordable places to explore new cultures, try exciting programs, and make friends from around the world. Check out the [programs](#) available at the World Centres in Mexico, Switzerland, England, India, and across Africa. Your next adventure awaits!

Go Further

In Step 4, you’ll share what you’ve learned. Before moving on, consider what you learned about another Member Organization. What is it like? What do its Girl Guides do? How is it similar to and different from your Girl Scout council?

Planning to share at a World Thinking Day event? Talk about what it’s like to be a Girl Scout or Girl Guide outside the U.S. Your voice adds to the global story!



STEP 4: Share what you learned and commit to a better future.

Share what you learned about World Thinking Day. Did you connect with someone to learn about their country or culture? Tell your friends about it and share what you discovered. Did you explore something interesting about the World Thinking Day theme? You could share that instead.

Choice 1: Participate in a World Thinking Day event. You and your troop can plan a Take Action project based on the issues you learned about. Or plan an event for friends and family that focuses on the issue. Have food or music from cultures you may have learned about. Invite a guest speaker to talk to your group. Reach out to your troop network to find organizations with experience in global issues, especially one that connects to the theme you learned about. Find out from your guest speaker how you can make a difference. What can you do in your home, community, and the world?

Choice 2: Create a message.

Work with your group to come up with a message about this year's theme. Think about creating flyers or posters with the message you want to share at school, at events, or through social media. Decide if you want to take a photograph or record a video to share your message. Be sure to include the information you learned and one concrete action that people can do to help. If you decide to share on social media, be sure to talk with your parents first and get their permission. Review the Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for more information.

Choice 3: Use design thinking to come up with solutions and share them.

Design thinking is a human-centered approach to solving problems. It's important to make sure that the solutions we come up with are meeting a need

a community says it has, not what we think it needs. So, talk to or learn about community members and the issues they face. Or brainstorm ideas with your troop to specifically help this year's World Thinking Day theme. Then make sure to share it with others.

To do this:

- **Empathize:** First learn about your audience, which includes the people, places, and communities impacted by the problem.
- **Define:** What are their needs?
- **Brainstorm:** Come up with as many creative solutions as possible! All ideas are encouraged! Check back in with community members for their input.
- **Prototype:** Draw or build a representation of your idea. This only needs to be a rough draft to help show your idea.
- **Test:** Share your idea with others and find ways to improve it.

When you are done with all four steps, make sure you celebrate! Working with your global Girl Scout and Girl Guide community to explore this year's theme and earn your World Thinking Day award means you've helped make the world a better place.





The World Thinking Day Story in Four Parts

Supports Step 1

Part 1: A Special Day

In 1926, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world met in the United States and created a special day where we can all think of one another and express thanks for our community of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world. They called it Thinking Day. They chose February 22 because it was the birthday of both Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts and co-founder of Girl Guides (along with his sister Agnes Baden-Powell), and his wife Olave Baden-Powell, who was the Chief Girl Guide.

Part 2: A Birthday Gift

In 1932, at the 7th World Conference in Buczek, Poland, it was pointed out that since a birthday often involves presents, it would be a good idea to offer gifts on Thinking Day to support Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Olave Baden-Powell wrote a letter asking Girl Scouts and Girl Guides to “Send a penny with their thoughts” on Thinking Day.

Part 3: World Thinking Day

In 1999, at the 30th World Conference in Dublin, Ireland, Thinking Day changed to World Thinking Day as a better name to show our connection with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the globe.

Part 4: Coming Together

Each year, World Thinking Day focuses on a theme where the whole community of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the globe works together to find ways to help. This year’s theme is *Our Friendship*.



A Global Movement, Founded in Friendship

Supports Step 3, Choice 1

The Girl Scout story began in May 1911. Juliette Gordon Low, a young American woman who went by the nickname “Daisy,” was spending a few months in Scotland. While she was there, she learned about an organization called Girl Guides. Launched in England in 1909, this program was designed to help girls develop leadership and outdoor skills, a sense of citizenship, and strength of character. Members would do these things as part of organized “patrols” (the word then used instead of troop).

Daisy was inspired! She started her own Girl Guide patrol near her Scotland home that fall, and she organized two more patrols in London when she visited for the winter. She taught her girls how to spin wool and care for livestock, along with knot tying, map reading, knitting, cooking, first aid, and other practical skills.

Learning wasn’t the only goal in Girl Guides. Patrol members would also have fun, make new friends, and form lasting bonds along the way. This aspect of Girl Guides was particularly inspiring to Daisy, who loved the idea of helping girls to connect across boundaries of class, culture, and distance.

As the months went by, Daisy started to think about her home country of America. She thought girls there would love to be Girl Guides. In early 1912, she decided to put her ideas to the test. She returned to her hometown of Savannah, Georgia. When Daisy arrived, she excitedly phoned her cousin. “I’ve got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we’re going to start it tonight!” she exclaimed.

Daisy was as good as her word. She immediately formed two Girl Guide patrols, which included a total of 18 members. More American patrols quickly followed. In 1913, the growing organization’s name was changed to Girl Scouts in a nod to America’s pioneer past. But despite the new name, Girl Scouts remained a proud part of the international organization where it had gotten its start.

Since those early days, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides together have grown into the world’s largest voluntary organization for girls and young women. Joined under the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) umbrella, these organizations support nearly 11 million youth members. They enrich lives through fun, learning, service, and connection. As a Girl Scout today, you’re part of this rich tradition—and it all started with one woman’s dream of global friendship.