

Multi-Level Bridging

Schedule a date. You can use an outdoor setting & bring the wooden bridge or use Boro Hall. Be sure rest rooms are nearby.

The following *SAVE THE DATE* email should be sent as early as possible to each troop individually in grades 1,3,5,8,10 :

Hi <leaders> ,

We are planning to hold a multi-level Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony on <date> at <time>. It would be a nice opportunity for girls in grades 1,3,5,8,10 to bridge together. Would your troop be able to join us?

Even if a girl cannot attend a ceremony, she still moves up to the next level. Older girls will be available to escort younger girls across the bridge. Parents & siblings are welcome and light refreshments will follow. Please let me know yes or no ASAP and we will send you more details. The cost to participate is \$2.00/girl.

SAVE THE DATE invitation for independent scouts (girls who are registered but have no leader):

Hi <parent> ,

We would like to invite <girls' name> to move up to the XXXXXX level at the upcoming Oradell Girl Scouts Bridging Ceremony. We realize that <girl's name's> troop was not really active this year and that is unfortunate. However, things can change from year to year. Our troop organizer is going to reach out to you shortly to see if there is interest in reorganizing the troop next year under new leadership.

Girls in grades 1,3,5,8,10 are invited to bridge together. We will present <Name> with her membership pin and a certificate. <girl's_older_sister_scout> or another older Girl Scout can escort <girl's name> as she crosses. Parents & siblings are welcome and light refreshments will follow. We hope you can join us. The cost to participate is \$2.00/girl. Please let me know ASAP and we will send you more details.

Sample email to leaders telling them what to bring:

Hi <leader> ,

We're so glad your troop will be participating in multi-level Bridging. Girls in grades 10,8,5,3 and 1 are coming.

Here's the plan:

Please meet at <time> at <location> on <date>. Rain moves us to _____.

We will have decorations and flags at the bridge.

Girls will bridge in order of oldest to youngest.

After a few opening remarks by the moderator, each leader will be asked to introduce each girl as she walks across the bridge. Feel free to be as creative as you'd like with

your introductions.

Older girls or siblings may be invited to escort younger girls over the bridge if they'd like.

Girls should wear their vests.

Bring whatever you wish to hand to each girl. Here are **optional** items:

- o her membership pin/disc
- o her new vest
- o a Bridging certificate (make your own or purchase from Council)
- o cash or check payable to Oradell Girl Scouts for \$2.00/girl.
- o for Daisies moving up to Brownies, give GS Brownie pin
- o for Brownies flying up to Juniors, give Brownie wings
- o patches, petals, badges earned for this year's activities
- o a Bridging fun patch
- o her Bridging Award arc if she has completed the requirements to earn it (see your Girls Guide binder).

Light refreshments will be served at after everyone has bridged and an activity will be available for children to do while everyone is mingling.

Reminders for the SUM:

This event needs to pay for itself.

A Service Unit member should give a welcome speech & introduce each troop.

A litter cleanup will definitely be needed before the ceremony if you are using an outdoor bridge. Don't want litter in the photos.

Buy Membership Stars & appropriate colored discs to give to each independent scout.

Make or buy a Bridging Certificate for each independent.

Light refreshments – please ask merchant for donations. we served pretzel sticks, water & Oreos. Check with Town Product Manager for leftover boxes of GS cookies.

Setup flags & stands.

Arrange for older girls to do a flag ceremony.

Decorate the bridge.

A childrens' activity afterwards could be to tie red, white & blue strips of flagging tape to the fence for July 4, rubber stamps, coloring pages and anything you have around the house that's fun.