



Democracy for Cadettes

Troop Leader's Guide

In this era of great challenges and potential, the nation—in the private sector as well as in government at all levels—needs the capabilities and brainpower of every single American. The full and equal participation of women is crucial to the strength of our country.

— President Richard Nixon

Welcome to the Richard Nixon Presidential Library! To earn your “Democracy for Cadettes” badge today, you must complete the five activities listed on this worksheet and have an adult witness sign it. Good luck and have fun!

1. Find out about local government.
2. Find out about state government.
3. Find out about our country's legislative branch.
4. Find out about our country's executive branch.
5. Find out about our country's judicial branch.

Research Representation

Exhibits of interest for this badge: *America's Government (front of Theater 37) and the Title IX display (front of East Room).*

- 1) How many women have served in the executive branch? In the role of President? Vice President?

Executive branch - Two women have received electoral college votes for President, Hillary Clinton (year) received 227 votes, and Faith Spotted Eagle (year), a political activist. A woman has yet to be elected President.

Three women have been nominated to run for the office of Vice President: Kamala Harris by the Democratic party in 2020, Sarah Palin by the Republican party in 2008, and Geraldine Ferraro by the Democratic party in 1984. One woman won the office of Vice President: Kamala Harris in 2020. The Vice President of the United States serves as President of the Senate and may cast the decisive vote in the event of a tie in the Senate.

- 2) How many women have served in the legislative branch? How many women are currently serving in the Congress?

Legislative branch - The number of Women serving in Congress has increased from 11 in 1969 to 153 as of January 3, 2023.



The first woman elected to Congress was Representative Jeannette Rankin (R-MT, served 1917-1919 and 1941-1943). The first woman to serve in the Senate was Rebecca Latimer Felton (D-GA, appointed and served for only one day in 1922). The first woman elected to a six-year Senate term was Hattie Caraway (D-AR, served 1931-1945), and she was also the first Senator to succeed her spouse.

- 3) How many have been women out of the 116 justices that have served? How many women are currently serving on the Supreme Court?

Judicial branch - Out of a total of 116 justices, 6 Supreme Court Justices have been women.

- 4) What did Richard Nixon's Task Force for Women's Rights and Responsibilities address? What did it lead to?

During the 1970s, President Nixon appointed more women to high-level positions in the Executive Branch than all his predecessors, fought against the discrimination of women, and ultimately advanced their status in American society.

Vera Glaser, a newspaper reporter, questioned President Nixon regarding appointing more women to high-level Federal positions. As a result, in 1969, Richard Nixon created the Task Force for Women's Rights and Responsibilities to address the imbalance of women to men in government placements. Barbara Franklin was appointed Staff Assistant to the President for executive manpower from 1971 to 1973. She focused on recruiting and filling high-level policy government jobs with qualified women, and monitoring the implementation of each agency's action plans.

The task force recommendations led to Richard Nixon nearly tripling the number of women in policy-making positions within a year. "Firsts" now included women in the FBI, the Secret Service, and ranking Generals in the military. Altogether, the Richard Nixon Administration hired more than four times as many women for jobs in the Executive Branch as any previous President.

- 5) What is Title IX? What are some of the accomplishments of Title IX?

In 1972, Richard Nixon signed The Education Amendments Act, which included Title IX. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive funding from the federal government. Title IX is credited for the significant growth and participation of females in high school and college athletics.

More women are attending college and earning degrees than ever before. For example, when Title IX was signed in 1972, women earned just seven percent of all law degrees and nine percent of all medical degrees, and now they earn nearly half of all law and medical degrees.



Reflection

- 6) What was the most surprising thing you discovered?
- 7) Would you want to be a member of Congress? Why or why not?
- 8) How can you share what you've learned with other girls?

