

Civic Leadership Challenge

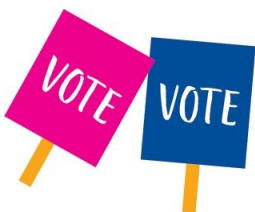
November: All About Voting

November's Civic Leadership Challenge is all about voting! This month you will make observations on the history of voting in our country, learn what you can do to help promote the vote today and encourage people who can vote to use their voices and make informed choices.

A note on Electioneering Guidelines for Girl Scouts: Girl Scouts is nonpartisan, and we encourage each girl to form her own ideas, opinions, beliefs, and political ideology. To keep Girl Scout activities or projects nonpartisan, stay focused on the overall theme, rather than something that supports or opposes a particular candidate who is running for office. Below is a list of suggestions on how to engage in the following activities while remaining nonpartisan:



- **If you choose Option Two:** During this activity, you can encourage an adult to vote, but allow them to make their own informed decision about who they should vote for.
- **If you choose Option Three:** In this activity, you can make signs with general encouraging phrases like "Vote!", but please refrain from including any candidate's name on the sign. While you can absolutely support specific candidates in your personal life, you cannot do so through Girl Scout activities.



OPTION ONE

For Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts

Learn about the history of various groups fighting for their right to vote (suffrage) nationally and in your own state. During this activity, you will develop a plan on how to make voting more accessible in your state and then present your ideas!

Step One

Investigate your state's voting history. Use these questions to direct your research:

- Who could vote and when?
- How did they submit their ballot?
- Who wanted to stop who from voting and why?
- How did they become able to vote and how do they defend their right to vote to this day?

Not sure of where to start in your research? Try out these sites to get started!

- Vote411.org
- vote.gov
- Or try researching these topics: suffrage movements, abolitionist movements, Voting Rights Act

Step Two

What is the voting process like in your state now? Interview two adults in your life and ask them the following questions about their voting experience:

- Was the ballot easy to understand?
- Did they receive and use the voter's pamphlet?
- Were they able to mail their ballot in or drop it off locally?
- Did they have time to fill it out/drop it off?
- Was it available in their language?

Step Three

Based on your findings, what ideas do you have to help make voting more accessible now? Using your research from Steps 1 and 2, write a proposal for how to make voting more accessible in your state. Then, send your written proposal to your Secretary of State OR present your ideas to your family and friends! If you're having trouble thinking of ways to make voting easier, look into the [guidelines for how people who are experiencing homelessness vote](#) in Oregon. How might this process be improved by the government, nonprofits, organizations, etc.? Could local organizations serve as mailing addresses? Could nonprofits assist folks with transportation to pick up their ballots?

How to record this activity in your Civic Journal:

- Send a copy of your letter to activities@girlscoutsosw.org.
- Send a video of you presenting your findings/ideas to friends/family to activities@girlscoutsosw.org.
- Write about your experience proposing your ideas in your Civic Journal.

OPTION TWO

For all grade levels

Have you checked out the [GSUSA Promote the Vote](#) program? You can work towards earning GSOSW's Civic Leadership Challenge patch by completing any of the steps outlined in the Promote the Vote program. Below are some additional details on how to complete Step Two! Learn about how voting works in your state and then help an adult in your life make a voting plan. If your adult has already voted, interview them about their experience.

Step One

Ask your adult the following questions about voting in your state:

- In the past, who could vote and when?
- How did they vote?
- How do adults in your state vote now?
- Bonus Question: When is the earliest date that you can register to vote? Some states like Oregon allow you to “pre-register” to vote when you are 16!

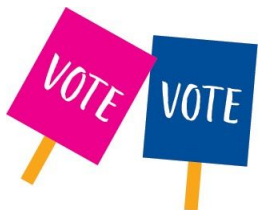
Step Two

Help an adult who is registered to vote create a voting plan.

