

# Future Voter Patch Program



Girl Scouts will be prepared to lead the change in their town, state, and country as part of our ongoing mission to make the world a better place! How? Start by earning the Democracy badge for your age level. Through these badges you will gain an in-depth understanding of how local, state, and federal government works. Then continue to build the knowledge and skills you'll need to be a good citizen by earning your Future Voter patch. Voting is arguably our most important civic duty and through this Council's Own Patch Program, girls will explore our nation's political systems, learn about voting rights, and be inspired to be active citizens who promote the vote in their communities.

To earn your Girl Scouts of Western Ohio Future Voter patch, complete the required number of steps for your age level and purchase your patch in one of our shops.

**Daisies:**  
Complete 3 steps,  
including 1 starred item

**Brownies:**  
Complete 4 steps,  
including 1 starred item

**Juniors:**  
Complete 5 steps,  
including 2 starred items

**Cadettes:**  
Complete 6 steps,  
including 2 starred items

**Seniors/Ambassadors:**  
Complete 6 steps,  
including 3 starred items



Please choose from the following steps to complete the patch requirements:

- ❑ \*Interview a seasoned voter. Ask them what they remember about the very first time they voted in a presidential election? What about a local election? What issues (local or national) have they advocated for or felt very strongly about casting their vote?
- ❑ Find your county's Board of Election and your local polling location. Map out how close they are located to where you live. Discuss with an adult why access to nearby polling locations is important for voting.
- ❑ \*Imagine you are 18 and plan to vote in the next election. Find out what voter registration requirements are in your area.
- ❑ Explore campaign finances at the local level. What rules and regulations exist about how candidates can raise money for their campaigns?
- ❑ Learn about political parties in the US, both past and present. What are the major platforms of the parties and how have they changed over time? How does that compare with other countries' political parties? Pick another country and compare/contrast.
- ❑ Create your own political party. What would your platform be? What would you choose as your mascot? Create a slogan and a campaign poster for your party.
- ❑ Imagine you are elected president of the United States. Choose who would perform at your inauguration and explain why you chose them to another person.
- ❑ \*Practice casting your ballot. Hold a mock election with your family or Girl Scout troop. Choose an issue, write legislation around that issue, and have everyone cast a paper ballot (secretly) to either affirm or deny the issue you chose. Tally up the votes!
- ❑ Record a bipartisan PSA about why voting is an important part of citizenship.
- ❑ Explore lobbying as a career. Talk to a local lobbyist or find an interview about this career, or a specific lobbyist, online.
- ❑ Host a debate on the topic of term limits with a friend or family member. Assign one of you the "pro term limits" side and the other the "anti-term limits" side.
- ❑ Explore the history of voting rights in the United States of America. How have voting rights been expanded through Constitutional Amendments like the 15th and 19th Amendments and through legislation like the Voting Rights Act of 1965? What are some contemporary issues in the news today about voting rights?
- ❑ Find a voter advocacy organization in your area. Research organizations that have been formed over the years to support voter registration like the League of Women Voters and Rock the Vote. How do these organizations support or promote civic engagement today? Share what you learned with others.
- ❑ Get involved! Volunteer to hold an office at your school, in a local youth organization or club, or in your Girl Scout troop.
- ❑ \*Promote the vote! How can you use what you've learned about good citizenship and voting rights to encourage others to be civically engaged? Make a plan and put it into action!

