

Promote the Vote Patch Program

in partnership with the League of Women Voters



Welcome to the Promote the Vote squad of Girl Scouts, where you'll be empowered to sprinkle the magic of voting knowledge while getting inspired in the process! Today's youth are the captains of tomorrow's ship, and Girl Scouts are all set to steer us into an exciting future!

Steps:

1. Understand the Voting Process
2. Gather Preparation Tools
3. Facilitate a Discussion
4. Develop an Action Plan
5. Implement the Plan

Girl Scouts participating in this patch program will play a vital role in educating the community on how and when to vote, how to register, and much more!

Step One:

The Steps of Voting

More to Explore!

What voting options are available in your state, and how do those options compare to other states?

Visit Vote 411:
<https://www.vote411.org/voting-rules>

Many community members need to learn how or when to vote. But you must first educate yourself on voting processes and resources before you can help others. These are the vital steps voters need to take:

- Learn about Colorado-state-specific elections, deadlines, and rules.
- Register to vote or check your Colorado voter registration.
- How to request an absentee ballot.
- Learn what's on your ballot in an upcoming election.
- How to look up and contact your election officials about issues you care about
- Make a plan to vote. First time and seasoned voters all need a plan before casting their ballot.

Step Two:

Gather Preparation Tools

More to Explore!

Did you know the state of Colorado allows Juniors and Seniors in High School (ages 16 & 17) to work at polling places as Student Election Judges? The experience exposes students to grass roots democracy in their community and enables them to earn money for working Election Day!

Learn more on the [Colorado Secretary of State Website](#).

Dive into the world of voting support tools by checking out VOTE411.org—your one-stop shop for all things ballot-related!

But wait, there's more to explore:

- Uncover the thrilling saga of the suffrage movement and the Voting Rights Act!
- Get the scoop on who your elected officials are—because knowing your reps is half the battle!
- Mark your calendars and familiarize yourself with your state's voting deadlines and processes—no one likes a last-minute scramble!
- Check out the Girl Scouts Civics and Citizen badge lines for some fun ideas to embellish your project!



Promote the Vote is a nonpolitical and nonpartisan initiative designed to increase civic participation. As tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organizations, GSUSA and Girl Scout councils cannot take sides in elections or support or oppose any political candidates. Promote the Vote materials should not be used to target a particular political party or individuals on any one side of an issue. The focus should be on encouraging everyone, regardless of political party, affiliation, or beliefs, to participate in the democratic process. These materials were produced in partnership with League of Women Voters Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan organization that works to register and provide voters with election information through its election resource VOTE411.org

Step 3:

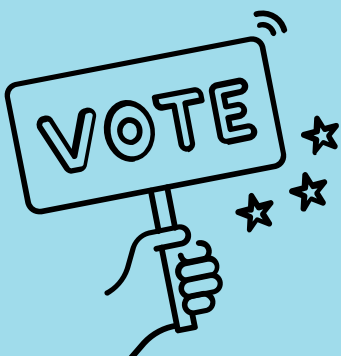
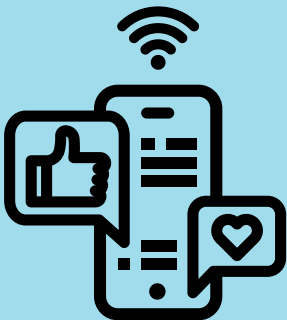
Lead a Discussion

Discuss the importance and history of voting. Choose a few or many to discuss, depending on your Girl Scout level.

- What do you know about voting, and why do you think it's important for people to participate?
- What issues matter to you? The officials we elect create laws affecting these issues and decide how our tax money is spent on essential services like education and healthcare. How does this impact our community?
- The 19th Amendment, passed in 1920, granted women the right to vote. Why should all women exercise this right? What would a world without women's votes look like?
- After gender voting restrictions ended, Jim Crow laws still prevented Black men and women from voting. Why is it crucial for people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to have equal access to voting?
- While nearly all U.S. citizens over 18 can vote, some exceptions exist, such as individuals with felonies, specific mental disabilities, and U.S. citizens in territories who cannot vote for president. Why do you think these rules exist, and are they fair?
- Voting is a critical civic duty, but barriers remain. Many voting laws make it difficult for individuals, especially people of color, to vote. What steps can we take to increase voting access? How can we educate our communities about this issue? What policies should we advocate for to ensure equal voting rights for all?
- Many voters turn 18 between elections. How can we encourage young people to participate in voting now and in the future?
- If you could vote, would you?
- Do you know your representatives at the federal, state, and local levels? How many are women or people of color? Who else would you like to see representing our community?

