



## Democracy for Brownies

**Pillar:** Civic Engagement

When you've earned your Democracy for Brownies badge you will know the three branches of government – and some of the things they are responsible for.

Our government uses a lot of special vocabulary. Use this glossary for definitions of common voting and election terms.

<https://www.usa.gov/voting-and-election-definitions>

For more inspiration, ideas, and instructions, visit our Democracy for Brownies Pinterest Board. <https://www.pinterest.com/gprograms/brownie-resources/badge-democracy-for-brownies/>



### Brownies will follow these steps to earn their badge:

1. Find out about local government. (Discover/Connect)

Is your school currently meeting virtually, full-time in person, or a hybrid of the two? Your local School Board, with input from families and teachers, made that decision.

- a. Learn about the people on your local school board. Are they parents with children in the district? Do they have an education background? Visit your school district's website to get started.
- b. Write to a member of your school board and share your opinion on how the school year is going. You can either write a letter to mail or send them an email – with your caregiver's help. Visit this page for guidance on how to write to an elected official: <http://kidgovernor.org/student-action-resource-center/writing-to-your-elected-officials> Make sure to introduce yourself and tell them what school you attend.

2. Find out about state government. (Discover)

States, just like our national government, have three branches of government.

- a. What is the capital of your state? What does your State Capitol Building look like and what happens in that building?
- b. Who is the Governor of your state? Find out about the special place where your Governor lives.

3. Find out about our country's legislative branch. (Discover)

The Legislative Branch makes laws. Our legislative branch is made up of two parts, the House of Representatives, and the Senate. Together they are called Congress.

- a. How many Senators represent your state? How long is their term and are there any term limits? Who are the Senators for your state?
- b. How many Representatives does your state have? How long is their term and are there any term limits? Who is your local Representative?

4. Find out about our country's executive branch. (Discover/Connect)

The Executive Branch of government is led by our President and Vice-President and they make sure that laws are carried out.



- a. Who are the candidates for both President and Vice-President in the 2020 Presidential election? What is one campaign promise that each of the candidates made?
- b. How long is the Presidential term and what is their term limit? Have there always been term limits?
- c. Presidents serve their elected term and then peacefully pass the role to the next elected President. Who have the Presidents been during your lifetime? Ask adults of various ages (your troop leader, your parent, your grandparent, your teacher) to list the Presidents in their lifetime. Ask them about the first time they were able to vote for the President.

5. Find out about our country's judicial branch. (Discover/Connect)

The Judicial Branch decides what the law means if there are questions. This is made up of courts and judges. The Supreme Court is the highest court.

- a. Find out how many justices serve on the Supreme Court. How does someone become a Supreme Court Justice? Who nominates them? Who confirms them? And how long do they serve?
- b. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died recently, was one of the most colorful and well-known members of the Supreme Court. Learn a little about her life and career and discuss what you learned with an adult.

**When you're finished:** Congratulations, you have earned your badge! You can purchase at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/democracy-for-brownies-badge>.

Purchase the GS Virtual main patch and bars at <https://www.gsksmo.org/orderpatches>

