



Senior Behind the Ballot

Pillar: Civic Engagement/Life Skills

Outcomes: Strong sense of self, Positive values, Community problem solving

Seniors will earn their badge by: Exploring the importance of voting and finding out about the electoral process in the United States and around the world.

1. Find out more about elections
 - a. Compare local, state, and national elections for the Executive and Legislative branches. What positions does that include for each branch? How often do you vote for each position? What's the difference between a primary and a general election? What's the difference between the popular vote and the electoral college? Which elections use which method?
2. Investigate the ins and outs of voting
 - a. Explore the [vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) website. Check out voting information in your state. Use [ballotpedia.org](https://www.ballotpedia.org) to see sample ballots for upcoming elections in your area.
 - b. Learn how to register to vote and where your polling place is located.
3. Get out the vote
 - a. Voting is incredibly important in a democracy but only half of all eligible voters vote. Explore this [article and map](#) showing the results of the 2016 elections if “nobody” was a third candidate.
 - b. Create a poster, video, or other promotional tool to encourage people to vote. Share it or post it somewhere it will be seen.
4. Plan a campaign
 - a. Choose an office you would like to run for. Create a campaign timeline, budget, platform, and marketing plan. Get creative with a logo, poster, song, or video ad.
 - b. Bonus: Review [this article](#) about the gender gap in political ambition. How do you feel about running for an elected position?
5. Explore voting outcomes in other countries
 - a. Use [this tool](#) to see which countries have the highest percentage of women in legislative/parliamentary positions. Women make up 51% of the population. In how many countries is this reflected in their representatives?
 - b. Scroll [this timeline](#) and see when countries saw their first female leader. Is there a country or leader you want to learn more about?

Additional online resource:

1. She Should Run: <https://www.sheshouldrun.org/>

Share your campaign or voting poster in the GSKSMO Virtual Art Show -

https://www.gsksmo.org/en/events/virtual_art_show.html

When you're finished: Congratulations, you have earned your badge! You can purchase by emailing shopdept@gsksmo.org or at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/SENIOR-BEHIND-THE-BALLOT-BADGE>.

No shipping charges apply at this time.

