Virtual Bridging

BRIDGING AWARDS FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS

Bridging is an important Girl Scout tradition that honors girls’ achievements and celebrates their “crossing the bridge” to the next Girl Scout level. Here are some ideas for completing bridging awards and celebrating bridging while staying safe at home and maintaining social distance.

Bridging can be done anytime in the spring, summer, or fall, so if your troop prefers to wait and have a more traditional in-person bridging, that is okay, too.

Please note that girls are not required to earn a bridging award to move to the next level of Girl Scouting or to participate in bridging ceremonies and events.
Step 1 Pass It On
Step 2 Look Ahead!

**Step 1:** Look back at what you have accomplished and what you have experienced and pass on a bit of your knowledge to younger Girl Scouts. Here are some ideas:

1. Make a word cloud. [www.wordart.com](http://www.wordart.com)
2. Create a badge scavenger hunt of your favorite badges using the Badge Explorer or Girl Guide. Find helpful information about navigating the Badge Explorer and the Volunteer Toolkit [here](http://www.kslearning.com).
3. Create a Kahoot! game [www.kahoot.com](http://www.kahoot.com) featuring your troop experiences.
4. Make a slide show or video with troop highlights.
5. Record part of a virtual troop meeting with girls sharing their favorite Girl Scout memories.
6. Write a letter or send a postcard to girls in a younger troop.
7. Tell a younger sister about recent Girl Scout activities.

**Step 2:** Connect with Girl Scouts at the level you are bridging to and find out about the exciting adventures that lie ahead. Here are some ideas:

1. View a Pass It On activity that another troop has created.
2. Talk to an older Girl Scout about their favorite Girl Scout activities.
3. Research opportunities that girls will have at their new level of Girl Scouting. The Volunteer Toolkit is an excellent resource for that. Find helpful information about using the Volunteer Toolkit [here](http://www.kslearning.com).
4. Share a goal or wish for your next year of Girl Scouting.

If you need help making a connection with an older or younger troop to work with in completing bridging steps, please contact your Troop Support Specialist. If you don’t know your Troop Support Specialist, please call Volunteer Care at 888-771-5170. They will be happy to put you in touch with your Troop Support Specialist.
Celebrate!

Here are some ideas for bridging “ceremonies” to help you celebrate moving to a new Girl Scout level:

1. Hold a bridging parade. Organize Girl Scout families and friends to decorate their vehicles and “parade” past the homes of the girls who are bridging to celebrate.

2. Make a bridging slide show/video. Ask girls, with the help of their parent/caregiver, to find a bridge at a park or similar safe location and have parents take a picture or video of their girl crossing the bridge.

3. Have a drive thru bridging. Make a symbolic bridge with a line of vehicles or with decorations such as balloons, ribbons, crepe paper, etc. and have parents/caregivers drive their girl “across the bridge”.

4. Drop off a surprise. The surprise could be a bridging patch or her new vest/sash.* Other options are: a certificate, bridging or rainbow themed favor or small gift; supplies/kit to make something with a rainbow theme.

5. Decorate the sidewalk. Use chalk to decorate sidewalks or driveways at the homes of girls who are bridging. Draw rainbows for bridging and other Girl Scout symbols.

6. Hold a traditional bridging ceremony virtually. Have the girls plan what they will do and invite their families and friends. Here is a great resource that will help you figure out how to set up a virtual meeting.

Is your troop planning on waiting to have a bridging ceremony later? Have your girls make and decorate a “stepping stone” out or cardboard or paper. When you are able to get together for your in-person bridging, use the stepping stones to make a path to your bridge.

You may purchase Girl Scout uniforms, badges, patches and other items from the Girl Scouts of the USA online store here or directly from the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana shop here, especially if you need GSK-specific items.
Inspiration

Here are some ideas for favors and decorations that can be adapted for virtual or socially-distant bridging. Pinterest is a good source for more inspiration.