

# Perfectly Effortless Programs: Celebrating Founder's Day

## Activity Overview

Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon—who grew up to be Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts of the USA—was born October 31, 1860. Juliette founded Girl Scouts of the USA in 1912 and was the President of the organization for eight years. In 1920, she retired and took the title of Founder of Girl Scouting. That year Girl Scouts declared Juliette's birthday as a holiday called Founder's Day. Founder's Day is a time to teach your Girl Scouts about Juliette's life and honor her accomplishments.

Juliette started a tradition of writing letters to the Girl Scouts on her birthday. In 1923, she wrote:

*“When one thinks of the 31st of October, one associates the day with Halloween when imps and witches fly about... On that night, I made my appearance in the world. Little did I dream when I was young and tried Halloween pranks myself, that I should live to see that day turned into Girl Scouts Founders' Day.”*

## Biography and Facts about Juliette Low

- Juliette was born in her family home in Savannah, Georgia.
- When Juliette was born, one of her uncles said, “*She is going to be a Daisy!*” That became her lifelong nickname.
- When Juliette was born, Abraham Lincoln was President. The Civil War broke out when she was a baby and lasted until she was four. Her father William Gordon, a Georgia native, was a Confederate soldier. Her mother, Elenaor Kinzie, had grown up in Chicago and her family fought in the Union Army.
- She was the second of six children.
- She loved the arts, animals, nature and athletics—topics she would eventually include in the Girl Scout program.
- As a teen, Juliette attended all-girls boarding schools in New York and Virginia.
- When Juliette was 26 years old, she married William Mackay Low, who was the son of a wealthy cotton merchant and originally from England. They had houses in Savannah and England.
- As a child, Juliette experienced several ear infections that damaged her hearing. After her wedding, a piece of rice got lodged in her ear. When trying to remove it, her ear drum was damaged and she was left almost completely deaf.
- Juliette was a world traveler and visited places such as France, Italy, Egypt, and India.



- Her husband passed away in 1905, leaving Juliette to decide the next phase of her life.
- In 1911, she met Lord Baden-Powell, a war hero who founded the Boy Scouts in England. Hundreds of girls started showing up to Boy Scout meetings—so Baden-Powell’s sister, Agnes, started Girl Guide troops. Juliette assisted by leading and setting up several troops in Scotland and England.
- In 1912, Juliette decided that girls in the United States needed scouting too! She returned home to Savannah and held the first Girl Scout meeting in her family home. The first troop had 18 girls and the first registered Girl Scout was Juliette’s niece, Margaret “Daisy Doots” Gordon.
- Juliette was 51 when she founded the Girl Scouts.
- Juliette worked tirelessly to organize Girl Scouts all over Georgia and eventually the country. She rarely took “no” for an answer when asking someone to lead a troop or donate money to the cause. She personally funded the organization in the early years, even selling her own pearl necklace.
- Juliette donated her carriage house to be the first Girl Scout Headquarters. It is now a program center and museum for Girl Scouts.
- Juliette passed away from breast cancer in 1927. She was buried in her uniform at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah. She designed her own tombstone and is buried with her family.
- To honor her memory, her friends founded the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund to help fund international projects for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. The fund still exists.
- Juliette’s favorite color was blue. She selected this as the color of the first Girl Scout Uniform.
- Her favorite snack was popcorn.
- Every year on her birthday she stood on her head to prove she still could!

## Activities to Celebrate Founder’s Day: Skits

Juliette was quite an actress. She would write plays and perform them with her siblings and cousins for her family. Here are two skit ideas for your Girl Scouts!

### Interactive Skit About Juliette Low (appropriate for Daisies and Brownies)

Leader: “Girl Scouts was started in 1912 by a woman named Juliette Gordon Low. Listen closely while I tell you her story, because you are going to make sound effects and do the actions for the story! You will do the following actions when you hear certain words.” *(Have girls practice when you give them the instructions.)*

JULIETTE: Wave and say, “Daisy!”

GIRL GUIDES/GUIDING or GIRL SCOUTS/SCOUTING: Give the Girl Scout sign

WORLD: Spin around once and say, “Wheeee!”

