

October 10th, 2010

Dear Sparks in Penticon, British Columbia:

My name is Jana Asher, and this is a picture of me. I am the Leader for a Girl Scout Daisy Troop in Takoma Park, Maryland, in the U.S.A. Our Troop hasn't had its first meeting for this year yet, but I wanted to send a letter anyway so you could learn a little bit about us. Then the next letter we send will be written by our Daisies! The Daisy Girl Scouts are a lot like the Spark Girl Guides: they are the same age and like to do many of the same things. We are hoping our Troop and your Unit can learn about each other and become friends!



Well, let me tell you a little about Daisy Girl Scouts. They are the youngest of the Girl Scouts, just like the Sparks are the youngest of the Girl Guides. They wear a uniform like you do, although it looks different than yours! Here are some pictures to compare. Daisies have a choice of wearing a Tunic or Vest, like below. You can ignore the numbers; these are just the pictures I got off the Girl Scout Web Site! I put the Sparks uniform here too so you can compare:



The Daisies have a promise and law, just like the Sparks!

The Girl Guide Promise

I Promise to do my best,
To be true to myself, my beliefs and Canada
I will take action for a better world
And respect the Guiding Law

The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law

The Girl Guide Law

The Guiding Law challenges me to:

- be honest and trustworthy
- use my resources wisely
- respect myself and others
- recognize and use my talents and abilities
- protect our common environment
- live with courage and strength
- share in the sisterhood of Guiding.

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be:

honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

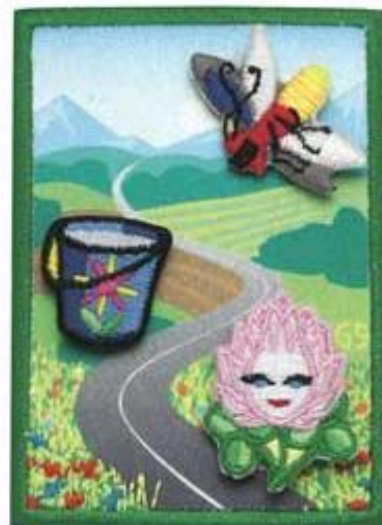
I think in a lot of ways, our promises and laws say the same thing. Can you see some ways they are different and some ways they are the same?

Another thing that is similar between the Sparks and the Daisies is that they both earn crests... except we call them badges in the USA! What you call "Challenge Crests" in Canada, we call "Earned Badges" or "Earned Patches" here. The first patches that Daisies earn are their petals. There are ten petals, one for each part of the Girl Scout Law. When Daisies learn the Girl Scout Promise, they earn their "promise center," and as they learn what each part of the Girl Scout Law means, they earn a new petal! Here is a picture to show you what I mean. Do you see where the petals go on our uniforms?

The Promise Center and Learning Petals



After we earn our petals, we can earn Journey badges. There are two Journeys that Daisies can take: "Welcome to the Daisy Flower Garden" and "Between Earth and Sky." I can't tell you too much about what Daisies do on their Journeys, because our Troop hasn't done any yet! But we will work on one of the Journeys this year. Here are the patches we earn by doing the Journeys; the first is "Welcome to the Daisy Flower Garden," and the second is "Between Earth and Sky":



There are other badges and patches that Daisies can earn too! We are very curious about the Spark Challenge Crests – what Crests do you earn, and how do you earn them?

Here is a little more information about us. We live just outside of Washington, DC, which is the capital of the United States of America. That means there are lots of interesting museums and other places for us to visit. Our city, Takoma Park, has about 18,000 people in it. We attend different schools here in Takoma Park – some of us go to Takoma Park Elementary School, and some go to Rolling Terrace Elementary School, and some go to Piney Branch Elementary School. We also have some Daisies that go to special programs at schools in other towns and cities. My daughter, Rosie, is one of the Daisies and she goes to a special French Immersion class, where they speak French all day! I know in Canada that might not seem so strange, but in the United States it is very unusual to have a classroom like that, and we are very lucky that it is here and part of our public school system. Do you all go to the same school, or different schools like us?

Here is our town seal. We have lots of parks and playgrounds, a library, and a nice community center where our Daisy meetings are held!

Well, I think that is enough about us for now. Please write back and tell us about your town and what you do as Sparks!



Sincerely,

Jana ☺