Step Four:

Make a Take-Action Plan



Decide how you'll support community members who register or plan to vote. Set a goal for how many people your troop will contact. Research shows that if you persuade one person to vote, that person will likely influence at least one friend or family member to vote, too!

Your troop can share essential voter information in many ways and get the word out! Before starting, you can choose from the options listed below or develop your own ideas. Templates are on the following pages.

- Write a letter (recommended for younger Girl Scouts)
- Send an email
- Set up a phone bank or send text messages
- Post on social media
- Make a yard or window sign (recommended for younger Girl Scouts)
- Host a virtual event or create a video to share.

When you've chosen your options, use the templates to help your troop script their outreach efforts.

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Step Five: Take-Action!



Order your
patches!

Patches not
available at the
GSCO Shop.

Now it's time to Promote the Vote!

Will each Girl Scout write a letter during your meeting? Will your troop host a virtual conversation with family members? Can each Girl Scout ensure that at least ten people are registered to vote? These activities can be done during one meeting, between, or whenever it works for your troop. If anyone contacts friends or family in another state, decide whether to research that state's voting deadlines or provide resources for them to do their research

Tell your Girl Scouts that research shows that if you persuade one person to vote, that person will likely influence at least one friend or family member to vote, too!

BONUS! Help Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts register and make their plan to vote! Girl Scouts who are at least 18 years old are eligible to vote! Celebrate this milestone by talking about how and when they will register and cast their ballots. Colorado's age requirements for voter pre-registration is 16. People who pre-register are automatically registered to vote once they turn 18.

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Letter Template

Tips for Sending Letters:

- If you can, write your letter by hand for a personal touch! It's your unique stamp, and no one else has your handwriting.
- Keep it neat, so your words are easily readable.
- Add personal touches like colors, glitter pens, or drawings to showcase creativity.
- Skip the date to make your reader feel special, even if the letter arrives late.

Dear [Name],

I hope you and your family are safe and well. Election Day is coming up on [insert date]. As I learned in Girl Scouts, voting is a great way to change our communities positively. I'm excited to participate and do my part, but I'm not yet eligible to vote—so can I count on you to vote on my behalf? I'm asking you to register and make a voting plan because [choose one or more]:

- You represent me/our community.
- I learn by your example.
- Voting is our most basic civic duty that generations before us fought for; I believe it's essential not to take it for granted. Participating in elections and raising our voices for the causes we care about is vital.
- Your vote matters!

You can prepare for Election Day in a few easy steps:

- First, make sure you're registered to vote! You can check your registration status online at VOTE411.org/girlscouts.
- Second, make a plan! You may be able to vote early or by mail, or you can choose to vote in person. Either way, learn about your options and where to vote at VOTE411.org/girlscouts.
- Third, make sure you know what will be on your ballot. Go to VOTE411.org/girlscouts and fill in your address to receive a localized guide with information on the candidates and issues on your ballot.

Please tell me your plan once you've made it.

I look forward to hearing from you

Sincerely, [Your name]

Email Template

Subject Line: Register to vote and make a plan for Election Day!

Email Body:

Hi [Name], I hope you and your family are safe and well.

Election Day is coming up on [insert date]. As I learned in Girl Scouts, voting is a great way to change our communities positively. I'm excited to participate and do my part, but I'm not yet eligible to vote—so can I count on you to vote on my behalf? I'm asking you to register and make a voting plan because [choose one or more]:

- You represent me/our community.
- I learn by your example.
- Voting is our most basic civic duty that generations before us fought for; I believe it's essential not to take it for granted.
- It's vital to participate in elections and raise our voices for causes we care about.
- Your vote matters!

First, make sure you're registered to vote! You can check your registration status or register to vote at VOTE411.org/girlscouts.

Once you've registered, it's time to decide how you want to vote! You may be able to vote early or by mail, or you can choose to vote in person. Either way, learn about your options and where to vote at VOTE411.org/girlscouts.

