



For Immediate Release
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As November Midterm Election Fast Approaches, Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington Offers Elections Tours for Girl Scouts throughout Region

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

PORTLAND, OR. – October 30, 2018 – As the November midterm election approaches, Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington (GSOSW) is offering a series of County Elections tours for Girl Scouts throughout the region. The tours 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.

“G.I.R.L. Agenda is a nonpartisan initiative that connects girls to their role as citizens and encourages them to become civically engaged today,” said Maureen Kenney, Public Relations and Advocacy Manager for GSOSW. “Through G.I.R.L. Agenda, we’re providing opportunities for girls to learn about the voting process, how to make their voices heard in local government and how to take meaningful action to improve their communities. We want girls to understand that they have the ability to make a difference.”

From November 5-6, 2018, local Girl Scouts can learn about how their County Elections and the voting process work through tours set up by GSOSW in partnership with County Elections offices.

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 November midterm election, Girl Scouts will get an up-close look at how ballots processing in their county works.

“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.”

Monday, November 5, 2018

Jackson County Elections Office - 1101 W Main St. #201, Medford, OR 97501
4-5 p.m.

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Multnomah County Elections Office - 1040 SE Morrison St., Portland, OR 97214
5-6 p.m.

Benton County Elections Office - 120 NW 4th St. #13, Corvallis, OR 97330
5-6 p.m.

Washington County Elections Office - 3700 SW Murray Blvd. #101, Beaverton, OR 97005
5-6 p.m.

Klickitat County Elections Office - 205 S Columbus Ave., Goldendale, WA 98620
5-6 p.m.

Deschutes County Elections Office - Deschutes Services Building, 1300 NW Wall Street, Suite 202, Bend, OR 97703
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Girl Scout Seniors (grades 9-10) can complete a step toward earning the "Behind the Ballot" badge and Girl Scout Juniors (grades 4-5) can complete a step toward earning the "Inside Government" badge. Girl Scouts can find information and links to register online: www.girlscoutsosw.org/electionstours2018.

PREVIOUS G.I.R.L. AGENDA ACTIVITIES

Girl Scout Leadership Day at Oregon's State Capitol

To help mark the 106th birthday of Girl Scouts, Governor 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."

The 2019 Girl Scout Leadership Day is set for March 12, 2019. The event is being co-sponsored by House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson and Senator Kathleen Taylor and will feature guided tours, informational workshops and learning activities.

Oregon House Bill 2732

Members of Girl Scout Troop 10037 in the Salem area supported legislation that became Oregon 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.

G.I.R.L. Agenda—Girl Scouts' Civic Engagement Program

In October, 2017, Girl Scouts of the USA launched 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.

Girl Scouts' History of Civic Engagement

Since its founding in 1912, Girl Scouts has emphasized the importance of civic engagement, 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 reflected in the realm of public service by the fact that 73 percent of female U.S. Senators and 100 percent of female U.S. Secretaries of State are Girl Scout alums.

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 14,500 girls in 37 counties with the help of more than 8,000 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.