



## Democracy for Cadettes



### 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 learned new things about my government—how each branch works, how they work together, and how each piece makes a difference in society.

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 Cadette!

To earn your Democracy for Cadettes 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

#### How a Bill becomes a Law

The Legislative Branch is empowered to pass laws. A bill becomes a law through these steps:

- 1. Someone has an idea:** This idea can start with anyone, even youth like you! If an elected official likes the idea they write a bill.
- 2. The bill is introduced:** Bills are officially introduced in the House of Representatives or Senate.
- 3. The bill goes to a committee:** A group of committee members meet to work on the bill and vote to reject or accept the bill.
- 4. Congress debates and votes:** If the bill receives a majority vote on the same version, it goes to the President.
- 5. The President takes action:** The President can
  - Approve and pass: The bill is law!
  - Veto: The President rejects the bill and sends it back to Congress. If the bill receives a two-thirds majority vote from the House and Senate, the bill becomes law.
  - Choose no action: The President does nothing. After ten days, if Congress is in session, the bill becomes law.
  - Pocket veto: If Congress adjourns within ten days after the President receives the bill, the President can choose not to sign it. The bill does not become law.

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

## 2

### Find out about the Federal Executive Branch

The head of the Executive Branch is the President. The President can approve or veto bills. In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed Title IX into law. Title IX required gender equity for boys and girls in every educational program that receives federal funding.

Title IX is best known for its impact on gender equality in sports, but it applies to all aspects of education, including admissions, financial aid, and academic programs.

Some key details of Title IX include:

- 1. Equal Opportunity in Athletics:** Title IX requires schools to provide equal opportunities for both male and female students to participate in sports.
- 2. Equal Treatment in Admissions and Recruitment:** Title IX prohibits discrimination in admissions and recruitment processes based on gender.
- 3. Equal Treatment in Educational Programs:** It mandates that educational programs and activities be free from discrimination based on gender.

Title IX has played a significant role in promoting gender equity in education and athletics. It continues to be an important tool to address gender differences and discrimination in educational institutions.

#### Visit the Title IX Exhibit!



Visit the Title IX exhibit, located at the Nixon Library's Loker Hall to learn more about how President Nixon's signing of Title IX into law established equal opportunities in public schools and universities.



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

Phone: (714) 983-9120

EMAIL: [NixonEducation@nara.gov](mailto:NixonEducation@nara.gov)

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## 3

### Find out about the Federal Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch is made up of the federal court system, which includes district courts, appellate courts, and the Supreme Court. The Judicial Branch interprets laws, resolves legal disputes, and ensures that the actions of the government adhere to the principles in the constitution.

The Supreme Court is sometimes called "The Highest Court in the Land," and 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. You have something in common with her, she was a Girl Scout too!



Today, the 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 Supreme Court until they pass away or retire, but the Constitution gives Congress the power to remove Justices. 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, 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!

