



## Short & Snappy Express Train

### Station 4: Bridging

Bridging is an important transition in a Girl Scout's life. It's a defining moment when a girl becomes aware of her achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities. Celebrating this change should be fun, personalized, and memorable for everyone involved. And most of all, it should be designed by the girls in true partnership with adults. Bridging ceremonies usually take place at the beginning or end of the Girl Scout year and can have three parts:

- **Opening:** Guests are welcomed and the tone is set.
- **Main Section:** The ceremony is explained and the girls celebrate moving from one level to the next.
- **Closing:** Girls can participate in friendship circles and thank their guests.

Each of the ceremony's parts offers plenty of room for the girls' creativity and individuality. And whether the ceremony includes an actual bridge or a symbolic one, or if it includes props such as candles, flowers, or flags, it should always focus on paying tribute to the girls as they move forward.

### Earning the Award

- Two steps for all age levels
  - **Step 1: Pass It On!** – Inspire younger girls by sharing what it's like to be a Girl Scout at your current age level
    - Teach younger girls the Girl Scout Promise or Law
    - Share a story about your experience as a Girl Scout
    - Tell younger girls about your Journey and Take Action Project
    - Play a game with younger girls that you love to play
    - Teach younger girls how to make your favorite craft
    - Invite younger girls to your meeting or fun activity
    - Share photos from a trip you took recently
    - Show younger girls why it's great to be a Girl Scout
  - **Step 2: Look Ahead!** - Find out what Girl Scouts do at the next age level
    - Have the older girls teach you a game or song that they enjoy
    - Ask the older girls to show you their Journey awards and share how they earned them
    - Ask the older girls about the activities they enjoyed and why
    - Talk to the older girls about any special award they earned (Bronze, Silver or Gold Award) and find out how they chose their project.
    - Find out what trips or activities the older girls enjoyed
- **Celebrate!** Congratulations – you've earned your Bridging award. Celebrate with a favorite ceremony or make up a new one.



Bridge to Brownie



Bridge to Junior



Bridge to Cadette



Bridge to Senior



Bridge to Ambassador

## Bridge to Adult - Earning the Award

Complete two bridging steps to earn the Bridge to Girl Scout Adult Award, the last award that can be earned as a girl member.



- **Bridging Step One: Pass It On!**  
Share your talents and skills by teaching younger Girl Scouts one thing you learned to do as an Ambassador.
- **Bridging Step Two: Look Ahead!**  
Find out what Girl Scout Adults do
- **Plan a Ceremony**  
Congratulations! You've earned your Bridge to Girl Scout Adult Award! Celebrate with a favorite ceremony you've learned in your time as a Girl Scout.

Once you have bridged, you may register as an adult. A special lifetime membership, at a reduced cost, is offered to registered Girl Scout Ambassadors at the time of their high school graduation, provided they apply for lifetime membership before their current annual membership expires.

### Brownie Wings

Brownie Girl Scout Wings show that a girl has completed her years as a Brownie. She is ready to "fly up" to Junior Girl Scouting. All girls who were once Brownie Girl Scouts earn their wings, and wear them on their Junior and Older Girl vest or sash.



### The Bridge

Bridging ceremonies often utilize a bridge as a prop. The bridge might be specially made for use in Service Unit or Council ceremonies, or it might be a real bridge in a park or scenic area. The act of crossing is a physical, as well as a symbolic, step into the future. If you choose to use a real bridge, one is available for check-out from both Council Offices.



Other items used in such ceremonies might include:

- Flags
- Candles
- Daisies
- Displays or troop scrapbooks
- Whatever the girls plan for their ceremony

Outdoor ceremonies can be memorable for all involved. Just be sure to have a backup plan for bad weather. Be sure to invite the family members to this memorable event!

### Websites

<http://gsleaders.org/files/bridge.htm>

<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/SubPages/BridgingCeremonies.htm>

San Francisco Bridging event – this fills fast! Be ready to register in October or November.

<http://www.girlscoutsnorcal.org/pages/events/ggb.html>