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## World Thinking Day Toolkit

Joining forces with sisters in 150 countries around the world to affect change on a global level? Nope, it's not the tale of fictional heroes in a comic book - it's the real story behind World Thinking Day!

There's strength in the unity of Girl Scouts around the globe, and on World Thinking Day, celebrated every February 22, we honor that mighty global sisterhood. The day is, of course, about more than just thinking: it's about taking action, knowing that every girl has the power to make a positive impact on her world.

World Thinking Day is the perfect opportunity for you as a troop leader to get your girls to think big and you might learn some new things along the way too! By exploring meaningful issues beyond their local communities, girls cultivate the big-picture thinking, empathy and determination that help them better connect to the world around them and play major roles in making it better.



Share your World Thinking Day activities at <https://girlscoutsp2p.wufoo.com/forms/m1lv9ord0iz8cho/> for a chance to be featured on GSCP2P's social pages!



## What is World Thinking Day

On February 22 of each year, 10 million Girl Scouts from 150 countries celebrate World Thinking Day. World Thinking Day is a way for Girl Scouts all over the world to celebrate, connect and learn about and take action on a global issue that affects girls and young women around the world.

## History of World Thinking Day

In 1926, Girl Scout and Girl Guide delegates from around the globe met at Camp Edith Macy in New York for the 4th World Conference. Among other decisions, they agreed that there should be a special annual day when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world think of each other and express their thanks for their sisters around the world. They chose to call it Thinking Day and celebrate it every February 22. This date was selected to honor the birthdays of Girl Guide founders Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.

Six years later in 1932, during the 7th World Conference in Bucze, Poland, a Belgian Girl Guide delegate pointed out that a birthday usually involves gifts. It was suggested girls could show their appreciation on Thinking Day by offering gifts to support Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Later that year, Lady Baden-Powell wrote a letter to all Girl Scouts and Girl Guides telling them about this idea and asked them to "Send a penny with their thoughts." Today, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world help by contributing to the World Thinking Day Fund or the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.

In 1999, at the 30th World Conference in Dublin, Ireland, delegates from around the world wanted to emphasize the international aspect of the day and the global nature of the Girl Scout Movement, so they changed the name to World Thinking Day.



# World Thinking Day Event Planning

## Theme

Over the years, World Thinking Day has become a way for girls to learn about issues that affect other girls and young women all over the world. Every year, World Thinking Day has a different theme that Girl Scouts around the world can learn about and take action on.

In 2023, the theme is “Our World, Our Peaceful Future: The environment, peace, and security.” To earn your World Thinking Day Award, you will explore environmental problems and learn how you can work with nature to create a more peaceful and secure future for girls everywhere.

## Opening

The opening will be the official start of the World Thinking Day celebration. This is a time to welcome everyone, get the girls excited about the event, discuss any housekeeping items and participate in a traditional Girl Scout ceremony.

Every service unit and troop has their own traditions for openings at events. Use your own opening here, but be sure to include:

- Gather everyone together in the designated space for the opening. Be sure to include the presenters and anyone leading activities.
- Welcome everyone to the event.
- Introduce yourself and the event committee.
- Discuss any housekeeping items – such things as where the bathrooms are, activities, etc.
- Remind girls to clean up after themselves and give a quick overview of the event.



## World Thinking Day Award Activities

There are five steps to earning your World Thinking Day award:

1. Explore World Thinking Day.
2. Find out about environmental problems around the world.
3. Explore the environment's link to peace and security.
4. Investigate ways to protect communities and ecosystems.
5. Commit to a better future for the environment, peace and security.



The first four steps have choices that will help you explore World Thinking Day and the connection of nature to peace and security. You'll find out why it's important to protect the environment during times of conflict and how it plays a role in peacemaking. In step five, you'll come up with a project to help you commit to a better future for the environment, peace and security.

## World Thinking Day — Daisies, Brownies, Juniors

Additional activity choices for Daisies, Brownies and Juniors can be found in the World Thinking Day Award requirements on GSUSA's World Thinking Day page at:

**[https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/gsusa/forms-and-documents/members/global/documents/GSUSA\\_World-Thinking-Day-2023-Activity-Guide-DBJ.pdf](https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/gsusa/forms-and-documents/members/global/documents/GSUSA_World-Thinking-Day-2023-Activity-Guide-DBJ.pdf)**

## World Thinking Day — Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors

Additional activity choices for Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors can be found in the World Thinking Day Award requirements on GSUSA's World Thinking Day page at:

**[https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/gsusa/forms-and-documents/members/global/documents/GSUSA\\_World-Thinking-Day-2023-Activity-Guide-CSA.pdf](https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/gsusa/forms-and-documents/members/global/documents/GSUSA_World-Thinking-Day-2023-Activity-Guide-CSA.pdf)**