



## Democracy for Seniors



### ACTIVITIES

1. Find out about the Federal Legislative Branch
2. Find out about the Federal Executive Branch
3. Find out about the Federal Judicial Branch

When I have earned this badge, I will have expanded my knowledge about how my local, state, and national government works.

The content of Girl Scout national proficiency badges have been correlated by grade level to national and state learning objectives.

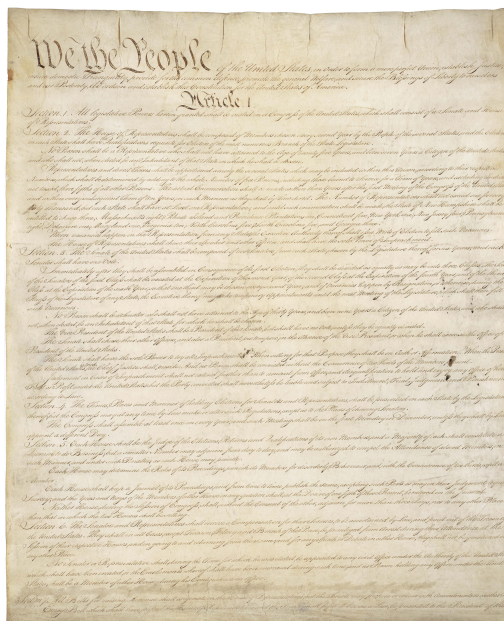
Visit [girlscouts.org](https://www.girlscouts.org) for more information on how Girl Scout Badgework supports California's educational standards.

## Welcome to the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, Girl Scout Senior!

To earn your Democracy for Seniors badge, you will need to complete the three activities listed on this worksheet with the help of an adult. Good luck and have fun!



### Find out about the Federal Legislative Branch



The Constitution is one of the most important documents in United States history. It was written to explain the principles of our democracy. It has seven sections called articles. The Legislative Branch is established by Article I of the Constitution. It consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate,

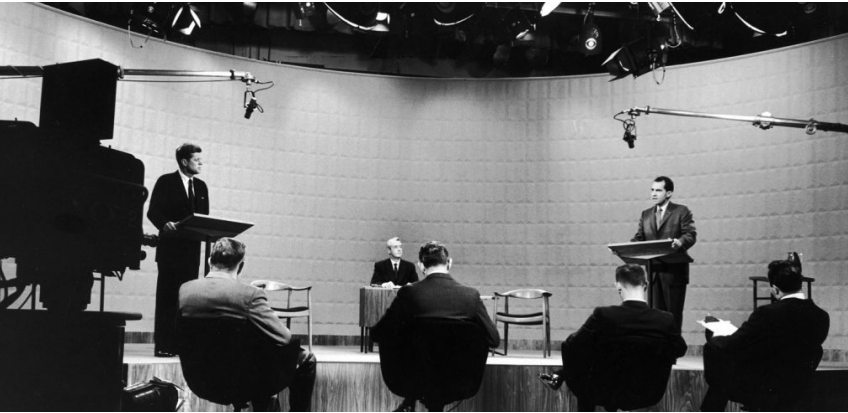
which together form the United States Congress. The Constitution grants Congress the sole authority to enact legislation. You can see a reprint of the Constitution located at the America's Government exhibit.



## 2

### Find out about the Federal Executive Branch

The Executive Branch includes the President, Vice President, and Cabinet Members. Every four years candidates launch a campaign to be President and citizens over the age of 18 vote for them.



In 1960, Vice President Richard Nixon faced Democrat candidate John F. Kennedy. During the campaign, there were four debates between Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy. These were the first Presidential debates on TV between two major party candidates. Richard Nixon underestimated the power of TV. He had been ill, was just released from two weeks in the hospital, and was still recovering. John F. Kennedy looked well-rested. People who watched the debate on TV said John F. Kennedy won, while people who listened on the radio said Richard Nixon won. Visit the museum galleries to learn more about Richard Nixon's presidential campaign!



To schedule a self-guided tour or to ask a question, contact us at:

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## 3

### Find out about the Federal Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch of the Federal Government is a system of courts and judges that ladders up to the highest court in the country, the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court, which is sometimes called "The Highest Court in the Land," is made up of nine people called Justices. These Justices were all men until 1981, when the first woman, Sandra Day O'Connor, joined the court. She was a Girl Scout too! She retired in 2006. Today, the Supreme Court is a mixture of men and women.



Justices are appointed, not elected, and they serve lifelong terms. That means they generally stay on the court until they pass away or retire, but the Constitution gives Congress the power to impeach Justices for "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors." This is part of the balance of powers outlined in the Constitution.

First Lady Pat Nixon support for the Girl Scouts began well before the White House with her daughters, Julie and Tricia's, participation as active Girl Scouts. Pat served as their troop leader and Honorary National President of the Girl Scouts of America. Pat welcomed many Girl Scouts into the White House!