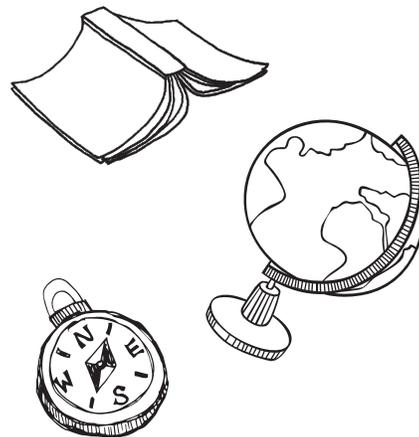
“A long time ago, there was a lady from Savannah, Georgia, whose name was **JULIETTE** Gordon Low. Her family and friends all called her ‘Daisy.’ Daisy was an artist, but she also loved riding horses, putting on plays, and helping others. When **JULIETTE** grew up and got married, she moved to England, where she learned about **GIRL GUIDING** from her English friend Lord Baden-Powell who had also started the Boy Scouts. **JULIETTE** Low became a **GIRL GUIDE** leader in Scotland and in London. She had so much fun, she wanted to tell the girls in Savannah and all of America and all the **WORLD**, about **GIRL GUIDING!** **JULIETTE** started her first troop in America on March 12, 1912, with 18 girls—but soon there were thousands of members! American girls decided they wanted to be called **GIRL SCOUTS** and **JULIETTE** agreed—but even with different a name, **GIRL SCOUTS** are still part of the same **WORLD** family. **JULIETTE** Low thought **GIRL SCOUTING** and **GUIDING** was such a fine thing,

she wanted to see troops all over the **WORLD**. She knew **GUIDING AND SCOUTING** would help girls from different countries become friends and would help build **WORLD** peace and understanding. So aren't you glad that ... *[start to read faster]*

**JULIETTE** Low from Savannah, Georgia, who was an artist and loved the outdoors, went to England and met Lord Baden-Powell, learned about the **GIRL GUIDES**, and came home to start the **GIRL SCOUTS** in Savannah, Georgia in 1912!

#### Paper Bag Starter Skits (appropriate for Juniors and older)

1. Depending on the size of your troop, assemble bags with 4-6 random props. (Make sure each bag is different.) To make them Juliette Low-themed you could include the following items: pearl necklace, Halloween decoration, Girl Scout handbook, art supply (like a paint brush or sketch book), compass, globe, or telephone (not a cellphone).
2. Divide the girls into groups of 4-6. Give each group a prop bag.
3. Tell the girls they need to create a skit and they must incorporate all of the props. Give the girls time to work on their skit.
4. Have them perform for each other or their families.



### **Activities to Celebrate Founder's Day: Games**

When Juliette was growing up there were no TVs, video games, or computers to entertain you. People would pass the time by playing games. Try one or more of these games with your troop.

#### I Have a Basket

Have the players form a circle. The first player begins by saying, "I have a basket." The person to her left asks, "What's inside?" The first person has to name something that starts with the letter A. The second person has to name something beginning with the letter B, and so on until you go through the entire alphabet.

#### Snap Apple

This game was played in the fall as people harvested apples and hung them to up to dry.

**How the game is played:** Hang apples from the ceiling with string. Girls stand with their hands behind their back and try to take a bite out of the apple as it swings. Girls can play with a partner to see who "snaps" the apple first. Hang the apples so that they will fall between the chin and nose for most girls.

#### Post Office

**How the game is played:** In this game, each player chooses the name of a city (every player must choose a different city). One player is the Post Master. The rest of the players sit in a circle. The Post Master calls out, "The mail is going from Chicago to Atlanta" (using cities that the players picked out). The players who chose those cities have to exchange seats without letting the Post Master steal either of their seats. The player left without a seat becomes the Post Master for the next round of the game.

## Kim's Game

This classic Girl Scout game is based on an activity from Rudyard Kipling's (who was a friend of Juliette Low's) novel, *Kim*. In the book, Kim is training to be a spy. He plays this game to practice his observation skills.

**How the game is played:** Collect 15-20 random items (crayon, a balloon, straw, spoon, etc.). Place them on a tray and cover them with a towel or cloth so the girls can't see the items. Tell the girls they will be given one minute to look at all of the items. After the minute has passed, you will cover up the items again. Then the girls will try to write down as many items as they can remember. The person who remembers the most items wins.

To give this game a Girl Scout theme, try one of the following ideas:

1. Read the story below about Juliette's life. As you read, show the girls the item in parentheses and then put the item out of sight. Once the story is done, ask the girls to list as many of the items they remember you showing them.
2. Gather the items listed within the story below, and have the girls play the game the traditional way. Once they are done, have the girls guess how the items are connected with Juliette's life.

