



## Junior Inside Government

**Pillar:** Civic Engagement/Life Skills

**Outcomes:** Identify and solve problems in the community

**To earn your Junior Inside Government Badge:** Explore laws that affect you every day, meet people who work in government, and be active in government yourself!

1. Decide what being an active citizen means to you
  - a. With your troop or family, list 10 things that make an active citizen. It might include things like following laws, paying sales tax, and knowing what's going on in the world. Then do something from your list to practice being an active citizen.
2. Go inside government
  - a. Chart the government structure for your school district, town, county, or state. Make a big, branching chart that shows who has the power to make and change laws.
3. Look into laws
  - a. [Watch this video](#) to learn how a bill becomes a law.
  - b. Write your own bill that you would want to see become law or that would change a current law. For example: Should the driving age be 14? Should the voting age be 16? Is there a law you want to change about the environment?
4. Report on the issues
  - a. Research an issue that is important to you and impacts your community.
  - b. Then write your opinion in a letter to the editor of your local paper. Local officials often read letters to the editor to get ideas about what laws to put in place.
5. Get involved in government
  - a. Plan a campaign as if you are running for office. Make a campaign poster and write a list of the top three things you would try to change, including the community issue you researched. Share your ideas with your family and/or troop.

**When you're finished:** Congratulations, you have earned your badge! You can purchase by emailing [shopdept@gksmo.org](mailto:shopdept@gksmo.org) or at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/JUNIOR-INSIDE-GOVERNMENT-BADGE>

No shipping charges apply at this time.

