



Section 4: Ceremonies

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Ceremonies

There are a variety of ceremonies that are used during the CGIT year. Each ceremony should be representative of your group and should include songs and readings that are meaningful to those participating in the ceremony. The following samples can be used as is or used as a guideline to help you develop your own program.



Initiation Service

This would be a ceremony to welcome new members into the CGIT group.

The CGIT group forms a square with those to be initiated scattered among the members. The leader will call names of the new members to come forward and take their place in a circle within the square.)

LEADER: Tonight we are welcoming new members into Canadian Girls in Training. We are in the formation of a square to remind us that as Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man, so each one of us has a four-fold purpose—to cherish health, seek, truth, know God, serve others – and so we, too, grow in every part of our life.

LEADER: Our new members have been learning about CGIT for the past few weeks,

SENIOR GIRL Its purpose, its history; its uniform. Tonight these girls will enter into CGIT as members of our group. They will wear the pin to signify their wish to be counted among teenagers in Canada who participate in CGIT and claim its common purpose.

We are (I am) happy to welcome you into the fellowship of CGIT. We welcome you by tying your tie and with this pin. Will you come forward when I call your name?

(The new members form a circle within the square. A member will tie her Friendship Knot, and fasten the pin on her tie)

(Name of girl), this friendship knot, designed by CGIT from Alberta, will remind you that CGIT is Canada wide and all of us have the same purpose.

The circle around the edge of the CGIT pin I now give you will remind you of the love of God that encircles us.



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(After the first presentation, you may say "Name of girl", I present you with this pin."

She then takes her place again in the circle within the square as another member ties her tie.)

Our church includes many different kinds of people. As CGIT is also a part, so also do we need a variety of girls. Each member has talents to contribute to her group. Paul wrote about these talents or gifts. Let us hear his words together:

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in everyone. || (1 Corinthians 12:4)

NEW MEMBERS: As new members of Canadian Girls in Training, we would dedicate ourselves:

First girl/s: —Bless, and guide, and strengthen still
All my powers of thought and will.

Second girl/s: Here I train for life's swift race; Let me do it in Thy grace.

All New Members: All that we sing with our lips, May we believe in our hearts
All that we believe in our hearts, May we practice in our lives.

LEADER: Let us re-affirm our purpose together. Let us remember the fellowship of all the Canadian Girls in Training who seek to become the girl God would have me be.

ALL: CGIT PURPOSE

LEADER: I will ask our new members to take their place in the outer square. Let this be symbolic of our desire to be united under the leadership of Jesus Christ.



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Let us sing our CGIT hymn together.

ALL: **CGIT HYMN**

LEADER: Let us pray:
O God, guide our group and our activities together. Tonight we ask your blessings for our new members that they may grow to be the women you would have them be. We thank you for our group as we grow together through this year as we strive to live according to our Purpose. Amen.



Lanyard Ceremony

CGIT girls are given a white lanyard when they become "seniors" generally this is when they enter grade 10.

To be read by Leader(s):

Tonight some of our members will be taking on new privileges and responsibilities. Each of them, in her own way has already made her unique contribution to CGIT and we are glad for the friendship which they have offered us. We remember our times together, our successes and our challenges, the joys and disappointments which have tested our spirits.

Tonight we wish to honour these members as they take on yet more responsibility, for now, they will be wearing the white lanyard; they will be seniors. We are proud of them and grateful for their loyalty to CGIT.

Would the following please come forward (call forward girls receiving the white lanyard.):

To you who will soon be wearing the white lanyard, I would remind you that each of you has your own special gift to offer to CGIT, to this community and to the world. You may ask what new responsibilities are to come to you now? What spectacular and adventurous task will be assigned to you now? But remember, many things in this world are accomplished through small and sometimes unnoticed acts. Water, which seeps through the smallest cracks and always takes the path of least resistance, is also the force which erodes mountains and gouges valleys. Do not overlook the ordinary deeds of kindness and thoughtful words; they are the means of creating peace and goodwill. Take the path which is yours, whether it be a river crashing through a canyon and providing power to giant cities or as a gentle stream trickling and bubbling along. Choose the way you will be, but whatever you choose, make it the best you can be.

I would like to present you with your white lanyard.

"There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.
There are varieties of service, but the same Lord.



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There are many forms of work, but all of them, in all people, are the work of the same God.

In each of us the Spirit is manifested in one particular way, for some useful purpose."

The gift of the Spirit is love.

"Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one.

Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, not quick to take offence.

Love keeps no score of wrongs;

Does not gloat over other person's sins, but delights in the truth.

There is nothing one cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope and its endurance."

"... there are three things that last forever: faith, hope and love; but the greatest of them all is love."

Closing Prayer:

God, we thank you for friends,

Close, warm, serving,

Helpful, fun-loving,

Understanding, caring, deep.

Thank you for relationships past, present and future. Thank you for these new senior CGIT members,

For all the things they have learned and the fun and the love that has been shared. Go with them as they take on new responsibilities and grow in knowledge and love. Help us all to become the girls you would have us be.

Amen.

Congratulations to you all, we welcome you as senior CGIT members.



Graduation Ceremony I

Leader:

The Webster's dictionary indicates that "to graduate" is to pass from one stage of experience and proficiency, or prestige - to another. It also indicates that the move between stages is gradual.

Tonight, we would like to honour young women who are beginning a gradual move between stages.

Would (names of girls graduating) come to the front---

Before you are the traditional gifts for each CGIT graduate - a candle, a rose, and a CGIT graduation certificate and pin. Would you please light the candle and hold the rose. There is a connecting thought between each of these items before you. Each is a symbol.

