



What is Thinking Day?

Each year on February 22, girls participate in activities, games and projects with global themes to honor their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in other countries. All Girl Scouts are automatically part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Traditionally, a girl is presented with her WAGGGS pin at her first Thinking Day Ceremony. There are also 2010 Thinking Day Patches available from Council.

Every part of the World Trefoil pin, a unifying symbol of WAGGGS 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 threefold Promise as originally laid down by the founder;
- The base of the stalk represents the flame of the love of humanity;
- The vein pointing upwards through the center of the trefoil represents the compass needle pointing the way;
- The two stars represent the Promise and Law.



The theme for World Thinking Day 2010 is girls worldwide say "**together we can end extreme poverty and hunger.**" The website for the WAGGGS Global Action Theme is <http://www.waggsworld.org/en/projects/GAT> and there is a document which has some age-specific ideas for thinking about and doing something about poverty and hunger at: http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/world_thinking_day/wtd_guide_2010.pdf

Some ideas for Thinking Day activities:

- Pick one of the 144 WAGGGS countries and learn more about it. Play a game from that country, learn a song, or cook or eat one of it's national foods. For a Junior troop, have each patrol take a country and make a presentation or teach a song or game from that country to the rest of the troop.
- Invite someone who grew up in a different country to come and talk about what it was like growing up as a girl in that country.
- Start a Pen Pal or just a postcard exchange with a troop from another country. Girl Scouts of the USA no longer has a pen pal program, but other Girl Guide and Girl Scout association members may be looking for pen pals. See a list of all the WAGGGS member organizations and their web sites at http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/faqs.asp#penpal From these pages, you can link to individual country Web sites to research pen pal programs. The country probably has a pen pal program if they list a Postal Secretary as a contact. Please keep in mind that other member organizations may not be able to meet the request for pen pals.

- On a world map, have each girl put a sticker or just point out where here ancestors came from.
- The Service Unit has a couple of WAGGGS flags – borrow one to use at a flag ceremony, and then talk about the meaning of the flag.

Two Thinking Day Ceremonies:

To do this ceremony, you need a felt cutout of the WAGGGS pin, which you can make from blue and yellow felt. You'll need a large yellow circle, and then a slightly smaller blue circle (so that when you put the blue circle on top of the yellow circle, there's the yellow border outside of it). Then you need yellow felt cutouts of the trefoil and the fire symbol at the base of the trefoil, the two stars and the compass needle

To start: All participants stand in a horseshoe. Somewhere, have a table or felt board available for the construction of the pin as the ceremony proceeds.

[I think this is a rather abrupt start, so I added something extemporaneous at the start, about the meaning of Thinking Day and the Baden-Powells]

Leader: The horseshoe formation symbolizes the open friendship circle. In the open end of the horseshoe stand our sister Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. If they were actually here, our horseshoe would become a completed circle, having no beginning or end. [Then come a series of questions and answers, which you can divide up in any practical way. We had the people who asked the questions come forward to place the part of the pin they asked about on the felt board while someone else read the answer.]

What is the world pin?

It is the pin of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. We are going to construct such a pin. As we do, let us consider very carefully the reason for its color and design. Then we will know how deep a feeling of international friendship it can inspire in it. What does the gold circle around the edge stand for?

The gold band surrounding our pin symbolizes the sun that shines on children all over the world.

Why is the world pin blue?

The blue background symbolizes the sky above us, all over the world.

Why do we have a trefoil in the World pin?

The gold trefoil is the sign of Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding around the world. The 3 parts of the trefoil stand for the 3 parts of the Promise.

There are 2 stars on the World pin. What does the left star stand for?

The star on the left, the same side as our heart, stands for the pledge that all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides try, on their honor, to keep: the Promise.

What does the other star stand for?

The right star, on the side of a helping hand, stands for the Girl Guide and Girl Scout code of conduct--the GG/GS Law.

What does the pointer in the middle stand for?

We place a compass needle in the center, to serve as a guide pointing towards the right way in life.

What does the base of the trefoil mean?

At the base of the trefoil we place the flame. Its burning represents love for humanity and international friendship.

[At this point we presented world pins to the girls who didn't yet have them--we had older girls present them to the younger girls, and we ended with the Promise.]

Each girl stands in a circle with a strip of yellow construction paper with a small piece of tape on the end. On each strip is written the name of a country where there are Girl Scouts or Girl Guides, and possibly what one of the different age levels is called in that country, or a portion of the Promise or Law from that country. (Some countries are listed at http://guidezone.eguiding.com/liz_events_goldenlink) **Leader:** As Girl Scouts we are not only members of our own troop, and Girl Scouts of the United States, but we have 'Sister' Girl Scouts or Girl Guides in 136 countries around the world. Each of our Sister Scouts has accepted a Promise and Law much like our own. In the Netherlands, a Girl Guide is called a Padvindster. As Padvindster's close their meetings with a friendship circle, each girl says in turn. "I am a link in the golden chain of world friendship, and I will keep my link strong and bright." As each of us adds a link to build our Golden Chain of Friendship, let's think about our Sister Scouts in other countries. About how things may be different for them but also about how much we are the same and about how each of us is an important link in the Golden Chain of Friendship **All together:** Say Promise or Promise and Law. Each girl in turn, reads her country and information (see list below) and adds her strip to the growing chain. The last link added should close the chain. Optionally, each girl could also add a link with her own name on it. **Leader:** Repeat after me the saying from Padvinsters in the Netherlands. All Together: 'I am a Link in the Golden Chain of World Friendship, and I will keep my link strong and bright.' You can end the ceremony with a song such as 'Girl Scouts Together', 'On My Honor', 'Change the World' or 'Circle of Friends'.

Some useful websites:

Several good ideas for ceremonies, games, songs about Thinking Day:

http://guidezone.eguiding.com/liz_events.htm

GSUSA website with links to a brief summary about Scouts or Guides in all 144 member countries: http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/world_thinking_day/tour/

Directions for making "flag pins" with safety pins and beads:

http://www.makingfriends.com/safepin/sp_flags_olympic.htm

Lots of international games at: http://www.gameskidsplay.net/games/foreign_indexes/index.htm