

## Ideas for Spring

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## Girl Scout Traditions: Girl Scout Birthday



Party games during your meeting are a fun way to celebrate the birthday of Girl Scouts.

**Fishing for Ice Cream** is a game played at celebrations in Norway. You will need a variety of ice cream bars and popsicles, long piece of rope and a clothespin. Prepare by attaching the clothespin to the rope. To play, the girls will toss the rope over a balcony, staircase or porch one at a time. Someone at the other end clips on a ice cream bar. The girls pulls in her fishing line to discover what treat she has caught.

**Pass the Parcel** is often played at parties in Nigeria. You will need wrapping paper or newspaper, wrapped candy, small prizes and scotch tape. Prepare by wrapping a small prize. Continue adding layers of wrapping paper with a small prize or candy in each layer. To play, the girls will sit in a circle. They pass the parcel while the music plays. When it stops the girl with the parcel will get to unwrap one layer of paper and keep her treat.



For other fun birthday games, crafts and treats from around the world try *Happy Birthday Everywhere* by Arlene Erlback

## Girl Scout Traditions: Flowers for Leaders

April is the time to say a special thank you to the leaders who work so hard all year. A flower made by the girls for the leaders in your Service Unit could be the special touch.

**Carnation Pencils:** You will need 2 sheets of colored paper or tissue paper, scotch tape, a pencil and floral tape. Cut both 8 x11 1/2 sheet of paper in half lengthwise. Cut 4 long slits in each strip of paper, leaving a half inch at the top and a half inch at the bottom not cut, similar to the weaving project in the Colors and Shapes Try-it.

Put a piece of scotch tape on the metal part of the pencil. The tape needs to be long enough to go around the pencil one time and leave a 1/4 inch sticking out. Line up one strip of paper with the bottom uncut part to the tape. Fold the top down the meet the bottom, uncut parts lining up. This makes the loops of the flower. Rotate the paper around the pencil top and tape secure. Add the following 3 strips directly over top of the first in the same way to make the flower fuller. Cover taped area and pencil with floral tape.



**Tulip:** You will need 3 plastic spoons, nail polish in a tulip color, masking tape and floral tape. Paint the spoons with polish and dry. Hold 3 spoons together with the inside curves facing in toward each other. Wrap handles with masking tape. Cover masking tape with floral tape.

**Dandelion:** You will need yellow yarn, green chenille stem, tacky craft glue and green fun foam. Wrap the yarn around your hand 15 to 20 times. Carefully cut the loops. Lay the yarn pieces down. Using an extra piece of yarn tie the bundle together in the middle. Wrap the stem around this center twice and leave the rest down. Fray the yarn pieces to make the flower full by unwinding the fibers. Cut leaves from foam and glue to stem.

For other great seasonal crafts try *Crafts for All Seasons* by Kathy Ross.

### Coming in the Spring

Cookie Booth Sales—March

Girl Scout Birthday—March 12

QSP Sales—March

Leader Appreciation Day—April 22

Annual Meeting—April

## Swap: Butterfly Clip

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For a large butterfly you will need:  
wobble eyes  
green chenille stem

Ziploc sandwich bag  
glue stick and tacky glue  
green paint

clothespin  
confetti  
tissue paper



Paint the clothespin green. Cut different colors of tissue paper into small pieces of different shapes. Open and lightly add glue to the inside of the bag. Sprinkle tissue and confetti inside bag arranging as desired. Close bag. Fold bag like a fan and clip into clothespin. Glue on eyes and a small piece of stem for antennae.

For a small butterfly glue confetti to a 2 inch by 2 inch square of tissue. Use a mini clothespin found in the craft department.

## Seasonal Fun: Sidewalk Chalk

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You will need: 1/3 cup Plaster of Paris  
3 Tbsp. Water  
1 Tbsp powder tempera paint  
molds such as candy molds, cupcake pan, cookie cutters, ice cube trays,  
paper cups or toilet tissue rolls

Mix ingredients well. Quickly put the mixture into your mold. Let dry for 30 to 45 minutes before removing from mold. If your mold is paper, you will need to peel it away.

Look for other great craft recipes in *The Ultimate Book of Kids Concoctions* by John E. Thomas & Danita Page

## Seasonal Fun: Four Square

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Use your handmade chalk to play this game. You will also need a yardstick and a tennis ball. Using the chalk and yardstick draw a 3 yard by 3 yard box on the sidewalk. There needs to be 4 players per box, so the girls will need to take turns or prepare more than one box. Divide each box into 4 equal parts and mark them, King, Queen, Jack and Joker. Each player stands in one of the 4 smaller boxes. The King must bounce the ball hard enough to reach one of the other players in one bounce. The other player catches it and then does the same. If the ball does not reach a new person in one bounce, the bouncer is out. If it does but the new player misses it, they become the dunce and everyone but the king moves up a rank. The point is to become king so players try to get the king out. For taking turns with more than 4 girls, when a player is out and everyone moves up a rank, a new player may enter as the Joker. The game has no ending.



