



## Democracy



## Badge Overview

Whether you realize it or not, you probably have some political issues you're passionate about. Maybe you're determined to spread the word about climate change, or maybe you want to improve the lives of your city's homeless veterans. If you want to make a difference, start by fully understanding how your government works. Informed citizens are change makers! When you've earned this badge, you will have learned new things about your government—how each branch works, how they work together, and how each piece makes a difference in society.

## Badge Components

### 1. Find out about local government

Do you know how your local government works? With the help of an adult, look into the government structure of your town/county.

- How is it structured? Draw a map based on the structure and be sure to include everyone's role in the system.

### 2. Find out about state government

In the United States, states have individual power to create and implement their own policies and laws.

- Compare how 3 different states handle the same issue. This could be age requirements for driving and permits, laws about how businesses can function on Sundays, or whatever you want to look into!

### 3. Find out about the federal legislative branch

The United States Congress is made up of two houses. One is the Senate, where representation is equally distributed among states. The other is the House of Representatives, where representation is based on the population of the most recent Census.

- Do you know how many Senators and House Members each state in the U.S. has? Fill in this blank [worksheet](#) with the number of Senators each state has and on the map, indicate the number of representatives for each state.

### 4. Find out about the federal executive branch

While the President is the leader of our country, the writers of the U.S. Constitution wanted to make sure that not one facet of the government had more power than another. They developed a system called "Checks and Balances."

- Watch this [video](#) to learn more about checks and balances.

### 5. Find out about the federal judicial branch

Supreme Court Justices are judges on the Supreme Court of the United States. This court has the power to overturn a U.S. law or a state law that does not follow the U.S. Constitution. There are nine justices on the Supreme Court and they have lifelong positions.

- Watch this [video](#) to find out how this process works. How long have they been serving? What types of cases do they usually vote for or against?

## Materials

- Something to write with
- Something to write on
- [Legislative 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](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)