



Planning Admission Service for members and/or leaders

The Admission Service may be held as a part of a regular Sunday service, a special afternoon service with a reception, or an evening candlelight service with a potluck dinner.

The pastor of your parish is an important part of the Admission Service. Meet with your pastor well in advance and review the service, adapting it to any particular needs of your parish. Music will add meaning to the service; enlist the help of an organist, pianist or guitarist.

Planning

1. List those to be admitted; order pins and badges well in advance.
2. Review plans with your pastor and clear date on church calendar.
3. Review service with those to be admitted or recognized.
4. Plan service -- flowers? music? acolyte? ushers?
5. Create program or bulletin insert; include names of those being admitted or awarded badges and a thank-you to those who have helped you.
6. Plan reception.
7. Compile guest list and send invitations.
8. Follow-up and follow-through!

Involve the girls in the planning and execution of the service and reception. Make sure they stay on track and follow through!

Admission Service

(This service may be modified to fit your needs.)

Hymn such as *Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart!*

Lesson I John 4:7-23

If the service is held as part of the regular Sunday morning Worship Service, it may begin at this point.

Hymn such as *In Christ there is No East Nor West*

During the hymn, girls and leaders shall come forward and stand before the Priest

Priest: Since 1875, the Girls Friendly Society has welcomed young women into its fellowship. Its purpose is to accept the Christian faith and seek in the fellowship of worship, study, work and play to serve God and extend His Kingdom. Our parish branch takes its place with those women and girls who, in different lands and in different times, have testified to the power of this Christian fellowship. We meet here to re-dedicate ourselves to that purpose and to welcome new

members into our fellowship.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

Response: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

We beseech You, O Father, to hear our prayers for these young women who seek to serve You. Enrich and purify their lives and deepen their sense of discipleship. Help them to know more of You, that by their example, through the power of Your blessed Spirit, they may show You forth to others. Help them to be humble, brave and filled with Your loving, kindness, that they may help in the building of Your Kingdom here on earth, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer of the GFS World Family, said together

O God, we remember before You each member in our GFS family: those in busy cities, those in distant villages, those on great continents, those on little islands. We ask You to bless each one. Help us to grow in love and understanding, to strengthen the bonds of friendship within our society, and to grow towards the fullness of life and love we see in Your blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn (your choice)

If the GFS pins are to be blessed, the following prayer may be said here:

Bless, O Lord, these pins, and grant to those who wear them the spirit of discipleship and service. **Amen**

Admission of Leaders

Advisor: I present to you _____ to be admitted as a leader in The Girls' Friendly Society.

Priest: You have chosen to share your time and talents in leadership of girls in The Girls Friendly Society. As founder of the Society were pioneers in the life of their day, so you are called to lead those with whom you are associated to be pioneers in this day.

Are you willing to accept this responsibility?

Response: I am willing.

Priest: Will you strive for deeper understanding, quickened sympathies, and a growing sense of fellowship with the members of this Society?

Response: I will, with God's help.

Priest: _____, I admit you as a Leader in The Girls Friendly Society in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Priest: Receive this pin and wear it worthily in token that what you have promised you may endeavor to perform in your life to the glory of God.

Admission of Members

Branch Advisor: I present to you these girls to be admitted a member of The Girls Friendly Society.

Priest: A member of the Girls Friendly Society is a friend to all other members. She helps make her family, her friends, and people everywhere happier. She helps make the world a better place in which to live.

Will you live up to the name of The Girls Friendly Society by being friendly?

Response: I will.

Priest: Will you do everything you can to make your bodies strong, your minds clean, your words true and your actions right?

Response: I will.

Priest: Will you be friendly to people of all races and countries as member of God's great family?

Response: I will.

Will you do your best to worship and serve faithfully in your Church?

Response: I will.

Then each girl to be admitted shall stand or kneel, as directed, before the Priest.

Priest: _____, I admit you as a member of The Girls Friendly Society, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Receive this pin and wear it to remind you of the promise you have just made.

The Lord be with you.

Response: And also with you.

Let us pray the GFS Prayer

O Lord, Our Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee to Bless us and all who belong to the Girls' Friendly Society. Strengthen and protect us by thy Fatherly love, and vouchsafe to us the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit. Help us all to bear one another's burdens and to live, not for ourselves but for others, as members of one family in Christ. Cleanse us from our sins, make us holy by the indwelling of The Holy Spirit, and bring us all at last to the joy of thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Closing prayers

Hymn (your choice)