## Seasonal Fun: Plastic Bag Saver

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April 22 is Earth Day and a wonderful opportunity to talk with the girls about recycling and taking care of our earth. Make a cute container to encourage saving and reusing all those plastic shopping bags.

You will need:  
an empty, oblong tissue box                      brown paint                      5 green pompom balls  
2 wiggle eyes

Stand the box on end and paint (2 coats) to look like a tree trunk. Glue pompom balls across top for a caterpillar. Glue eyes to your caterpillar. Stuff with bags.

## Girl Scout Traditions: Make Your Bridging a Rainbow of Fun

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Your troop's bridging can be more than a ceremony. It can be a fun celebration.

Bridging ceremonies can be found in *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting* from GSUSA. After the ceremony take is a good time to play a few games.

- 1) Decorate with a **Handprint Rainbow**. Girls trace their hands, cut them out and write their names on them. Each girl should make one hand in each color of the rainbow. Arrange the hands on the wall in the shape of a rainbow.
- 2) Make **Rainbow Paper** to use for other decorations, invitations, programs or whatever you like. Be sure to cover your work space. In a cup, mix 1/4 cup oil with 2 Tbsp red powder tempera paint. Mix well. Repeat for blue and yellow. Place 1 cup of water in the bottom of a cookie sheet. Add some of each of the three color mixtures and stir. Press a sheet of paper into mixture and let sit for a few minutes. Lift by one end and let excess water and oil drip off. After paper dries you can create a wonderful addition to the bridging ceremony.
- 3) How about decorations you can eat? Make a **Rainbow Chain** by cutting fruit roll ups with clean scissors into 7 inch strips. Use the strips to make a chain for decoration or a ceremony by pinching loops together with fingers.
- 4) **Rainbow Bagels**: Slice a bagel open then cut each half in half to make 4 rainbow shapes. Color whipped cream cheese with food coloring. Girls can decorate their rainbows with plastic knives or icing bags.
- 5) **Rainbow in a Cup**: This will have to be done the day before because it takes awhile. Mix red Jell-O, add 1/2 inch or so to the bottom of each clear plastic cup and let set. Repeat this step every few hours adding another a new rainbow color. Top with a fluffy white cloud of whipped topping.
- 6) **Rainbow Treats**: You will need 1/4 cup butter or margarine, 1 10.5oz bag Miniature Marshmallows and 6 cups Fruity Pebbles cereal. Melt butter or margarine in large sauce pan over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir constantly until completely melted. Remove from heat. Add cereal and stir until well coated. Using buttered spatula or waxed paper, press mixture evenly into buttered 9 x 13 pan. Cut into squares when cool. Makes 24, 2 x 2 squares.
- 7) **Balloons of Every Color**: Make a pile of balloons in the middle of the room. There should be one of every color for every girl minus one (12 girls need 11 balloons of each color). All the color names are put in a bag and the girls all stand in a circle around the pile. Someone draws out and calls a color. Girls race to get a balloon of that color. The girl without a balloon is out. Take out one balloon of every color and play again until one girl is left.
- 8) **Rainbow Mix-up**: Girls all pick a color of the rainbow to be and sit in chair making a big circle. One girl standing in the center (*It*) who has no chair. *It* calls a color. Everyone with that color has to switch chairs while *It* tries to steal a seat. The girl without a seat becomes *It*.



## Girl Scout Traditions: Ideas for Presenting Earned Awards

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*Ceremonies in Girl Scouting* from GSUSA shows a paper trefoil with ribbons hanging from it to attach awards (try-its, badges or IP's) for presenting.

Here are a few more ideas.

- 1) Other tops to the ribbons that mean something to the girls such as key chains, pony bead critters, candy bars, ornaments or bookmarks.
- 2) A cute stuffed buddy wearing a small sash made from felt with awards attached.
- 3) A small book with blank pages. Put an award on each page and write a memory of the girl during the time she worked on it. Leave extra pages for the troop to sign and add memories.
- 4) Awards attached to a cardboard frame with a troop picture or troop made certificate inside. Overhead transparency frames work well.
- 5) You can get fun shaped push pin boards from the crafts stores made from fun foam and push pin awards into it.
- 6) Put awards inside a large balloon and blow them up. Have a fun ceremony to pop the balloons.
- 7) Tape awards to thin dowel rods or floral sticks and arrange in a pot of real or hand-made flowers.