### **The Story of Juliette Gordon Low**

- Juliette Gordon was born in Savannah, Georgia, on October 31, 1860—Halloween! (*small pumpkin/jack-o-lantern*)
- When her uncle saw baby Juliette, he said, "I bet she's going to be a daisy!" and the nickname stuck with her the rest of her life. (*artificial or real daisy*)
- Daisy loved to play outdoors, to run and swim, and to climb trees. And she always loved animals, especially dogs and horses. (*toy horse or dog*)
- She also loved to make up plays and to draw and paint pictures. When her cousin made a magazine by children, for children, Daisy wrote most of the stories and painted most of the pictures. (*paint brushes markers, or crayons*)
- After Daisy finished school, she traveled in Europe, where she met an Englishman named Willy Low. Daisy and Willy got married in Savannah, Georgia in 1886. (*rings or wedding bells*)
- Some of the rice thrown at their wedding became lodged in Daisy's ear. It got infected and Daisy lost her hearing in that ear. (*baggie of rice*) Daisy had lost the hearing in her other ear as a child, so now she was almost totally deaf.
- Daisy and Willy lived in England and Scotland for many years. After Willie died, Daisy traveled to other countries, taking her nieces and nephews and their friends with her. (*toy sailboat or ship*) But Daisy wanted to do more with her life.
- Back in England, Daisy met Lord Robert Baden-Powell and his sister, Agnes. They told her about the Boy Scouts (*Boy Scout item or old book labeled Scouting for Boys*) and Girl Guides they had started. Daisy loved the idea! She became a Girl Guide leader in England.
- Daisy wanted the girls in the United States to have the fun of being Guides too, so she returned to Savannah and made a famous phone call to her cousin, saying "Come right over! I've got something for the girls of Savannah and all America, and we're going to start it tonight!" (*telephone*)
- On March 12, 1912, Juliette Gordon Low started the first Girl Scout troop with 18 girls. Today there are 3 million Girl Scouts in the United States, and we celebrate March 12 as the Girl Scout Birthday. (*calendar with March 12 circled*)
- It took a lot of money to get the Girl Scouts started, so Daisy sold her the pearl necklace that Willy had given to her as a wedding present. (*pearls*)

- The first American Girl Scout handbook taught the girls many things including how to tie up a burglar using 8 inches of rope! (*piece of rope or string*)
- Juliette Low died of breast cancer on January 18, 1927. (*pink breast cancer awareness ribbon*)
- After her death, Daisy's friends started the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund in her memory. The fund helps Girl Scouts and Guides around the world visit with and get to know each other better. Daisy once said that Girl Scouting and Guiding is the golden thread that linked the girls of the world together. (*gold thread or ribbon*)

## Activities to Celebrate Founder's Day: Songs

Songs have always been a part of the long tradition of Girl Scouting. Here are some fun songs about Juliette Low that you and your girls can sing together!

### Hurrah for Daisy

(*My Darling Clementine*)

Long ago in London England  
Daisy Low met Baden-Powell  
Started planning hard for scouting  
Where we all are members now

CHORUS:

Hurrah for Daisy  
Hurrah for Daisy  
Hurrah for Daisy Gordon Low  
Started Girl Scouts in our country  
In Savannah, long ago

Took us camping  
Taught us cooking  
Working hard for me and you  
Set a trail and set the table  
Are some things we learned to do

(Chorus)

As a Daisy, Brownie, Junior  
Cadettes and Seniors too  
Even as Girl Scout Ambassadors  
We will keep our Promise true

(Chorus)

### Juliette Gordon Low

(*Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*)

CHORUS:

Juliette, Juliette Gordon Low  
Founded the Girl Scouts long ago  
From Savannah she did roam  
But she always called it home

Married a man named Willy Low  
And off to England they did go.  
There she met Lord Baden-Powell  
Starting the Boy Scouts was his goal  
When she came back to the USA  
She called her cousin right away  
She Founded the Girl Scouts in 1912,  
Served her country, served it well

(Chorus)

Girl Scouts she came here to start  
And I thank her from my heart.  
Thank you, thank you, Daisy Low  
For starting the Girl Scouts long ago!



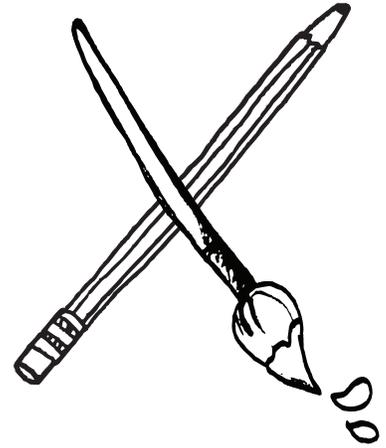
## Activities to Celebrate Founder's Day: Arts

Juliette was an accomplished artist. She loved to draw, paint, and sculpt. Try your hand at one of these art activities!

### Pointillism Painting

Pointillism is a technique of painting in which small, distinct dots of color are applied in patterns to form an image. The technique was developed in 1886, branching from Impressionism. Your girls can simulate pointillism using a pencil eraser!

Have your girls sketch a picture or design on some heavy paper (or they can free paint). Dip an unused pencil eraser into paint. Then press the eraser on the paper to make a dot. Repeat until your pattern is filled in. Use a different pencil for each color.



### Sculpting

Sculpting is the art of creating a three-dimensional piece by carving an object from a hard material (like rock) or by manipulating something soft (like clay) which then hardens by baking or air drying.

Have your girls try sculpting modeling clay. Some clay has to be baked in an oven to harden, but you can also purchase clay that will air dry. You can suggest that your girls sculpt animals to honor one of Juliette Low's passions or let them use their imaginations.