

THINKING DAY IDEAS

- Put the names of all of the WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) countries in a hat and have troops pick a country. The hat that was used was an old fashioned Girl Scout hat (one of the "Smokey, the Bear" type Juliette Low style ones).
- There is much information about Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding in the book *Trefoil Round the World* which is available through the GSCM store. The information is also available on CD. The information is updated every 3 years but does not change very much so older books still very useful.
- One service unit chose a WAGGGS country to study in detail. They then used enlarged copies of the membership pin from that copy (gotten from the above mentioned resource book) on the girls' name tags.
- Have the troops pick a country from which at least one of the troop members ancestors came. Don't let troops repeat the same country in succeeding years.
- World Bazaar: Have a penny bazaar where troops make inexpensive items from the country they represent. Each girl brings 300 pennies. At the bazaar the girls spend their pennies to buy the items. The accumulated pennies are donated to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.
- Have a parade of flags as part of your celebration.
- There's a "Girl Scout's Go Global" patch program offered by GSUSA. Patches and program are available through the GSCM store.
- One service unit used an Olympic theme featuring female athletes. Olympic style ribbons are available through Oriental Trading Company or can be made using juice can lids and ribbon. Modified "Olympic" games were featured.
- Another Girl Scout group sponsored a Thinking Day activity centered around dances from different parts of the world. Local ethnic dance groups helped teach the dances.
- Lovely programs on individual WAGGGS countries are available through <http://www.patchworksdesign.net>. They also have attractive patches to go with those programs. Countries currently available are Australia, Brazil, China, England, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Sweden and Switzerland. A Thinking Day patch is also available.
- Many Girl Scouts learn about the World Center countries by using the GSCM excellent "Be A Partner with the World" patch programs. These programs are available from the Volunteer Resource Center and also are on the GSCM CD and each includes instructions for setting up stations.
- Use a "Where in the World is Suzy Scout?" theme with clues being given at each of the stations. (She was at Our Chalet in Switzerland but don't tell anyone!)

- Have a "Sailboat Race" theme and having the girls learn about the different ports along the way.
- Another approach that is very popular especially with the younger girls is doing a "Cats Around the World" or a "Dogs Around the World" theme. Don't forget to mention their Girl Guide owners. Many people don't realize that other countries have different favorite animal breeds than we do.
- A Senior Troop leader (whose girls were tired of some of the traditional Thinking Day offerings) each year picks a restaurant that specializes in cuisine from another country and then takes the troop out to dinner. On the lighter side, she looks for the most unusual food offering she can find from that country and offers it for the girls to try.
- If there are so many troops that it takes too much time for all to do a presentation give first year troops a "pass" or pair troops and have them work together.
- Passports and stamps or stickers can be used with many of the above themes.
- Invite the high school Spanish (or other language) Club and/or International club to help with Thinking Day. Foreign exchange students are frequently willing to participate in this kind of an event also. This is a great way to increase the visibility of Girl Scouts in the community!
- To encourage girls to learn about new countries, feature a different continent each year.
- Links to games around the world can be found at this web site <http://www.stjosephsea.org/library/worldgame.htm>
- An on-line World Thinking Day Chat has proven to be an excellent opportunity for girls to learn about Guiding and Scouting around the world. This program opens in New Zealand time and closes in Hawaii time for a Thinking Day around the world experience. Information is usually available at <http://www.geocities.com/trefoilchat/>.

Thinking Day festivities are a grand time to give the girls their World Association Pin (also called the "World Badge"). "The Trefoil, used on the World Badge, is the unifying symbol of WAGGGS. Every part has a meaning. The golden Trefoil on a bright blue background represents the sun shining over all the children of the world; the three leaves represent the three-fold Promise as originally laid down by the Founder; the base of the stalk represents the flame of the love of humanity; the vein pointing upwards through the centre of the trefoil represents the compass needle pointing the way; and the two stars represent the Promise and Law." (*From Trefoil Round the World*; WAGGGS, Tenth Edition 1994; inside back cover)