



## Democracy for Ambassadors



### 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've earned this badge, I will have learned more about my local, state, and national government—and I'll be ready to use that knowledge to inform my voting.

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 Ambassador!

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

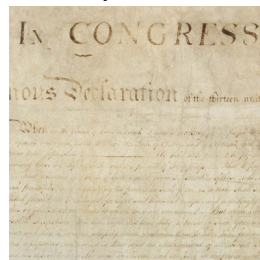


### Find out about the Federal Legislative Branch

#### Charters of Freedom

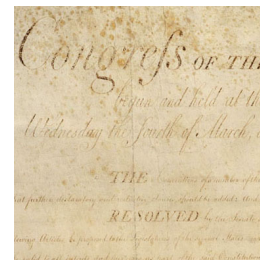
These three documents, known collectively as the Charters of Freedom, secure the rights of the American people. The National Archives Building (pictured above) is the permanent home of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

#### Declaration of Independence



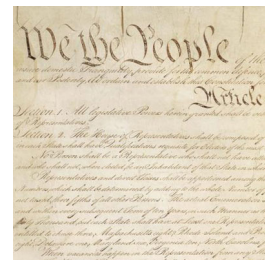
The Declaration of Independence expresses the ideals on which the United States was founded and the reasons for separation from Great Britain.

#### Constitution



The Constitution defines the framework of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of the Government of the United States.

#### Bill of Rights



The Bill of Rights is the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. It defines citizens' and states' rights in relation to the Government.

Adapted from the Democracy for Ambassadors badge requirements and produced in partnership with the Girl Scouts of Orange County.



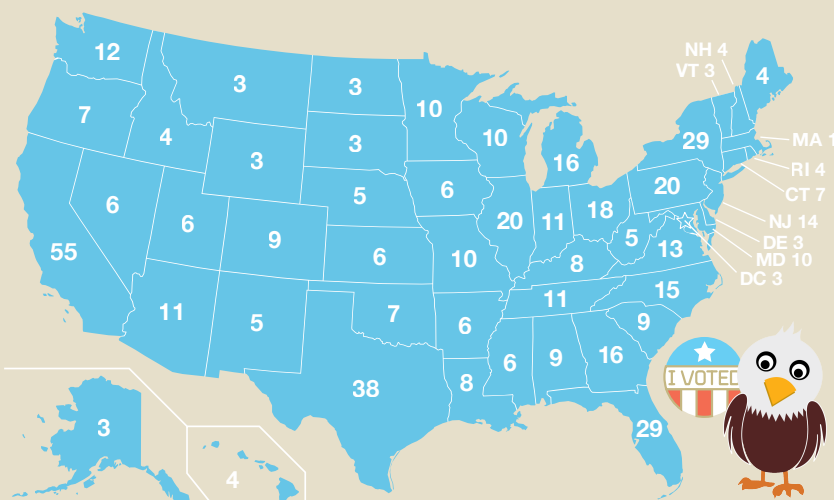
## 2

### Find out about the Federal Executive Branch

The Electoral College was a compromise decided on by the Founding Fathers of the United States, who could not decide how the President should be elected. Some thought Congress should choose the President; some thought the President should be chosen by a straight popular vote of the country's citizens.

In this compromise, electors for the whole country make up the Electoral College. The electors cast their state's official vote based on the winner of the state's popular vote.

There are 538 electors in the country; the number of electors for each state is based on the population of that state. A Presidential candidate must win a majority of these votes to win an election.



Electoral college map for the 2020 United States presidential elections, using data released by the United States Census Bureau.

## 3

### Find out about the Federal Judicial Branch

Richard Nixon nominated six Justices to the Supreme Court (four of which were confirmed by the Senate – there go those checks and balances!). He was instrumental in the ideological shift of the Court with the appointments of Chief Justice Warren Burger (1969), Harry A. Blackmun (1970), Lewis F. Powell, Jr. (1971), and William Rehnquist (1971). Visit the museum galleries to learn more about these Supreme Court appointments!

Justices are appointed, not elected, and they serve lifelong terms. That means they generally stay on the Supreme Court until they pass away or retire, but the Constitution gives Congress the power to remove Justices.



Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to be appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, was sworn in on September 25, 1981. Chief Justice Warren Burger administered the oath as Justice O'Connor's husband, John, looked on. She served 24 years on the Supreme Court before her retirement in 2006. You have something in common with her, she was a Girl Scout too!

First Lady Pat Nixon support for the Girl Scouts began well before the White House with her daughters, Tricia and Julie'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!



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

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