girl scouts of northeast texas

Four Female Leaders:
Lead like a G.I.R.L.

History is full of amazing female leaders who make the world a better place. Learn about four of these amazing women and how you can be a fearless leader in your own life. If you are interested in learning more, consider one of the badges or journeys listed below!

Badge and Journey Alignment:

- Daisy Courageous and Strong Petal: Discover 2-4
- Brownie World of Girls Journey: Discover 1-4, Connect 3 and 4 and Take Action 1 and 2
- Junior Agent of Change Journey: Discover 1-5, Connect 1 and Take Action 1 and 3
- Junior Inside Government Badge: Connect 3 and 5
- Cadette Media Journey: Take Action 5
- Senior GIRLtopia Journey: Discover 1-6, Take Action 5
- Texas 2020 Women's Right to Vote Centennial Patch!

Daisies, Brownies and Juniors: Choose one activity or question from each section.

Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors: Choose two activities or questions from each section.

Discover

1. Read the attached profiles of four female leaders. Then, chose one of the following trailblazers (or a female leader of your choice) to learn more about. Leaders may include: Sandra Day O'Connor, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sarah Breedlove, Elizabeth Blackwell, Shirley Chisholm, Tammy Duckworth, Angela Merkel, Sonia Sotomayor, and Condoleezza Rice. What made them leaders? Are they well known today? What can you do to be more like them?

2. What qualities make a good leader? What qualities make YOU a leader?

3. Discover former Girl Scouts who were or still are leaders in Government, Business, and Science. How can Girl Scouts help you become a leader?

4. Read and discuss a book about female leaders. Some examples include "She Persisted," "She Persisted Around the World," "Rad Women A-Z," and "Women who Dared"

5. Take a leadership style test. Discuss the different styles and then create something (nametag, chart, button, etc.) to display at meetings so girls know each other's styles and how to better work as a team.

    - Girls with Ideas: http://www.girlswithideas.com/blog/whats-your-leadership-style
    - TechnoKids: https://www.technokids.com/blog/technology-integration/leadership-quiz/
    - WE: https://bit.ly/2Upo98m

6. C/S/A ONLY: Read the article "Why We Need to Stop Equating Leadership with Masculinity." What stereotypes do female leaders experience? What stereotypes do you experience in your life? https://www.aauw.org/2016/03/18/masculinity-isnt-leadership/

Connect

1. Make trading cards of your favorite female leaders with template provided (I Am a Leader). Share with you troop, family and friends.

2. Watch a movie or show that showcases a female leader. Was it difficult to pick a movie/show? Do you think women are well-represented as leaders in movies/shows? How are men represented?

3. Go on a field trip to meet with a female leader in your community (Representative, CEO, Police Officer, Judge, etc.). What inspired her to be a leader? What qualities does she think make a great leader? What advice can she offer you?

4. Talk to a Girl Scout who has earned her Silver or Gold award. What was her project? How did it make a difference in her community? What does she think it means to be a leader? What advice can she offer you?

5. Research what it takes to run for political office (local, state and federal). How old do you need to be? What are the steps to register as a candidate? What makes a successful campaign?

Take Action

1. Create a living wax museum. Dress up as your favorite female leader for your next meeting.

2. Have a party with your troop to celebrate Women's History Month or International Women's Day.

3. Teach your family and friends about a female leader by creating a poster, song, poem or anything you want! Encourage them to celebrate the achievements of women.

4. Help younger Girl Scouts earn the Citizen Badge for their level. Incorporate some of the things you have learned about female leaders.

5. C/S/A ONLY: Watch this clip from the documentary "Miss Representation" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcxeQFuUqJM. What can you do to combat bias and sexism in your everyday life? Can you think of a way to raise awareness about the stereotypes female leaders face?

Malala Yousafzai

“If you don’t raise your voice, it is unlikely anyone will hear you.”

What would it be like if you weren’t allowed to go to school because you were a girl? Unfortunately, that is the reality for many girls around the world, including Malala. Growing up, Malala loved school but that changed when the Taliban (an extreme religious and political group) took over her village and banned girls from attending school. Following this ban, Malala spoke out against the policy and fought for girls to be able to continue attending school. When she was 15, a man boarded her school bus and shot her in the head. Malala survived the attack and after recovering, she decided she would continue to fight for all girls to have the right to get an education. In 2014, Malala established the Malala Fund, a charity dedicated to giving every girl an opportunity to learn. This worked earned her the Nobel Peace Prize (the youngest person to ever receive the honor) and brought attention to issues facing girls and women around the world. Today, Malala continues her work fighting against poverty, war, child marriage and gender discrimination in order to make the world a better place.

