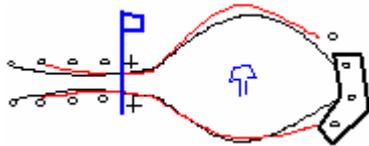




# Brownie Ring

## Traditional Ceremonies

In 2000, the Australian Guide Program abolished the age levels in Guiding and most of the traditional “Brownie” (Girls aged up to 10yrs) routines gave way in favour of the “Guide” (Girls aged up to 14yrs) routines. Since girl choice is a strong component of the new AGP, some of the groups who were big enough to retain the age levels also retained the differentiated routines. In the seven years since the implementation however, many new leaders are unaware of some of these which can still be used in age appropriate settings, or for celebrating special historic milestones.



Instead of a horseshoe formation, a ring is used. In the traditional ring the centre was marked by a toadstool (fashioned out of wood, metal or even recycled material) many of which had a money slot in which to put the week’s dues! If you have a toadstool in the hut still, you may like to use it to

add authenticity!

Girls start in two straight lines, with leaders at the front. They join hands above to make an archway. The two girls at the end skip through the archway and part to make a circle shape. Whilst they do this they sing to the tune of *John Brown’s Body* “Lah, lah-lah, lah lah lah-lah lah lah”. Girls who are no longer forming the archway now clap. When a full ring is formed, leaders break the arch and finish the circle\*. The words now change to “**We’re Brownie**

**Guides, We’re Brownie Guides,**

**We’re here to Lend a Hand**

**We love our God and serve our Queen and help our homes and lands**

**We’ve Brownie friends, We’ve Brownie friends,**

**From North, South, East and West**

**We join together in our wish to try to do our best.”**

You can modify this by substituting your own unit name e.g. Tree Frog Guides.

The traditional Brownie motto was Lend a Hand – hence singing LAH!



At the conclusion of the meeting, girls once again form a circle, and this performs the same purpose as closing horseshoe – notices of upcoming events, reminders for next week. Finally instead of “Taps” a choice of the following songs can be used:

### **Brownie Bells**

(sung to the peel of Westminster”)

**Oh Lord, Our God,**

**Thy Children Call,**

**Grant Us Thy Peace,**

**And Bless Us All.**

### **Brownie Vespers**

(sung to “Oh Christmas Tree”)

**Softly falls the light of day,**

**As our laughter fades away,**

**Silently each (Brownie asks) Guide should ask,**

**Have I done my daily task/s**

**Have I kept my honour bright?**

**Can I guiltless sleep tonight?**

Have I done and do I stand,

Evermore to Lend a Hand.

OR **Have I done and have I dared,  
Everything to Be Prepared.**

\* If you wish to incorporate a flag ceremony, leaders can part further to make room for a Colour Party to reach the flag at the top of the circle. Girls would line up just to the side of and behind the flag. The Colour Party would be the first two girls, and one of the second two to skip through the archway. For girls who are unable to skip, have a practice session – step, hop, change feet – step, hop...