KEYNOTE SPEECH

FOR

JASON KLOTZ

Hello everyone!! I am so excited to be here tonight to have the chance to meet and “**connect”** with all of you. As we all have learned, each year around this time Girl Scouts and Girl Guides of all ages, nationalities and walks of life share a special celebration- World Thinking Day. Thanks to this event, we can have the experience and feeling that we truly have friends and **partners** throughout the world who are celebrating the same event as we are. That’s really amazing! It’s such a great chance to CONNECT, and that is the theme of this year’s World Thinking Day. As a teacher, of course I **LOVE** when I have the chance to encourage young people to think, so I am thrilled to be here! (**Acknowledge the people that invited you to speak at the event**) I want to thank \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for inviting me to share this very special opportunity. This has made a tremendous difference in my life and I am eager to share and hear of experiences and activities that you all plan to do as a means to connect with your family, friends, community, of course, the global network of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides.

I am also happy to see family and friends here with us tonight because these people are the **first** and **most important** connections each one of you have. As you get older and meet more people, go to school, and get involved in more and more activities, you will learn the importance of connection. Can you remember what life was like before you became a Daisy or a Brownie, or whatever stage you entered this organization? Think of all the fun you’ve had and all of the activities you’ve done, the people you have met, the trips you’ve planned and the games you’ve played, all since you have been a part of this wonderful organization. Every opportunity you’ve had has given you a chance to **connect**, and Girl Scouts have been connecting and learning from each other for over **ONE HUNDRED YEARS**! Can you imagine?

In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low had a dream of being part of a group in which young girls and young women would be able to connect to share their experiences, and here we are. Because you are here **you** are **connected** to that very first group of eighteen girls and you are **connected** to all of those in between then and now… that means that you have ties to over **59 MILLION** Girl Scouts who have shared this path throughout the years. Currently you have the amazing opportunity to share even more connections with almost **3 MILLION** girls in **92 countries** worldwide…. That’s a lot of friends with whom to share!! And if you think that sounds like BIG NUMBERS, did you know that each year you are all part of a campaign that sells about **200 MILLION** boxes of girl scout cookies? Can you even picture that? Before today they may have just seemed like cookies to you but they are a **MAJOR** way that allows all of you to connect to your families, friends, communities and the world. Without **YOUR SPECIAL** efforts to connect to your neighbors through the cookie campaign, it would not be as special and successful as it is each year. It’s a great example for you to see what happens…. as the **cookie crumbles**… all over the world! (**Wait for the laugh**).

As we all participate in this event, we have two things to do and they are simple.

1. Think
2. Connect.

Those are two activities are things we do naturally but thanks to your participation in the Girl Scouts; you are so fortunate to be able to do both in a way that gives you a wonderful foundation for life. Every activity you do here allows you to connect to each other and the ways and traditions of life that are really important as you grow up, and whether it is through a love of nature or self expression- through arts and crafts, athletics, cooking, friendships, travel…. just about anything you can think of, being a Girl Scout means you have golden opportunities to learn, teach and share, and that is what connection is all about.

(**As you say this part I think it would be interesting if you find a picture of the earth from the International Space Station – their Instagram account has amazing pictures and you may be able to find a picture of Dallas illuminated at night. I would suggest you show it and tell what it is when you say this next part- I will try to upload a picture from nasa.gov showing the Dallas Ft Worth area at night-then you can enlarge it and mount it for your presentation**). I tried to think of a way to explain how important it is that you participate in the Girl Scouts and especially World Thinking Day. I want you all to imagine that you are a little beam of light standing in front of your house or school. Now imagine that everyone … especially all of your fellow Girl Scouts, is also a beam or ray of light. Now imagine every Girl Scout in every neighborhood, in every town, in every city, in every state, in each of the 92 countries around the world are also a beam of light, connected through friendship and service to others. Now picture how all of you have the power to light up the world, teach each other, and share new experiences. With every connection and with every activity shared and every friendship formed, the world gets brighter and brighter, and through your participation with Girls Scouts, your lives get brighter as well. I want to thank all of you for allowing me to connect with you and let’s all continue to spread light, share thoughts, serve others, make friends and continue to make a great and positive difference in this world! Thank you all!