The flame of the candle is a centuries old method of lighting the darkness. You have lit the candle before you. Think of this as a symbol for your life's pathway. You could stand by and watch it burn away. You could blow it out and save it. You could use the light in such a way that only you can benefit from it. Or you could pick it up and hold it to make light for others.

For awhile - your lights have been together as they are now - and the collective glow has been bright. The (# of grads) of you have been good friends and have done many things together. As you step out into the world, you will each go your separate ways and this light will become your own.

It's often a frightening experience to leave the comfort and security of family and friends, and to take your light in unknown directions. Many successes, along with some challenges will surely come your way.

Several years ago there was a movie called "Chariots of Fire". It was the story of a runner, Harold Abrahams, who was a member of the 1920 British Olympic team. After



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Harold lost a race to his arch rival, he felt sorry for himself and stubbornly said to his girlfriend, "If I can't win, I won't run."
She answered flatly, "If you don't run, you can't win."

We hope that the experiences that cause your candle flame to flicker will only help to make your light stronger and brighter, and we urge you -- to keep running.

Both the flower and you have been created by God, protected, cared for, and nurtured to maturity. We admire the rose in all of its stages - from a tiny bud, opening to full flower - and dropping its last petal. You too, have come through many stages. We're not sure your parents and leaders have always thought these stages were admirable, but we've always been excited to see the progression to a new level of maturity. The certificates and pins that are before you are a remembrance of your CGIT days. We know you have some good memories of CGIT.

(Pause and have some CGIT girls recite some _remember when')

Your memories of CGIT will be treasured. The rest of us, in the group, will miss you. On behalf of everyone in our CGIT group - Congratulations!

A Graduate's Prayer (read by a graduate)

Lord, I have grown in knowledge and experience, so will you show me now
How to use my learning wisely and find a way somehow
To make the world I live in a little better place,
And make life with its problems a bit easier to face
Grant me faith and courage and put purpose in my days,
And show me how to serve You in the most effective way
So all my Christian training, my knowledge and my skill
May find their true fulfillment as I learn to do Your will.
And may I ever be aware in everything I do
That loving gives life meaning and is a gift from You.
Amen

Leader(s):

Don't put your pin away completely - get it out now and then and remember. We would be delighted if some of you chose to be involved in CGIT in a leadership capacity in the future. CGIT is Canada-wide, and would welcome you.



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Also, continue to cherish health, seek truth, know God and serve others. The message in our CGIT purpose will serve you well throughout your life, and will bring you success.

Ralph Waldo Emerson writes:

To laugh often and much,
To win the respect of intelligent people and
the affection of children,
To earn the appreciation of honest critics
and endure the betrayal of false friends,
To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others,
To leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a
redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier
This is to have succeeded.

On behalf of all of your CGIT leaders - Congratulations!



Graduation Ceremony II

Welcome and please stand

Let us sing together the CGIT Hymn

Leader: We come to celebrate!

Graduates: We come to celebrate the past!

All: We come to celebrate the present! It is a time of joy ... and God is with us.

We come to celebrate the future!

It offers new beginnings ... and God will be with us

Lighting of the first candle.

Leader: "Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." John 8:12 (Light candle)

And always Jesus, the Light, comes-calling us to follow Him into the wide open possibilities of each new day; opening fresh opportunities for commitment for more truly human life. Let us open ourselves to receive Him with the new life He brings."
Each graduate comes forward and lights a candle.

Hymn: *suggestions – I Am The Light of the World or Worship The Lord*

Scripture Reading: "A Good Servant of Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 4:8-10, 12, 14-16)

Leader: Please stand to say the CGIT purpose ... Introduction of Graduates

Graduates: Memories (Each graduate to share a memory, or a Leader could speak)

Leader: Presentation of Certificates, Pins and Roses



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Leader: Prayer for the Graduates

—Most Holy and loving God, we have come to the end of another CGIT year. We thank you that Your presence has been with us and as we have drawn closer to You this past year, we have also drawn closer to one another.

Guide (graduate names) in their adult years. Show them ways in which they may serve You in their church and in the world around them. As their leaders, we pray that we have helped them to develop qualities of leadership and a sense of right and wrong. May they live lives which glorify and praise You in all they do and say. Amen.

Benediction



Service for Girls Leaving CGIT

Sometimes you may have girls leaving CGIT and although they are not old enough to graduate the group may wish to have a service to honour these members' involvement in the group.

LEADER : "We come to celebrate the past"

GRADUATE(S): It was a time of growing...and God was with us.
It is a time of joy...and God is with us.
We come to celebrate the future.

ALL : It offers new beginnings...and God will be with us.

SPEAKER : Please join in singing the CGIT Hymn
"We come to celebrate the past. "
The Lighting of the Christ Candle
"I light the Christ Candlell (light candle) "
Reading of the Scripture: I Timothy 4: 8-10, 12, 14-16
"A Good Servant of Jesus Christ"

Please join in reciting the CGIT Purpose

LEADER : INTRODUCTION OF GIRLS
PRESENTATION OF PINS & CERTIFICATES:

LEADER : PRAYER FOR GIRLS:
Will you please join with us in prayer:
Lord, I have grown in knowledge and experience,
so will you show me now
How to use my learning wisely and find a way somehow
To make the world I live in a little better place,
And make life with its problems a bit easier to face,,,
Grant me faith and courage and put purpose in my days,



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and show me how to serve You in the most effective way
So all my Christian training, my knowledge and my skills
May find their true fulfillment as I learn to do Your will.
And may I ever be aware in everything that loving gives
life meaning and is a gift from you.

LEADER or

GUEST SPEAKER : (Memories of girls, future, or a short homily suitable for the event)

LEADER : Invite everyone to form a friendship circle and sing taps

BENEDICTION :