

## Bridging at Home Guide

Bridging at home provides the opportunity and flexibility for Girl Scouts and Troop leaders to implement a Bridging ceremony from the convenience of their own home. This guide will help to show different ways to create a ceremony that can be accessible to Girl Scouts and their families no matter where they are.

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. The Bridging ceremony should always focus on paying tribute to Girl Scouts as they move forward.

### Virtual Bridging

- **Hold a live virtual ceremony using online platforms:**
  - [Facebook live](#)
  - [Zoom](#)
  - [Skype](#)
  - [Webex Meetings](#)
  - Other free online platform
- Create an Avatar to use during the ceremony. Click [here](#) to check out Avatar resources.
- Check out [GSHPA's Tips & Tricks for Facilitating Virtual Troop Meetings](#). The tips and tricks can be helpful for hosting a virtual ceremony.
- Remember to stay safe online by checking out the [Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge](#).
- **Create a slideshow of pictures or a video celebrating the bridging girls**
  - Have families submit photos of their girls crossing bridges in the community, or their homemade bridges.
  - Include congratulatory messages from families and troop volunteers to each of the girls
  - Take the time to celebrate the accomplishments of each of girl during their time in the Troop.

- Send video to families and have them follow along with the ceremony. Provide a guide for the families to help their girl participate.

### **Planning the Ceremony:**

Once the ceremony platform is chosen, work with your troop on how they would want the ceremony to look. Get creative when thinking about the:

- Opening
- Presentation
- Crossing
- Closing

Create a follow along guide for the families to help assist with the bridging ceremony at home.

Check out the resources below:

[Daisy](#), [Brownie](#), [Junior](#), [Cadette](#), [Senior](#), [Ambassador](#)

### **Creating a bridge at home**

Girls can get creative with making their own bridge they can cross during the virtual ceremony.

- Create a bridge with found objects that will be safe to cross
- Take a picture at a bridge in the community
- Create a tunnel to walk under
- Create your own stepping stones to walk across

Take a look at the STEAM Bridging Week activity to help girls learn how to create their own bridge.

### **Learn the Girl Scout Handshake**

Click [here](#) to learn the Girl Scout Handshake

### **Non virtual bridging ideas**

- Create a step by step guide for families to conduct their own ceremonies.
  - Have families document the ceremony through video or pictures that can be shared with the Troop leader.
- Create a bridging obstacle course or scavenger hunt for the girls to do at home

### **Resources for Troop leaders**

Click [here](#) to download the Bridging Certificate

Click [here](#) to download the Bridging Ceremony Invitation