



For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, May 2, 2018

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**In Advance of May Primary Election, Girl Scouts of Oregon and SW Washington Roll Out Civic Engagement Opportunities for Girls Throughout Region**

G.I.R.L. Agenda Inspires, Prepares and Mobilize Girls to Lead Positive Change Through Civic Action

PORTLAND, OR. – May 2, 2018 – Going into the May Primary Election, Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington has created a multitude of civic engagement opportunities for Girl Scouts throughout the region. The events are part of a larger initiative called G.I.R.L. Agenda, a nonpartisan initiative to inspire, prepare and mobilize girls to lead positive change through civic action.

“The G.I.R.L. Agenda initiative is all about connecting girls to their role as citizens and getting them excited and engaged *today*,” said Sarah Shipe, Director of Communications for Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington. “They don’t have to wait until they’re adults to learn about the voting process, make their voice heard at a city council meeting, or improve their community. We want them to see that they can make a difference now.”

Beginning on April 30 and running through mid-May, Girl Scouts will have opportunities to learn about municipal management; how to become advocates for change; and, how local elections and voting works.

**AFTERNOON AT THE MAYOR’S OFFICE WITH THE BUS PROJECT**—This afternoon, from 4:30 p.m. - 5 p.m., starting at the Rose Room at City Hall, Girl Scouts will tour the Portland Mayor’s office, meet the Mayor for a Q & A, and get a backstage look at what it takes to run a city. Junior-level Girl Scouts can complete a step toward earning the “Inside Government” badge.

[GSOSW will have a Communications Specialist, Lia Mahoney, on site to take photographs and provide press kits to interested media.]

**GIRL SCOUTS TO TOUR ELECTIONS OFFICES THROUGHOUT OREGON**

Oregon is a "vote-by-mail" state. Every registered voter can mail in or drop off their ballot instead of standing in line at a polling place. But then what? On the night before the May primary election, Girl Scouts will get an up-close look at how ballots are processed in their county at their local elections office. Senior-level Girl Scouts can complete a step toward earning the “Behind the Ballot” badge and Junior-level Girl Scouts can complete a step toward earning the “Inside Government” badge.

<u>Jackson County Elections Office</u> 1101 W Main St #201, Medford, OR 97501 May 14, 2018, 4 - 5 p.m.
<u>Benton County Elections Office</u> 120 NW 4th St #13, Corvallis, OR 97330 May 15, 2018, 6 - 7 p.m.
<u>Deschutes County Elections Office</u>

Deschutes Services Building 1300 NW Wall Street, Suite 202, Bend, OR 97703 May 15, 2018, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
<u>Jackson County Elections Office</u> 1101 W Main St #201, Medford, OR 97501 May 14, 2018, 4 - 5 p.m.
<u>Marion County Elections Office</u> 555 Court St NE, Salem, OR, 97301 May 15, 2018, 6 - 7 p.m.
<u>Multnomah County Elections Office</u> 1040 SE Morrison St, Portland, OR 97214 May 15, 2018, 6 - 7 p.m.

“Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington is thrilled to have so many girls interested in getting a close up look at how our democracy functions,” says Lisa Gilham-Luginbill, Program Manager for GSOSW. “Our hope is that, as we make it more accessible, girls will see themselves as participants and be inspired to create positive change in their own communities.”

## **PREVIOUS G.I.R.L. AGENDA ACTIVITIES**

### **GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP DAY AT OREGON'S STATE CAPITOL**

To help mark the 106<sup>th</sup> birthday of Girl Scouts, Gov. Kate Brown proclaimed March 12, 2018 to be Girl Scout Leadership Day. "Girl Scouts empower generations of girls and women, showing you are never too young to get involved, make a difference, and have your voice heard," Governor Brown said. Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington inducted Governor Kate Brown as an honorary lifetime member of Girl Scouts at a ceremony in the State Capitol on March 12, 2018. "It's my hope that as women take on leadership roles in their communities, in the Capitol, and in service organizations like Girl Scouts, that more girls grow up knowing that women can change the world." Governor Kate Brown now joins the nation's five currently serving women governors who are also Girl Scouts. To learn more, please see:

[http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/content/dam/oregon-sw-washington-/forms/Press%20Release\\_GS%20Leadership%20Day%20at%20OR%20Capitol\\_FINAL\\_03%2005%202018%209PM.pdf](http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/content/dam/oregon-sw-washington-/forms/Press%20Release_GS%20Leadership%20Day%20at%20OR%20Capitol_FINAL_03%2005%202018%209PM.pdf)

### **OREGON HOUSE BILL 2732**

Members of Girl Scout Troop 10037 in the Salem area supported legislation that became House Bill (HB) 2732, signed into law on June 22, 2017. The law provides that a person who enters a motor vehicle to remove a child or domestic animal in imminent danger of suffering harm is not subject to criminal or civil liability. To learn more, please see: [http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/content/dam/oregon-sw-washington/forms/Press\\_Release\\_Good\\_Samaritan\\_Law.pdf](http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/content/dam/oregon-sw-washington/forms/Press_Release_Good_Samaritan_Law.pdf).

### **G.I.R.L. AGENDA—GIRL SCOUTS' CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM**

In October, Girl Scouts of the USA launched the G.I.R.L. Agenda, a nonpartisan initiative to inspire, prepare, and mobilize girls to lead positive change through civic action. To learn more, please visit: [girlscouts.org/girlagenda](http://girlscouts.org/girlagenda).

### **GIRL SCOUTS' HISTORY OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Since its founding in 1912, Girl Scouts has emphasized the importance of being civically engaged, by teaching and encouraging girls to create positive change in their communities through advocacy and action. Girl Scouts learn to stand up for what they believe in, identify issues they care about, and develop leadership skills to make the world a better place. Girl Scouts has a century of success which is reflected in the realm of public service by the fact that 76 percent of female U.S. Senators and 100 percent of female U.S. Secretaries of State are Girl Scout alumnae.

## **ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS OF OREGON AND SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON**

Girl Scouting inspires millions of girls and women—including more than 23,000 active members in Oregon and Southwest Washington—with the highest ideals of courage, confidence, and character. Our council serves 13,955 girls in 37 counties with the help of nearly 10,000 volunteers. The Girl Scout mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Every opportunity in Girl Scouting develops these essential skills in an all-girl, inclusive, safe environment. For information, please visit [girlscoutsosw.org](http://girlscoutsosw.org).