

# Get Behind the Ballot with Your Senior Girl Scout

A Guide for Parents and Caregivers



Behind the Ballot badge

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Nearly 7 out of 10 U.S. girls ages 11-17 say they're interested in politics.

**As a Senior,** your daughter can earn the Behind the Ballot badge on her own or with her troop. In the process, **she'll learn how government officials are elected to office.** But beyond that, she'll see the importance of voting and why her participation matters.

## Priorities vs. Popularity

Who you vote for—whether they're running for student council or national office—is one of the most important decisions a person can make. Why? Because the people who win the election will be put in charge of decisions that affect you and your whole community.

Talk with your daughter about what she might want to think about before she votes for student body president. Naturally, if she's friends with a candidate, she might feel like she should vote for that person. But before she makes that choice, she may want to consider a few other things. What are the issues she cares about most at her school or wants to see changed? Do any of the candidates share her views? If a candidate is making promises to the rest of the students, does she believe they can stick to their word and make those things happen?



**SHE'S EARNED IT!**  
Purchase your daughter's **Behind the Ballot badge**, then add it to her vest or sash so she can wear it with pride.



## BADGE SPOTLIGHT!

**Investigate the Ins and Outs of Voting**

Your daughter might not be old enough to vote yet, but to earn this badge, she'll need to learn about voter registration and what it's actually like to vote.

While she's exploring these topics, talk to her about the fact that only three out of five eligible people cast their ballot in the 2016 presidential election.

Some people might not want to vote, but can she think of groups that might have a harder time voting than others? Would it be easy for people who don't have a car or reliable transportation to register and vote in your town? What about the blind or those in wheelchairs? Does it matter if it's easier for some people to vote than others? Why or why not?