

Eternal Flame Ceremony

Gather everyone in a circle. Give a copy of this ceremony and a candle to each person. You will need: an Eternal Flame candle (if you don't have one, ask Council), small candles for each person attending (birthday candles work great), lighter.

Host: "Welcome to our Investiture & Rededication Ceremony. Tonight, we are going to have a very special candle ceremony to show our belief in Girl Scouts and to recognize the commitment of our new Girl Scout Leaders. The candle we are going to use in this ceremony is not an ordinary candle, and we are going to read a story to tell us why! May I please have five volunteers to read the story?"

(Bring 5 volunteers to front of circle)

Volunteer: This candle has been lit by an Eternal Flame that has been passed along since the beginning of Girl Scouting! It was first lit by the founder of Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low, when she did a special candle ceremony with her original Girl Scout troop.

Volunteer: The girls in her troop had grown older and they were breaking up and moving on. She wanted her girls to carry a special spark with them on their journeys. As the girls stood in a circle holding candles that they had made, Juliette knew what spark it was that she wanted to pass on. She lit her candle and spoke to them.

Volunteer: She said: "With this candle I give you each something very special to pass on. As I light the candle on my right, I ask each of you to light the candle to your right and pass it around the circle. I want you to carry this thought with you wherever you go. This is the Eternal Flame for Girl Scouts."

Volunteer: She said "These are now very special candles. They are not to be used for any purpose but to pass on the Eternal Flame. You may only use it in Girl Scout ceremonies such as campfires, bridging, or court of awards ceremonies. I'm glad we were able to start a special tradition based on our Eternal Flame."

Volunteer: Some of these girls went on to start their own Girl Scout troops where they used their Eternal Flames to light other candles. And on and on it went until today!

(Show Our Eternal Flame Candle)

Host: So, as you see, this small, ordinary looking candle that we have here is actually very special. It was lit with the Eternal Flame at a candle lighting ceremony at Camp Hoffman several years ago. If you look closely, you will see that the wick is black. That is what is left of the Eternal Flame. By relighting this candle, we are sharing a bit of every flame that went before it, right back to the one lit by Juliette Gordon Low.

(Turn of the lights and light the Eternal Flame Candle)

Host: Today I ask you all to come light your own candles with the Eternal Flame so you can take them back to your Girl Scouts and carry on the tradition to the next generation.

(Everyone lights their own candle with Eternal Flame candle)

Host: As a tiny flame is passed from person to person, it's light grows brighter and brighter as more candles are lit. This is as Juliette Low's dream was... that as Girl Scouting was spread from girl to girl, it would become a bright beacon for girls everywhere. May we all keep her dream alive forever.

(Put out the candles with a snuffer and turn on the lights).

Host: When your candle burns down, be sure to use it to light a new candle. In this way, you will be able to continue the tradition.