Calling All Scouts:
Uniting Generations from Your Scouting Program

For generations, girls and boys have been going through scouting programs, such as Boy/Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, Navigators, or faith-based groups. Gather together people – young and old – from your organization for a fun-filled meeting/reunion.

 удаленно Invite an older adult and a young participant to lead the ceremony, which might include a flag ceremony, your organization’s oath, Pledge of Allegiance, and a song.

1. **Convene an Intergenerational Scout Leadership Team**—ideally, with 3-5 representatives.
   Include leaders from other troops or chapters (including the youth and not just the leaders) and a couple of older adult members of the group. Look for alumni of your scouting program.
   - **Child-Based Organizations:** Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts of America
   - **Older People Organizations:** Put notices in the newspaper and at the library. Notify the senior center and ask them to put it in their newsletter/make announcements. Reach out to places of worship. Post on social media groups in town. Check in with national headquarters and see if it keeps a database of former local participants.

2. **Plan Your One-Time IG Program**
   Decide what program is best for your community.
   - **Establish goals and a timeline for your program.** What do you want the takeaway to be? The ideal duration of an event is 90 minutes.
   - **Plan a way to evaluate your program.** Plan ahead and
consider using questionnaires, surveys, or pictures to measure the success of the program.

• Keep in mind your target audience and choose an age-appropriate activity.

Below you can find a list of ideas to help you create your one-time IG event!

2A. Choose an Ice Breaker Activity

• Human knot: Each person puts in his or her right hand and takes someone’s hand and repeats with the left hand. Then they must untangle each other without letting go.

• Say hello with your body: Walk around the room and introduce yourself to everyone. Salute, wave, or high-five one another.

• Three things in common: Talk to someone you don’t know and discover three things you have in common. You can ask about their interests in music, nature, sports, or family and friends.

2B. Plan a Mini-Lesson

• Provide an overview of your scouting program and its history. Invite some of the older participants to share for 2-3 minutes about how the program has impacted their lives. This gives younger people vision.

2C. Discuss Life Review Questions

• Break up into small groups of about 6 people with at least two older adults per group. Invite people to share a photo or uniform item. Provide a list of questions and have people go around and answer questions. Sample questions include:
  - What has been the most fun badge you’ve earned?
  - What has been the most difficult badge you’ve earned?
  - What has been the most memorable badge you’ve earned?
  - Who has helped you earn one of your badges?
  - Who was your favorite Scout leader and why?
  - What is a favorite memory of a Scouting trip?
  - What is an important lesson you learned in Scouts?

2C. Decide on a Main Activity
Self Smart
- Have participants create an “I am” board—Have participants find positive self-esteem objects to cut out from magazines and paste on to their board.
- Share with the group and discuss how being a scout has helped you enhance different skills. What attributions have you developed as a scout? What contributions do you bring forth?

People Smart
- Split into intergenerational teams and go out into the community and sell cookies!
  - Have prizes for 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place!
- Organize a friendship-skills workshop—Have a tea party and learn how to develop good relationships. Discuss what it means to be a good friend and ways in which they can pass those skills down. From who have they acquired these good skills?

Picture Smart
- Organize an intergenerational Cub Scout Derby. Design your racing vehicle and work together in small groups with the help of at least 2 older people. Choose between the pinewood derby, the raingutter derby, and the space derby. Work together and have fun!
  - Remember to recognize everyone for taking part and doing their best but do have prizes for the winners.
- Create posters and fliers to join a march or support marathon runners

Word Smart
- Together launch a letter-writing campaign, the It’s Your World—Change It! Journey encourages Girl Scouts to be advocates and leaders who make a difference. Consider writing letters to your local representatives—
issues you might want to address are the immigrant and refugee situation, hunger relief, or how to preserve animal habitats.

- Work with the older Scouts to create a pamphlet informing others in the community about an issue—it could be on ways to preserve water or use less energy, it could be an informative pamphlet on food insecurity and ways to relieve hunger in the community.

### Logic Smart

- Read *Rosie Revere, Engineer* by Andrea Beaty and then have the girls and adults think like engineers by participating in a hands-on design challenge. Ultimately, they will learn there is nothing they can’t do if they set their hearts and minds to it.
- Together, design a robot and learn how they are built and programmed. Girls have the opportunity to receive the Badge Spotlight.

### Nature Smart

- Read *The Apple Pie Tree* by Zoe Hall, *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert, or *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle. Plant a tree together or make bird feeders together.
- Do a cleanup project. Pick up litter from your neighborhood and clean trash by a stream.
- Do a Stop, Look, and Listen Hike: Split into groups of 6 people with at least 2 older adults in the group and decide on a specified length of time to hike or a certain number of steps. Then stop and write down what you see and hear at each stop. Make several stops.

### Body Smart

- Split into groups of about 5 including at least 2 older people. Go to the Girl Scout websites and download, print, and cut out the animal mask of
your choice. Have fun pretending to be a panda, an elephant or a rooster together. Try to come up with a short skit with a moral, or lesson learned and have the others group guess after your performance.

- Have each group do a 3-5 minute presentation/skit on a different aspect of scouting. For the Boy Scouts of America, the following would be included:
  - “Be prepared.”
  - “Do a good turn daily.”
  - Badges
  - Ceremonies
  - Levels (Cub, Boy, Eagle)
  - Faith
  - Trips

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**Music Smart**

- Form a Friendship/Brotherhood circle. Sing a few songs.
- Have a dance party and make a playlist with music that was popular when the alumni were scouts and music that the current scouts listen to now. Teach each other dances that were/are popular—Perhaps it is the cupid shuffle or the dab!

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**2D. Lead a summary discussion. Decide if you want to offer reflection time.**

- What is one connection you made with another Scout member?
- Close with a Rededication Ceremony where scouts recommit themselves to their scout promises. Offer a benediction or dismissal. Retire the flag.

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**2E. Consider serving refreshments.**

- Say grace or a word of thanks and then share a healthy snack or a light meal.

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**2F. Handout Evaluations if you have them.**

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3. **Run your IG program in your community!**

4. **Evaluate your program**
• Review your goals. An easy evaluation format is the ROSE—(Thorn-something that could be improved, Rose-something that worked well or proved to be effective, Bud-something that you are looking forward to in the future)
  o How did you do?
• Send us your photos
• If you found your event to be a success and are interested in planning another event check out our How-To Guides at www.BridgesTogether.org.

**Moving Forward...** Invite the members of your group to participate in other bridging ceremonies, service projects and/or opportunities to mentor young participants working on badges 😊