



From the CEO's Desk

January 30, 2013

World Thinking Day: February 22



In less than one month, Girl Scouts across the world will be celebrating World Thinking Day. From the time I was a Girl Scout Junior, this day has been very special to me and I want those of you who are new to Girl Scouting to recognize the special sisterhood of Girl Scouting. I know that my love of travel comes from Girl Scouting and the belief that I truly have friends all around the world thanks to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the sisterhood that links us all.

Thinking Day was first created in 1926 at the fourth Girl Guide/Girl Scout International Conference held at Girl Scouts of the USA's Camp Edith Macy (now called Edith Macy Conference Center). Conference attendees decided that there should be a special day for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world to "think" of each other and give thanks and appreciation to their "sister" Girl Scouts. The delegates chose February 22 as the date for Thinking Day because it was the mutual birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement, and his wife, Olave, who served as World Chief Guide.

In 1932, at the seventh World Conference, held in Poland, a Belgian delegate suggested that since birthdays usually involve presents, girls could show their appreciation and friendship on Thinking Day not only by extending warm wishes, but by offering a voluntary contribution to the World Association. This is how the World Association's Thinking Day Fund began. The fund helps offer Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting to more girls and young women worldwide. Girl Scouts of the USA, through its Juliette Low World Friendship Fund contributes to the World Thinking Day Fund.

To emphasize the global aspect of Thinking Day, members at the 30th World Conference, held in Ireland in 1999, changed the name from *Thinking Day* to *World Thinking Day*.

There are special activities your girls can do this coming month to celebrate World Thinking Day. Please read below to learn more.

World Thinking Day 2013

Each year on February 22, World Thinking Day, girls participate in activities and projects with global themes to honor their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in other countries. World Thinking Day is part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Global Action Theme (GAT), based on the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aim to improve the lives of the world's poorest people.

Girl Scouts of the USA is addressing the following theme for World Thinking Day 2013: girls worldwide say "together we can save children's lives." This theme is based on Millennium Development Goal 4, which is focused on reducing child mortality rates around the globe.

World Thinking Day not only gives girls a chance to celebrate international friendships, but is also a reminder that Girl Scouts of the USA is part of a global community—one of nearly 150 countries that are members of WAGGGS. WAGGGS selected five countries of focus for World Thinking Day 2013 to represent the five WAGGGS regions: Jordan (Arab Region), Malawi (Africa), Pakistan (Asia/Pacific), Republic of Ireland (Europe) , Venezuela (Western Hemisphere).

The World Thinking Day award activities are designed to complement the Girl Scout leadership journeys and reinforce the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (PDF).

The World Thinking Day Award for:

- Girl Scout Daisies
- Girl Scout Brownies
- Girl Scout Juniors
- Girl Scout Cadettes
- Girl Scout Seniors
- Girl Scout Ambassadors

Yours in sisterhood,

Pam

Pam Hyland

President/CEO