



## Democracy



## Badge Overview

Did you know the President of the United States is only one part of the government? In this country, lots of people work together to decide what rules are made and how they are followed. All of those people make up our government. When you turn 18, you can help choose them by voting in elections! When you've earned this badge, you will know the three branches of government—and some of the things they are responsible for.

## Badge Components

### 1. Find out about local government

Local government is important because its members help to decide how the area you live in will function. The highest position in your local government is a mayor.

- Do you know what a mayor does?
- With the help of a parent, find out who your local mayor is and find out what their responsibilities are.

### 2. Find out about state government

Did you know that laws are made at both the national and state level?

- Complete this [worksheet](#) that has you match a wacky law to the state that it's from! When you're done, check your answers at the bottom of the page.

### 3. Find out about our country's legislative branch

With your parent's help, write a letter to your U.S. Representative or Senator! Make sure to put in your letter what you love about your state and what you think is cool about their job.

- If you would like to actually send your letter, you can find the address to do so [here](#). This is a good time to ask any questions that you have for your representative.

### 4. Find out about our country's executive branch

Do you know what it is like to be President?

- Watch this [video](#) to find out what it takes to be president and their responsibilities.
- After you watch the video, find one U.S. President that you want to know more about and find out the main thing that they contributed to the country while they were in office.

### 5. Find out about our country's judicial branch

Watch this [video](#) from when Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor was on Sesame Street. She talks about how problems can be solved such as one between two Sesame Street characters. Think about how you'd use these ideas to solve a problem that you have with you and your friends or family.

- BONUS!** Invite a lawyer or judge to speak about their career at one of your troop's meetings.

## Materials

- Something to write with
- Something to write on
- [State Government 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](mailto: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](mailto:customercare@gssef.org)