

Green ² Troops – Ambassador Democracy for Ambassadors

This badge will teach the girls how the government works at local, state, and national levels, preparing them with the necessary knowledge to become informed and active voters. Each activity will provide the girls with fun experiences while also giving them the needed information for understanding this topic.

Activity 1: Understanding the Local Government

Objective: Helps to teach the girls first-hand how decisions are made within their own community, while also demonstrating how these choices affect their everyday lives. Promotes confidence in communication and debate skills.

Materials Needed: None

Steps:

1. **Introduction:** Discuss with the girls about the responsibilities of local leaders including mayors, city council members, school superintendents, and others. Explain how their decisions influence various things such as local policies, community development, and public resources/services.
 2. **Mock Council Meeting:** Have the girls participate in a mock council meeting, acting as certain roles such as local council members and residents. Come up with minor local issues and hold short debates and votings.
 3. **Reflection:** Discuss how everyone felt about the mock meeting. Was it easy or challenging to agree on the issues?
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Activity 2: Understanding the State Government

Objective:

This activity will help give the girls an understanding of the differences and similarities between state and local government, while also promoting stronger research abilities.

Materials Needed: Digital device Recycled paper (optional) Reusable writing utensil (optional)

Steps:

1. **Introduction:** Explain to the girls the three branches of government at a state level including: executive, legislative, and judicial. Talk about the responsibilities that the state government handles, as well as the relationship it has with the federal government.
2. **Compare Your Governments:** Research your state government and find out everything you can about how it is run. Then, compare it to your local government. How are they alike? Can you find any differences?
3. **Reflection:** Gather the girls and share the information that was discovered about state and local government. What was the most surprising difference that was found?

No Waste Aspect: Research notes are done digitally. Use recycled paper and a reusable writing utensil, if needed.

Activity 3: Writing a Letter to Congress

Objective: The girls will gain knowledge about how Congress works, as well as how laws are made. This activity will help the girls gain confidence when it comes to speaking out about something that they think is important.

Materials Needed: Recycled paper, Reusable writing utensil

Steps:

1. **Explain How Bills Become Laws:** Discuss the steps of the legislative process in an easy-to-understand way. You can use natural and recycled items to provide visuals for what is being explained.

2. **Write a Letter:** Write a letter to a representative about a current issue. Explain why the issue matters and what actions you would like to see them take regarding the situation.
 3. **Receive Feedback:** Find a partner and take turns reading your letters aloud to one another. Provide kind feedback and suggestions on how they can improve their letter revisions.
 4. **Reflection:** Ask the girls what questions they would ask if they were given the opportunity to speak to a representative or senator in person.
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Activity 4: Learn About the Executive Branch

Objective: Teaches the girls the role of the president, vice president, and cabinet members. This activity will help the girls gain stronger leadership and problem-solving skills.

Materials Needed: None

Steps:

1. **Introduction:** Explain to the girls the responsibilities of the president, vice president, and cabinet members. Share what kind of traits are important for good leaders to have.
 2. **Acting as President:** Each girl will act out as a president confronted with a difficult challenge. Their job is to brainstorm ideas on how they would address this situation.
 3. **Present and Share:** Take turns sharing the ideas and solutions you developed. Explain why you think your plan would fix the problem. You may use recycled or nature found items to further enhance your idea.
 4. **Reflection:** What leadership qualities do you believe are most important for a president to have? What do you think is the most difficult part of being a president based on today's practice?
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Activity 5: Courtroom Experience

Objective: This activity will give the girls a better understanding of how the judicial branch works overall, while also giving an opportunity to experience what it would be like to be part of a court case.

Materials Needed: None required

Steps:

1. **Understanding the Courtroom:** Start off with a discussion about the judicial branch government. Explain the important roles that must be present during a court case. This includes judges, lawyers, witnesses, jury, and others.
 2. **Assign Roles:** Divide the girls into small groups or pairs and assign them all roles for the mock trial.
 3. **Find a Case:** Choose a fictional or historical case to act out. Make sure that the case is equally arguable so both sides can get a chance to share their opinions.
 4. **Hold the Mock Trial:** Include opening statements, presentation of evidence, closing arguments, and jury deliberation.
 5. **Reflection:** Gather the girls to share their thoughts on the mock trial. What was the most challenging part about your role? Did the preparation for the trial help you gain a better understanding of the court system?
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Conclusion and Badge Completion:

Once all the activities are complete, gather the girls to discuss what they learned about the government, and how these activities will help them to become more informed voters in the future. Ask them which activity contributed the most to their knowledge and understanding of the topic, and which skills they believe are most important to have when taking part in one of the roles that they have learned about. Encourage them to keep learning, asking questions, and to not be afraid to use their voices to make a change.
