



Earn Your Suffrage Centennial Patch: A Guide for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

The Suffrage Centennial patch offers you a way to learn more about the history of voting, why it affects all of our lives, and how you can make a difference in your community. To earn your patch, complete 3 of the options under “Discover”; 2 of the options under “Connect”; and 1 of the options under “Take Action”. And when you’re finished, [order your own suffrage patch](#) from Girl Scouts of the USA! And wear it proudly.

OBJECTIVE

To earn your Suffrage Centennial patch, you’ll explore why voting matters, find out about voting and elected officials in your own community, and take an action to persuade others to support a cause that is important to you.

DISCOVER: Learn about voting, suffrage, and elections.

(Do three activities from the following list.)

- Why is it important to vote?
- Ask a female adult about their first time voting. Whom did they vote for and why?
- Learn about the local and national campaigns for women’s suffrage.
- Why were some people were opposed to women voting?
- Learn the definition of civil disobedience and research examples.
- Learn who represents you in the United States Congress and how to contact them to express your opinion on an issue important to you.
- Learn about the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. How do they connect to suffrage?



BACKGROUND

Girl Scouts was founded in the final years of the suffrage campaigns, and many women supported both movements. For example, Edith Carpenter Macy and Mamie Williams (among many others) were both suffragists.

Girl Scouts’ emphasis on the importance of civics education and of understanding democracy and government began in 1918 with the first Civics badge, followed by a Citizens badge in 1920. This continues to be a priority today.

Explore More: To learn more about suffragists and their fight for the right to vote, download the complete [Suffrage Centennial Toolkit](#).

CONNECT: Delve into your community.

(Do two activities from the following list.)

- Educate yourself on the importance of voting and civic engagement.
- Find out where a voting location is in your community.
- Learn who your elected officials are and what they do for the following positions:
 - ▶ Local—mayor, school board member, city council member
 - ▶ State—governor, state senator, and state representative
 - ▶ National—United States president, United States senator, and United States representative

Suffragists organized marches, pickets, and huge processions to advocate for the right to vote.



COURTESY OF ANN LEWIS AND MIKE SPONDER WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COLLECTION

TAKE ACTION: Share your knowledge, and help others discover the importance of voting.

(Do one activity from the following list.)

- Select a local issue that will be voted on in an upcoming election and think of ways you can educate others about it or write a letter to your elected official about this issue. Don't know how to write a letter to an elected official? Check out [The Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act \(H.R. 1923, S. 2427\) project](#), which gives you lots of hints about how to do it! If you want to write to your elected official about a different issue, just change those parts but keep the same format.
- Research an organization that supports an issue that is important to you. Learn ways you can take action to make a difference in your community.
- Create a public service announcement about the importance of voting using audio, visual, or written mediums and present it to others. Some ideas are:
 - ▶ Create a song about voting using a familiar tune.
 - ▶ Design a webpage.
 - ▶ Make a mini-movie.
 - ▶ Write a newspaper article or op-ed piece.
 - ▶ Create a vlog.



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, WASHINGTON D.C.