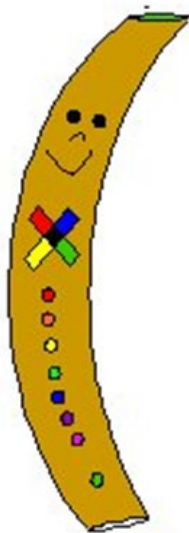


Friendship Stick

The Friendship Stick has been a Girl Scout tradition for some time. It is a token of friendship that one person gives to another. A Friendship Stick must be carved and painted by the giver. The time, thought, and effort that go into the making of a Friendship Stick are the true and greatest gifts. Each creator will make their Friendship Stick as unique and different as each friendship is.

A Friendship Stick is made of wood, a symbol of endurance. It symbolizes that friendship can grow like the trees of the forest – strong and long-lasting. It is curved to symbolize friendship with other Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world.

Friendship Sticks can be made from small twigs to be attached to a key chain or a large safety pin. Bigger ones can be made from branches from large trees that could be used in gardens. The top of a hiking stick can be made into a Friendship Stick and presented to a special friend. Troops could make them to present to people that have helped them in some way during the Girl Scout year.



Materials:

- Curved stick
- Paint & brushes
- Saw & pocketknife
- Shellac (optional)

Procedure:

Find a slightly curved fallen twig or branch; size depends on how you will be using the Friendship Stick.

Peel away the bark with a pocketknife. If needed, saw off little branches. Even the ends and smooth the wood.

Features can be either dug out with a pocketknife or simply painted on.

Let dry, shellac if desired.

Present it to a friend.

Symbolism:

- Eyes – one of the eyes is blue to represent all light-eyed people of the world and the other eye is brown to represent all dark-eyed people.
- Smile – it's a smile of giving and of receiving.
- X Tie – the 5 colors (green, black, blue, yellow, red) are represented in flags around the world. It is there with the hope that someday they may all fly together in peace.
- Buttons – represent a rainbow to connect all of us in a spirit of friendship (colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet)
- Bottom Button – green represents your acceptance of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
- Top – should be painted green for Girl Scouting.
- Rectangle on the backside – blue represents faith, hope and charity for all.

Friendship Stick Poem:

This little stick means friendship of a very special kind.

A friend is great, you know, and very nice to find.

It is made by the giver from a stick off the ground.

Just as friendship, in unexpected places, can be found.

It is bent to fit the curve of the earth.

It can also be a smile ... full of mirth.

Share your stick with a new-found friend.

You might find the sharing will never end.