

## SENIOR BEHIND THE BALLOT BADGE

**Badge Purpose:** When you've earned this badge, you'll know the importance of voting and how people get elected to office.

Activity	Materials Needed
Keep It Local <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore different aspects of local government and create a calendar of important election dates.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Wall calendar (optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Pen or marker
Voting 101 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find out more about the voting process and how other countries conduct elections</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with internet access
Get Out the Vote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about automatic voter registration and partner with a local organization to help others register to vote.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with internet access
She Should Run <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talk to a local elected official about their experience running a political campaign, and then consider running for student council yourself!</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> "I Should Run" tip sheet

### Getting Started

- Keep in mind that Girl Scouts may not: volunteer, perform ceremonies, or appear in uniform as a Girl Scout at any partisan event; endorse candidates or speak publicly about candidates; distribute fliers, posters, or materials for a candidate; campaign against any candidate or political party; raise money for any candidate or organization; or make financial contributions from Girl Scouts to candidates or political parties.

### Activity #1: Keep It Local

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Find out more about elections and Step 3 – Get out the vote

Materials Needed: Computer with internet access; wall calendar; pen or marker

- When you think about elections, what's the first thing that usually pops into your head? If you're like most people, you think about POTUS. Presidential campaigns usually get the most media coverage, but local elections matter just as much as national elections.
- Your local government is responsible for making decisions that impact your everyday life, from how much funding your school gets to how often your trash and recycling gets picked up.
- Think of local government as the engine that drives the ship—women's suffrage, the minimum wage, and marriage equality all started as local policy before they became federal law.
- Get informed about local elections—what positions make up local government? How often do you vote for these officials? Rock the Vote ([www.rockthevote.com/get-informed/elections](http://www.rockthevote.com/get-informed/elections)) is a great place to start your research. If you don't know already, you can also find out who currently represents you: [bit.ly/whosmygovrep](http://bit.ly/whosmygovrep)



5. Then, create an election calendar (either on Google calendar or wall calendar) with important election dates to remember (when do you need to submit your voter registration, when do you actually vote) and share with friends and family.

## Activity #2: Voting 101

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Badge Connection: Step 2 – Investigate the ins and outs of voting and Step 5 – Explore voting in other countries

Materials Needed: Computer with internet access

1. The big day has arrived and it's time to cast your vote in the presidential election. Take a look at the step-by-step process from the ballot box to the final tally: [bit.ly/thevotingprocess](http://bit.ly/thevotingprocess).
2. You might have noticed that when Americans cast their vote, they're actually voting for an elector, a person appointed by the state and pledged to support the presidential candidate that the voters have supported. Find out more: [bit.ly/electoralcollegeexplained](http://bit.ly/electoralcollegeexplained).
3. Research how other countries elect their heads of state. What system of voting does Australia use? Germany? Great Britain? Do you agree with the way their elections are conducted, or do you believe in the power and fairness of the electoral college?

## Activity #3: Get Out the Vote

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Badge Connection: Step 2 – Investigate the ins and outs of voting and Step 3 – Get out the vote

Materials Needed: Computer with internet access

1. Find out how people register to vote in your state. Ask a friend or family member who's 18 or older if they're registered to vote and how they did it (online, at the DMV, in person at a state or county office?).
2. In the US, citizens have the right to vote, but it's their responsibility to opt-in to the process. Other countries, however, have a system of universal registration. Find out more about the universal voter registration system: [www.fairvote.org/why\\_universal\\_voter\\_registration](http://www.fairvote.org/why_universal_voter_registration). In 2015, Oregon was the first state to pass a law to automatically register eligible citizens who have a driver's license.
3. Is your state proposing automatic voter registration? Find [bit.ly/autovoterregistration](http://bit.ly/autovoterregistration) and share your thoughts with your state official.
4. Then, connect with your local chapter of the League of Women Voters ([lww.org/get-involved/local-leagues](http://lww.org/get-involved/local-leagues)), ask if they're holding a registration drive in your area, and see how you can help get out the vote!

## Activity #4: She Should Run

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Badge Connection: Step 4 – Plan a campaign

Materials Needed: Computer with internet access; "I Should Run" tip sheet

1. You've probably heard the statistics before: women make up half of the population, but are grossly underrepresented in government (women only make up 20% of Congress). There are currently only six women serving as governors (including Oregon's Kate Brown!).
2. On average, a woman needs to be asked seven times before she'll even consider running for office. But when women run for political office, they're just as likely as men to be elected—it's deciding to run that's a big hurdle.
3. Look at your list of local elected officials (from Activity #1). Reach out to their office and ask if they'd be willing to talk to you about their path to office.
4. And, if you've considered running for student council (think of this as your first "ask"), follow the steps in the "I Should Run" tip sheet and put those leadership skills to work.



# I SHOULD RUN

## WHAT'S YOUR MISSION?

Why do you want to run for office? What do you hope to accomplish as an elected official? What issues matter most to you, and what are your solutions for those issues?

## BUILD YOUR TEAM

A campaign can be very time-consuming, but many hands make light work. Ask friends and classmates if they'll be willing to help out. Assign roles, or let people self-select based on what they're good at. Some areas they can help with: spread the word on social media, make and put up posters, engage diverse groups, etc.

## KEEP IT POSITIVE

Stay focused on your opponent's ideas, not their character.

## CONNECT

So you've got a bunch of ideas on how to improve your school—great! Does everyone else know about your ideas and why they should get on board? Set aside time for your classmates and potential voters to get to know you and your mission.



## ACTION STEPS:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## PR TOOLBOX

-  Facebook \_\_\_\_\_
-  Instagram \_\_\_\_\_
-  Twitter \_\_\_\_\_

