



SWAPS, Songs, and Flags

Traditions give Girl Scouts a sense of history—and inspire them to be the best they can be.

SWAPS: Girl Scouts often make small tokens of friendship to exchange with Girl Scouts they meet while traveling. These little gifts are called SWAPS, which stands for Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere.

Songs: Singing is a huge part of the Girl Scout experience and is a great way to create sisterhood.

Flags: A flag ceremony honors the American flag as the symbol of our country and all the hopes, dreams, and people it represents. If your group includes girls from other countries, invite them to honor their flags, too.

How to earn the this patch the Girl Scout way:

Steps:

1. **Discover**—Learn about the history of SWAPS, flag ceremonies, Girl Scout songs, and the importance of tradition.
2. **Connect**—Get together with other Girl Scouts to practice making SWAPS, singing songs, and performing a flag ceremony.
3. **Take Action**—Share your knowledge of Girl Scout traditions with your community.

Materials needed:

In order to complete this patch, you'll need:

- Resources on the history of SWAPS, songs, and flags (You can either go online with an adult, ask a professional, or visit your public library.)
- Supplies to make SWAPS of your choice
- Pencils/markers/paper to make songbooks
- An American Flag

STEP

1 Be a traditions detective.

SWAPS, songs, and flags are among some of Girl Scouts greatest traditions!

1. Research the history of the SWAPS, SWAPS etiquette, and how SWAPS are made.
2. Find 10 traditional Girl Scout songs.
3. Learn how to perform an opening and closing flag ceremony.

STEP

2 Practice makes perfect.

Get together with other Girl Scouts and practice:

1. Making SWAPS by creating at least two different kinds.
2. Singing new songs. Make a song book of your favorites—old and new!
3. Performing an opening and closing flag ceremony.


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STEP 3

Share the traditions.

It's time to share what you've learned and practiced with your community!

1. Host a SWAPS exchange with other Girl Scout troops.
2. Host a sing-along with other Girl Scout troops.
3. Offer to perform a flag ceremony for a local community event.



All done? CONGRATULATIONS! You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the *Traditions* fun patch.

After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at **800-248-3355** to purchase your patch.* A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash, or tunic.

**Patch shown may be substituted with similar patch, based on availability.*