NOTE: If you want to help your email recipient make a plan, could you include information on requesting an absentee or mail-in ballot? If you know where they are registered, you can find the state-specific information they need using VOTE411 and provide it to them.

For example: Did you happen to know? Any voter in [insert your state] can vote by mail. There are two ways to request a ballot by mail:

- Use an absentee ballot.
- Contact your local election office to request a mail-in ballot; you can find the number for your local office [here](#).

Please let me know if I can answer any questions to help you make your plan to vote.

Sincerely, [Your name]

Phone Script

Hi there! This is [Your name]. How are you doing today?

I'm calling as part of a Girl Scout project. We're reaching out to people in our community to encourage them to register to vote and make a plan for Election Day, which is coming up on [insert date].

As I learned in Girl Scouts, voting is a great way to change our communities positively. I'm excited to participate and do my part, but I'm not yet eligible to vote—so can I count on you to vote on my behalf? I'm asking you to register and make a voting plan because [choose one or more]:

- You represent me/our community.
- I learn by your example.
- Voting is our most basic civic duty that generations before us fought for; I believe it's essential not to take it for granted.
- It's vital to participate in elections and raise our voices for causes we care about.
- I believe that your vote matters.

Do you know if you're registered to vote at your current address?

- [IF YES]: Awesome! If you want to double-check, here's where you can go: VOTE411.org/girlscouts.
- [IF NO]: Not a problem—it's straightforward. You can visit VOTE411.org/girlscouts to find out how to register in your state.
- [IF THEY DON'T KNOW]: You can check your registration status at www.VOTE411.org/girlscouts and register to vote. The deadline is [insert your state's deadline].

I am so excited that you will register and be ready to vote! Can I also help you make a plan to cast your ballot?

- Many states allow early mail-in voting. You can find your state-specific guidelines at VOTE411.org/girlscouts using the link I shared earlier. Mailing can take up to 14 days, so request a ballot in time!
- If you'd like to vote in person, you can find your polling location at VOTE411.org/girlscouts or by calling [insert number of election day contact].

By the way, you can also use VOTE411.org to create a localized ballot guide with information on all the candidates and issues you'll be voting on. Be sure to check it out before you head to the polls!

Thank you for voting! Let me know if you have any questions!

Text Message Template

Hi there, it's [Your name]! My Girl Scout troop is helping people register to vote and make a plan for Election Day on [insert date]! Are you registered to vote at your current address? Even if you are, it's always good to double-check. Here's where you can find that info: VOTE411.org/girlscouts.

Once you're registered, use VOTE411.org/girlscouts to find your polling location, look up information about how and where to vote, and research what's on your ballot.

Let me know if you need any help! And thank you for voting!

Sample Social Media Post

Directions for Girl Scouts choosing to use social media to amplify their message:

1. Copy and Paste: Use one of the pre-written posts below to share the vital voting information with your followers. Feel free to personalize it, but remember to stay neutral and non-partisan.

2. Add the Disclaimer: If you modify the message, please include the following disclaimer to ensure neutrality: “Girl Scouts do not endorse any political party or candidate.”

3. Choose a Visual: Pair your post with a safe and neutral visual such as:

- A photo of a Girl Scout or of a troop member that has consented to a photo post
- A simple “I Voted” sticker
- An image of a ballot box or polling location (without any political party or candidate logos)

4. Select from Pre-Written Posts:

- It’s essential to participate in our democracy! If eligible, ensure you’re registered to vote and plan for Election Day! Learn how to register and find out if you can vote by mail @VOTE411: VOTE411.org/girlscouts.
- Be sure to vote on [insert date] or vote early! Register to vote, learn about your voting options, and research what’s on your ballot. @VOTE411: VOTE411.org/girlscouts. Did you know the registration deadline to vote in [insert state] is [insert date]? Make sure you’re registered by going to @VOTE411: VOTE411.org/girlscouts. You can also use the site to find your polling location or vote-by-mail information!
- Why vote? Because it’s your chance to have your voice heard! Make sure you’re registered to vote, then make a plan for Election Day! Find your polling place or learn if your state allows mail-in voting @VOTE411: VOTE411.org/girlscouts. Note: Always ensure the visuals and messages are non-partisan and inclusive, reflecting the Girl Scouts’ commitment to civic engagement and community service without endorsing any specific political views.