

Girl Scouts x League of Women Voters Local Collaboration Guide

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and the League of Women Voters (LWV) are teaming up to build civically engaged girls of courage, confidence, and character.

Both GSUSA and the LWV have long histories of empowering girls, advocating for civil rights, and advancing policies that support girls and women. LWV aims to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy, and Girl Scouts deeply believes in this mission. Our organizations are excited to work together nationally and locally to provide Girl Scouts with more opportunities to learn about and engage with civics, voting, and our democracy.

This local collaboration guide is intended for use by staff and volunteers from Girl Scout councils and local Leagues of Women Voters chapters (local Leagues) to encourage, initiate, and strengthen local collaborations.

Recommendations for Local Collaborations

While we recognize there are countless ways for local Leagues and Girl Scout councils and troops to work together, here are a few recommended ideas to get you started.

1. **Promote the Vote Service Project:** LWV volunteers and troop leaders partner to help a Girl Scout troop complete the Promote the Vote service project, help to get out the vote, and encourage individuals in their communities to make a plan to vote.
2. **Girl Scouts' Civics Badges:** Partner to help Girl Scouts earn badges related to civics and democracy, such as the Civics badge line (Democracy for Daisies through Ambassadors) and the Citizen badge line (Good Neighbor for Daisies, Celebrating Community for Brownies, Inside Government for Juniors, Finding Common Ground for Cadettes, Behind the Ballot for Seniors, and Public Policy for Ambassadors).
3. **Co-Host Events:** Local Leagues and Girl Scout councils or service units co-host educational events, badge workshops, and voter registration drives. Some ideas include:

Promote the Vote is a nonpolitical and nonpartisan initiative designed to increase civic participation. As tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organizations, GSUSA and Girl Scout councils cannot take sides in elections or support or oppose any political candidates. Promote the Vote materials should not be used to target a particular political party or individuals on any one side of an issue. The focus should be on encouraging everyone, regardless of political party, affiliation, or beliefs, to participate in the democratic process. These materials were produced in partnership with League of Women Voters Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan organization that works to register and provide voters with election information through its election resource [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org)

- Civic Education Days, including mock elections or attending local government meetings/town halls
 - Women in Government panel events (ensuring equal representation from political parties)
 - Voter registration/education tabling at troop events or in high-traffic community areas
 - Nonpartisan letter writing and/or phone or text banking events to encourage people to make a voting plan
 - Candidate forums—nonpartisan educational events, regularly led by local Leagues, to be hosted with a Girl Scout council, to provide opportunities for voters to learn about candidates ahead of local elections
4. **Support Girl Scouts Earning Their Gold Award:** Help high school Girl Scouts pursuing their Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting, by serving as a project advisor, committee member, or mentor for projects related to civics and democracy. Opportunities to support Gold Award programs and our other **Highest Awards** will vary by Girl Scout council.

Share Your Local Partnership

Already have a local Girl Scouts x League of Women Voters partnership? We'd love to hear about it! Please share your story with us [here](#).

Getting In Touch with Your Local Girl Scout Council and League of Women Voters

To get in touch with your local Girl Scout council, use our **Council Finder** to find the website and contact information for your community. Your local Girl Scout council team can also connect you with a local service unit and/or let troop leaders know you're interested in supporting their Girl Scouts.

To get in touch with your local League, use the LWV's **League Locator** to find your state and/or local League chapter. You can also email the League's national office at partnerships@lwg.org if you are experiencing difficulties.

We would like to recognize that while GSUSA and the League of Women Voters Education Fund have a national partnership, all partnerships formed between local Leagues and Girl Scout councils, service units, troops, and/or volunteers are individual and separate relationships.

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Working with Girl Scout Youth Members

When preparing to work with local Girl Scouts, please ask your Girl Scout council contact about rules and guidance for working with youth members, including youth-to-adult ratio, Safety Activity Checkpoints (Girl Scouts' standard safety guidelines), and any need for background checks. All Girl Scout councils have guidance to support the health and safety of our participants, but some rules can vary based on location.

Nonpartisanship

As tax-exempt, § 501(c)(3) organizations, GSUSA, local Girl Scout councils, and the League of Women Voters Education Fund, do not support or oppose any political candidates or parties. This collaboration guide and all relevant program materials should not be used to target a particular political party or individuals on any one side of an issue. The focus should be on encouraging everyone—regardless of political party, affiliation, or beliefs—to participate in the democratic process.

Our Shared History

Many of Girl Scouts' early leaders were also suffragists active with the League of Women Voters. Examples include Edith Macy Carpenter, who served as chair of Girl Scouts' National Executive Board from 1919–1925 and was involved in the founding of the Westchester–based Girl Scout council, and (Sarah) Birdsall “Bird” Otis Edey, who served as a Girl Scout troop captain, National President of Girl Scouts (1930–1935), and GS National Commissioner (1935–1940).

About Girl Scouts of the USA

Girl Scouts bring their dreams to life and work together to build a better world. Through programs from coast to coast, Girl Scouts of all backgrounds and abilities can be unapologetically themselves as they discover their strengths and rise to meet new challenges—whether they want to climb to the top of a tree or the top of their class, lace up their boots for a hike or advocate for climate justice, or make their first best friends. Backed by adult volunteers, mentors, and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and make

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changes that affect the issues most important to them. To join us, volunteer, reconnect, or donate, visit [girlscouts.org](https://www.girlscouts.org).

About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. LWV conducts pro-voter activity and civic engagement at the national, state, and local level through 750+ Leagues in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The League of Women Voters also powers [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), a one-stop shop for all the tools and information a person needs to make their voice heard. VOTE411 offers information in both English and Spanish and includes tools to register to vote, check your registration, learn what's on your ballot, and more.

For more information, visit [LWV.org](https://www.lwv.org) and [VOTE411.org/girlscouts](https://www.vote411.org/girlscouts).

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