

February 2022

We hope you enjoy this monthly newsletter. Our goal is to nurture and build stronger faith partners. Everything in Girl Scouting is based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law, which includes many of the principles and values common across religions. So while we are a secular organization, Girl Scouts has always encouraged girls to take spiritual journeys via their faiths' religious recognitions.



Girl Scouts are friend-makers!

Through our Girl Scout Promise and Law, we dedicate ourselves to helping others and being friendly. We know that sometimes a girl needs a little help to step out of her comfort zone and make a friend. Being reserved or shy shouldn't stop a girl from having a super fun social life at school, church or in her circle.

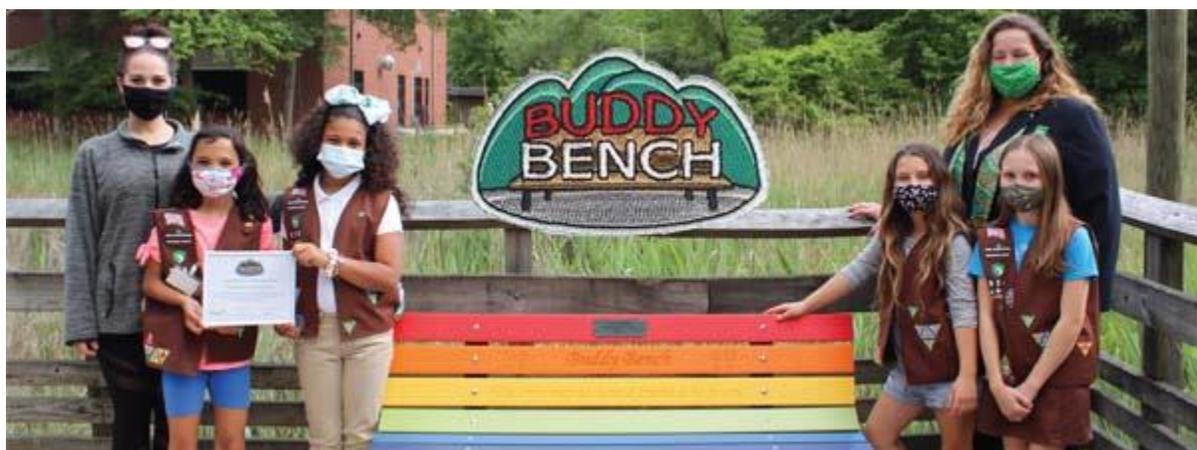
If a girl is having trouble making friends, suggest some of these oh-so-simple

ice breakers that will help her meet new kids and hopefully form lifelong friendships!

1. **“The cat on your shirt is so cute! I love cats, too—do you have one?”** Teach her to look for cues that she and the other person have something in common, like a character that might be on her clothing or lunch bag.
2. **“Have you read anything cool lately?”** Asking about something particular, like a book she may have read or a movie she may have seen, gives them a clear subject to talk about and can lead to plenty of other topics. Just make sure she has a book in mind to talk about in case the other girl wants to know what she’s been reading, too!
3. **“I thought the story you wrote was awesome! What made you write about outer space?”** Everyone loves a sincere compliment, and following it up with a question about what she’s accomplished will show a genuine curiosity and hopefully lead to a great discussion!
4. **“I’m signing up for Girl Scouts this year—are you?”** Bringing up a potential shared experience will get the girls talking, even if they’re not both doing the same activities.
5. **“Do you want to share my orange?”** Being generous with toys or snacks is a universal offering of friendship, and will likely spark a conversation between the two girls.
6. **“How did you feel about today’s game?”** If the girls are on the same soccer team, or even in the same classroom in school, they’ll have plenty of shared experiences they can discuss. All it takes is your daughter to bring one of them up!
7. **“Want to study for the vocab quiz together?”** Suggesting tackling an activity that both girls have to do anyway will make the task easier on both of them, and give them a chance to get to know each other better.

Having to make new friends might be intimidating to any child, so go over these ideas and see if they can come up with more on their own. Of course, not every person they meet will want to be friends, and that’s OK, but the more they put themselves out there and connect with other kids, the more opportunities they have to grow their social circle.

Troop takes action on friend-making!



Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 916, A Place for Girls received a Buddy Bench. The idea came to the girls when they worked on World Thinking Day patch requirements and had a discussion on diversity, equality and inclusion. The girls used some of their cookie proceeds to purchase two Buddy Benches, one for GSCCC and the other for Fun Forest located in Chesapeake City Park. The purpose of a buddy bench is simple—if a child feels lonely, they can go to the bench as a signal to others that they want a playmate!

From left to right: Jeannette Rincon, Leader of Troop 916, Girl Scout Brownies Sophia Nuera, Zoe Tanner, Kaydence Rincon, Layla Lindenmuth, and Tracy Keller, GSCCC CEO. The bench was presented in honor of A Place for Girls' 25th anniversary.

Visit a GSCCC Property for Your Next Outdoor Adventure!

GSCCC has many properties, camps, and facilities that be can rented for day and overnight use by faith groups, businesses, and individuals. Properties are handicap accessible. For more information visit the **[camps and facilities page](#)** at gscce.org. For questions email **customercare@gscce.org**.

2022 Faith Week

Girl Scouts celebrate Faith Week in March; this year the dates are March 6-12. We provide **[program inserts](#)** and **[bulletins](#)** you can print and use at your place of worship to help celebrate Faith Week. This year, we have also included a **[Digital Bulletin Slide](#)** to use on screens. If you have questions or would be interested in a speaker or an exhibit for an event during that time, please **[contact us](#)**. Find these and more resources at **gscce.org**.

What is P.R.A.Y.?

Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) is a not-for-profit organization whose national board of directors includes representatives from Protestant and Independent Christian Churches and the national youth agencies. Learn more praypub.org.

My Promise, My Faith

Girls of all grade levels in Girl Scouts can earn the My Promise, My Faith pin, which complements existing religious recognitions and allows girls to further strengthen the connection between their faith and Girl Scouts. Once each year, a girl can earn the My Promise, My Faith pin by carefully examining the Girl Scout Law and tying it directly to tenets of her faith.

Religious Recognitions

Created by national religious organizations to encourage the spiritual growth of youth members, religious recognition programs reinforce many of the values integral to Girl Scouting and help girls grow stronger in and learn more about their chosen faith.

Each religious organization develops and administers its own program. The brochure [“To Serve God”](#) (PDF) lists the religious recognitions created by various faith groups. You can find this brochure, a video explaining religious recognition programs, and other resources for collaborating with faith communities at P.R.A.Y. Publishing.

Contact us at customer care@gsgccc.org to set up time to meet with you virtually or in person. We'd like to share how your place of faith can be a Girl Scout partner and help strengthen the lives of girls in our community.

Already a partner? Great! We'd love to share a story you might have with others. Email your story and any photos to marcomm@gsgccc.org.

We'd love to hear from you!

If you're interested in receiving more information about Girl Scouts, contact customer care@gsgccc.org.