



Democracy



Badge Overview

As an Ambassador Girl Scout, you're so close to being old enough to vote—if you're not there already! The right to vote is one of the most important rights given to American citizens, and it's now extra-important for you to be informed about your government and the officials you'll help elect. Find out everything you can in this badge—then get out there and vote! When you've earned this badge, you will have learned more about your local, state, and national government—and you'll be ready to use that knowledge to inform your voting.

Badge Components

1. Find out about local government

Petitioning can be a powerful tool to create change. It is a request to do something by a group of people to a government or public official.

- Name and research three recent petitions that were created by community members that generated positive change in your community. What did these petitions have in common that made them impactful?

2. Find out about state government

Find an issue that is specific to your state based on its geography and/or economy.

- Are there laws specific to this issue? Is there money devoted to it in the state budget? For example, Florida has a large amount of tourist destinations like Disney, Universal Studios, and miles of beaches.

3. Find out about the federal legislative branch

Write a professional letter to a U.S. Representative or Senator about an issue that you care about. Use this [example](#) to help guide your writing.

- If you would like to actually send your letter, you can find the address to do so [here](#).

4. Find out about the federal executive branch

In the United States, we use a system called the Electoral College for Presidential elections. Watch this [video](#) for a quick explanation of the Electoral College and how it works.

- How many electoral votes does each state get? Fill in this blank [map](#) with the answers.

5. Find out about the federal judicial branch

The Supreme Court has an extensive track record of major court decisions that have changed the course of our nation's history. This is still relevant today!

- Find a Supreme Court Case from the 21st century that interests you and find out how long it took to get to the Supreme Court. Do you agree with the decision that was made by the Supreme Court? Is there anyone who disagrees with the decision? What impact has it had on our nation?

Materials

- Something to write with
- Something to take notes with
- [Executive Branch Worksheet](#)

Florida Educational Standards

The content of all Girl Scout national proficiency Badges and Journeys have been correlated by grade level to national and state learning objectives.

[Click here](#) for more information on how Girl Scout Badge-work supports Florida's educational standards.



We love to see Girl Scouts in action. Snap a photo and send it to marcomm@gssef.org.

Include her name, troop# and the name of the badge she's working on and we'll feature her.

Questions? Contact customercare@gssef.org