Leadership Qualities: brave, determined, advocate

Be like Malala:

- **Are their things in your community/country/world that you think should change?**
- **How can you speak up like Malala to affect change?**

Margaret Chase Smith

“Moral cowardice that keeps us from speaking our minds is as dangerous to this country as irresponsible talk. The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character.”

What would you do if you saw or heard something that wasn’t right? There are times when we witness something and are afraid to speak out but what happens if we do? A Senator from Maine, Smith served 24 years in the Senate following four terms in the House of Representatives (the first women to serve in both houses). She was often the only women present in the Senate but refused to limit herself to “women’s issues” and developed a reputation as a tough legislator. Margaret displayed her strength of character when she became the first person to speak out against Joseph McCarthy, a Senator who was accusing Federal workers of secretly supporting Communism. Many Senators began to fear that McCarthy was going too far with these accusations but no one would speak out for fear of being accused themselves. This didn’t sit well with Margaret. She worked with six other Senators to draft a speech calling out McCarthy and gave the speech on the floor in front of the entire Senate, including McCarthy. Margaret wasn’t afraid to speak out even if others were afraid to.

Leadership qualities: honest, responsible, confident

Be like Margaret:

- **What should you do if you see someone being bullied?**
- **Do you feel comfortable speaking out when something isn’t right?**
- **How can you use your voice to speak up for what is right?**

Belva Lockwood

“The glory of each generation is to make its own precedents.”

What if you wanted to have a certain career but were told it’s not for women? Belva was in her forties when she decided to study the law. She finally found a law school that would admit a woman but upon graduation, the school tried to hold up her diploma to prevent her from practicing as a lawyer. Belva took action and demanded the school present her with her diploma. With that, Belva became the first female lawyer in the United States but she had not yet cleared all of the obstacles before her. At that time, women were still not allowed to argue cases in front of the Supreme Court. Again, Belva did not let an outdated guideline stand in her way. Belva petitioned Congress and was granted the right to practice before the highest court in the nation and became the first female lawyer to do so. Throughout her career, Belva worked to secure women suffrage, property law reforms, equal pay and more. She encouraged others to follow in her footsteps and helped open up the legal profession to women.

Leadership qualities: hardworking, resilient, inspiring

Be like Belva:

- **Do you face obstacles because you are a girl?**
- **What can you do to call out discrimination and exclusion in your life?**
- **How can you help create opportunities for girls?**

Rachel Carson

"The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction."

What does it take to make a difference? It all starts with passion. From a young age, Rachel loved nature and all living creatures. This led her to a career as a biologist and writer, eventually becoming the Editor and Chief for all publications from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Rachel wrote articles designed to teach people about the beauty of the natural world and encourage them to take better care of their surroundings. Following World War II, Rachel changed her focus to speaking about the dangers of the chemical pesticides that were increasingly being used on crops. Rachel felt the need to warn the public about the dangers of pesticides despite pushback from chemical companies and some government officials. In 1963, Rachel testified to congress on the need for government policies to protect human health and the environment. Her advocacy led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

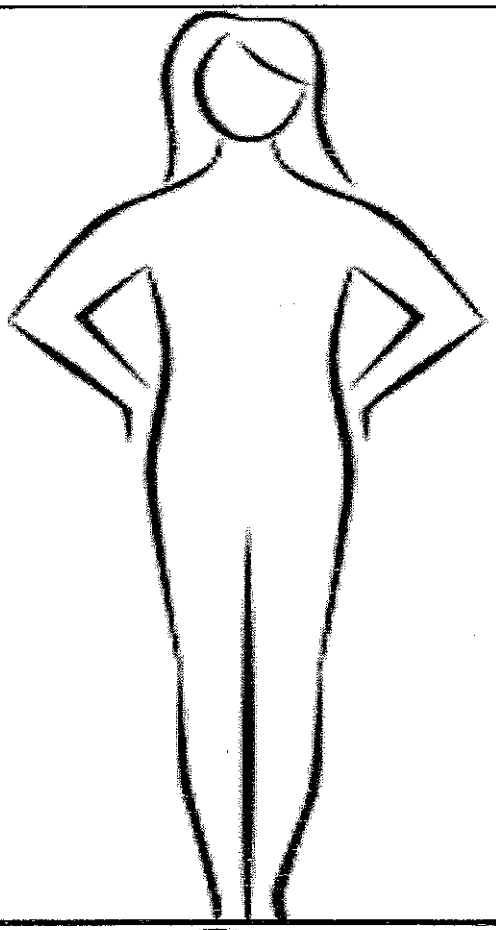
Leadership qualities: caring, resourceful, passionate

Be like Rachel:

- **Is there something you can do to help the environment?**
- **How can you convince people to take better care of the planet?**

Directions: Cut card template and provide one card per girl. Draw a picture or paste a photo of the female leader. List the leader's accomplishments, leadership qualities and skills on the back of the card.