- Offer reminders leading up to election day to fill out their ballot and put in the mail (remember it takes time to mail a ballot) or drop it off at a Drop Box site (if you live in Oregon, your [Drop Box Locator tool](#) is offered through the Secretary of State's Office)
- Did your adult already vote? Interview them about their experience- (Was the ballot easy to understand? Did they receive and use the voter's pamphlet? Were they able to mail their ballot in or drop it off locally?)

How to record this activity in your Civic Journal:

- Send us a picture of you with the adult that you're helping (do not include pictures of their ballot).



- Did your adult receive a virtual “I Voted” sticker? In Oregon these virtual stickers come in 11 different languages.

Pictured: Oregon’s virtual “I Voted” sticker in Spanish.



OPTION THREE

For Daisy, Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts

Get creative and give your community a reminder of the importance of voting! Many movements in the past and present use images to share their cause and encourage participation. Go online with your adult and research the history of Get Out the Vote signs and signage, then draw, decorate and display a piece of art encouraging people to vote. You can display this in a window so your neighbors can see, or even draw it with chalk on your sidewalk!

Step One

With help from your adult, look online for examples of images that have been used to encourage people to vote. Whether they are signs outside of polling places or home-made encouragements, they can all have an impact and remind people of their civic duty.

- Look at the picture on the main page of [this article](#). What do you see? How are the women using signs and what message are they sharing?
- Look at the “Vote” graphic (below) from the Secretary of State’s office. Notice the connection to our state and the fact that it encourages voting without any candidate’s names specifically?



Step 2:

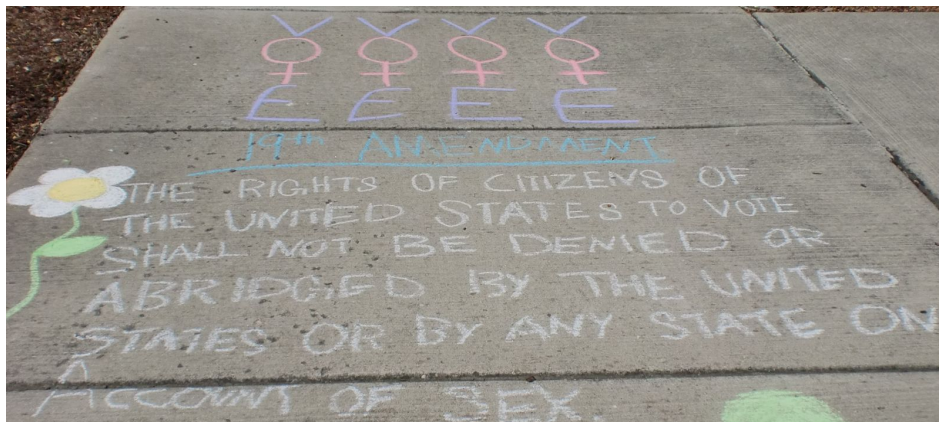
Design and decorate your own project to encourage adults around you to vote! You can use colored pencils and markers on paper, paint a yard sign, or even use chalk on your sidewalk!

- **How to record this activity in your Civic Journal:**

- Take a picture of your project and send it to activities@girlscoutsosw.org.
Examples of Voting Artwork:



Here's a banner that can hang facing out a window- feel free to add some Girl Scout flare! Remember to make sure you are not referencing any particular candidate.



A few girls joined together to decorate the Medford Service Center and to [Chalk the Vote](#), a campaign by the Women's History Consortium to share information about the history of voting rights and encourage people to exercise their right to vote!

Bonus!

Watch the [All About Voting with Multnomah County Elections](#) Facebook Live from September 15, 2020. Girl Scout Arielle interviewed Susy and Catherine from Multnomah County Elections about what the voting process looks like in Multnomah County.

Watch the Path of the Ballot with Multnomah County Elections [Facebook Live](#) on October 29, 2020 to learn all about how ballots are counted and organized in our state.