



## Finding Common Ground



### Badge Overview

Democratic governments exist to help citizens with differing opinions find common ground - the place where people's thoughts, opinions, and beliefs intersect. Whether it's Congress, your state, or the local town council, elected leaders often have to make trade-offs—giving up some things they favor to gain support for others. In this badge, investigate how our government does it—and how you can, too.

### Badge Components

#### 1. Get to know someone different from you

Every individual is unique and has differences in their background, values, and beliefs. While you likely have many similarities with your family and friends, you can also find differences.

- Earn this step by talking with 5 people you know and find 3 differences with each. You can think about topics like where you come from, your traditions and beliefs, and your favorite things.

#### 2. Make decisions in a group

There are many ways you can make a decision as a group. Earn this step by trying out the 2 different decision methods below to make 2 decisions with your family or friends. The decisions can be simple ones such as where you will go out to each and what movie/show you are going to watch.

- Majority rules—come up with 2 or 3 options, and then take a vote. Whichever option receives the most votes wins.
- Pick at random—everyone submits an option and then one is selected at random. You could draw out of a hat, flip a coin (if only 2 options), or roll a dice (if there are 6 options).

#### 3. Explore civil debate

Debates are discussions between individuals or groups that have differing opinions. They strive to use facts and logic to persuade others to support their side, but other things like charisma and humor can play a part in one's success during a debate. One area where debate is common practice is politics, and formally we see debates occur during elections.

- Earn this step by watching this [video](#) to learn more about the history presidential debates.
- Bonus! With your parent's permission, watch a part of a presidential debate from history and make note of both their verbal and nonverbal communication and how it affects your impression of them.

#### 4. Understand a compromise

While there is time for debate, other times you must come to a compromise and find common ground. You must find the place where points from both sides can come together, and this means that some points have to be conceded.

- Earn this step by watching this [video](#) about "The Great Compromise" that took place during the Constitutional Convention.

#### 5. Find common ground through mediation

Mediation is when you bring in a third party to help two sides settle their dispute and find common ground.

- Earn this step with this [worksheet](#) where you will learn about the six steps of mediation and walk through a mediation scenario. Have two people, family or friends, play the roles of Destiny and Jessica from the scenario, and then serve as the mediator to find a solution both sides can agree upon!

### Materials

- Something to write with
- Something to write on
- Access to internet
- [Finding Common Ground 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.



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