I Am A Leader



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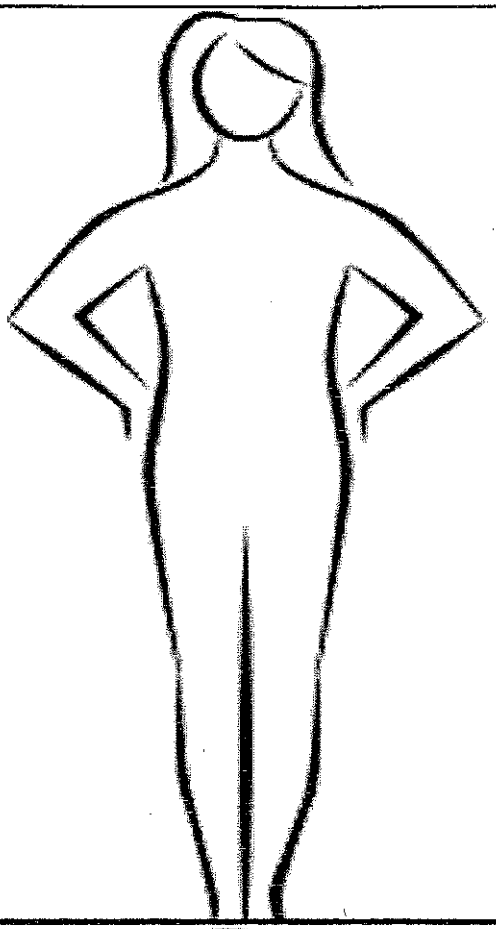

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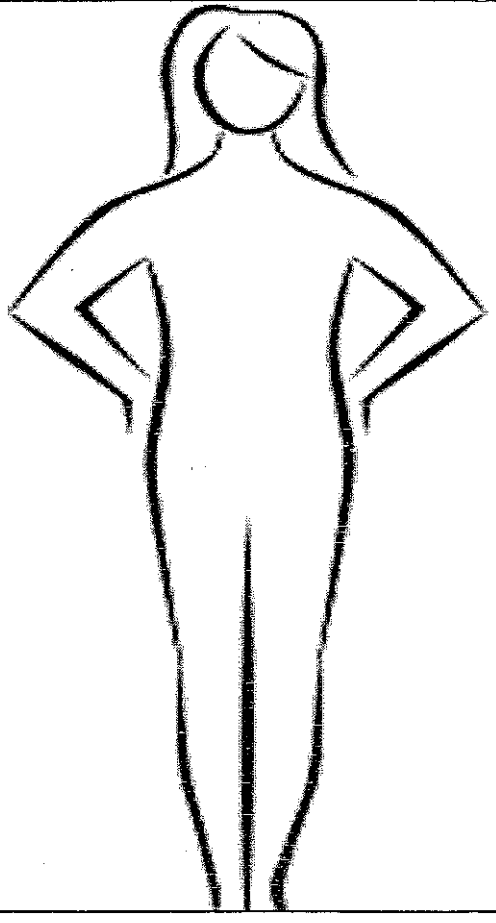
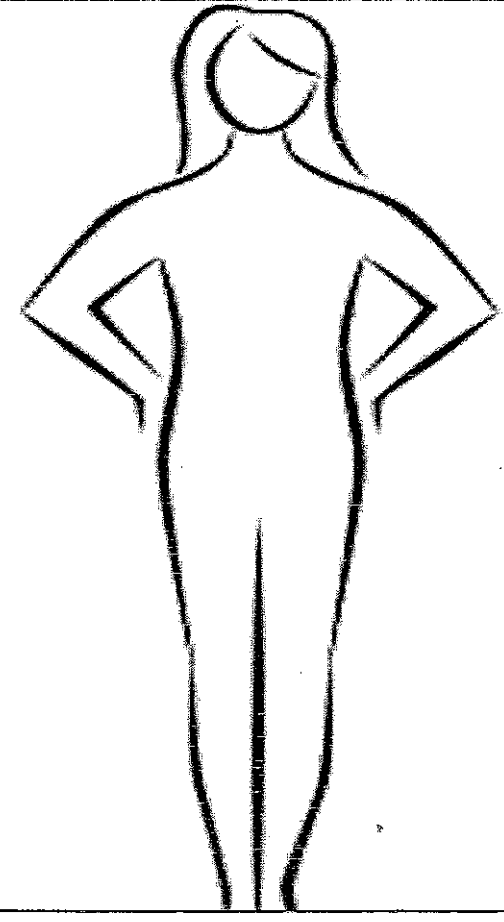
I Am A Leader