

Short & Snappy

World Thinking Day

What's a Short & Snappy?

- A short training/information segment provided at a Service Unit meeting or for leaders to use at troop meetings.
- Any interested volunteer may lead a Short and Snappy.
- Short & Snappies are usually 10-45 minutes in length.

Things to Remember

- Stay within the allotted time (you're taking up a piece of their agenda time).
- If you don't know the answer, seek the correct answer from the appropriate person.
- Bring the necessary supplies for your short & snappy.

What you'll need

- Copy of Short & Snappy
- Information on this year's World Thinking Day Theme.
- Paper & Pens for brainstorming.

Introduction

1 minute

Each year on February 22, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides celebrate World Thinking Day by helping identify community needs and advocating for themselves and others, locally and globally. It is a day when they think about others around the world, the meaning of Guiding, and its global impact.

Each year has its own theme, such as helping the environment, fighting poverty, achieving gender equality, or making sure everyone has access to education. On this day, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world honor their global community by doing activities around this special theme

History & Tradition

5 minutes

Thinking Day was first created in 1926 at the fourth Girl Guide/Girl Scout World Conference held at Girl Scouts of the USA 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 7th 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.



Activity

15 minutes

World Thinking Day is about more than just thinking; it's about taking action, and recognizing that every girl has the power to make a positive impact on her world. That makes it the perfect opportunity for you to get your girls to think big, by exploring meaningful issues. In doing so, girls cultivate big-picture thinking, empathy, and determination that help them better connect to the world around them.

How can YOU celebrate World Thinking Day? Let's take a look at just a few examples below then break off into small groups and brainstorm how you and your troop create an experience for World Thinking Day that helps you learn more about the world and your place in it.

Be Prepared

If you are leading this Short & Snappy, research this year's World Thinking Day theme ahead of time, then introduce to everyone before they break into groups, so they are aware of the current theme and any important concepts.

1 Explore the theme and earn an award:

Every year the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts selects a theme for girls to explore and take action around then puts out a World Thinking Day Activity Packet. Use the activity packet to earn the World Thinking Day award.

Activity Packets can be accessed through

- [The GSUSA Website](#)
- [The Volunteer Toolkit](#)
- [The WAGGGS Website](#)

2 Transport your troop to another country:

Celebrate the cultures of fellow Girl Scouts and Girl Guides by hosting a World Thinking Day event for your troop and their families. Keep it girl led. Ask your Girl Scouts about countries they would like to learn more about or topics to explore as part of planning for the event.

Introduce new countries or cultures to your troop:

3 Invite a guest speaker with a global perspective to open your girls' eyes to a whole new world. Consider members of your network who grew up abroad, or a returned Peace Corps volunteer.

Learn about global issues that impact girls:

4 Help foster cross-cultural conversations by asking your Girl Scouts how larger global issues might be experienced on a local level. Discuss issues they may already be aware of and introduce ones they may not have encountered. Then discuss how they would find sustainable solutions.

After brainstorming in groups, come back together and report out on the ideas you have come up with. Remind the group to keep the brainstorm going with their Girl Scouts and keep it Girl Led by letting them ultimately decide how they would like to celebrate World Thinking Day.

Ideas adapted from this guide: <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/tips-for-troopleaders/traditions/exploring-a-world-of-possibilities-with-your-girls.html>

Did you know?

The World Thinking Day award is an official award and should be worn on the front of the official uniform sash or vest.

Girl Scouts can earn the award at any time during the year by completing activities from the World Thinking Day Activity Packet.

