

## Democracy for Ambassadors Badge

### Activity Choice Descriptions

Walk your girls through the activity choices and let them decide which ones they like best.

#### Meeting 2 Activity Choices

##### Find Out About the Federal Legislative Branch

**Write a Letter:** Is there an issue in recent news that's important to you, or do you already have an issue you're passionate about? Do you think there's something more that lawmakers can do to help? Write a letter to a representative about why the issue matters and what action you'd like to see from them.

**Dive Into Gerrymandering:** Find out everything you can on the topic. What is the history? Do you see examples in your state? Research some of the solutions that have been proposed—and maybe even come up with some of your own. Share your thoughts with the group.

**Visit a U.S. Representative or Senator:** Thinking about taking a trip with your family or Girl Scout friends? How about going to Washington, D.C. to meet one of your representatives? Most have the option to schedule a tour with them—try reaching out online to see if it would be possible, then start planning! If you can't go to Washington, you can set up an appointment with their local state office instead.

##### Find Out About the Federal Executive Branch

**Encourage Voting:** Look into voter turnout rates in your state—and the rest of the country—for the last presidential election. Did most adult citizens cast a vote? If the number was far from 100%, why do you think that might be? Research potential options for increasing voter turnout and plan to take part in at least one option.

**Explore Parties:** Candidates for president in the United States may be Democrats, Republicans, or belong to a third party. (In the United States, a third party is anything other than the Republican or Democratic parties.) Try to take a step back from everything you've heard about these parties. Research the ideologies, including one or two third parties. Which aligns most closely with your values? How could you test the waters by learning more about one or more political parties in the area? Remember, you can always change your mind in the future!

**Look Into Lobbying:** Research the role of lobbyists in the most recent presidential election. What kind of influence do you think they had, and how do you feel about it? Share your thoughts.

### Find Out About the Federal Judicial Branch

**Judge a Case:** Choose one Supreme Court case from history and find out everything you can about it. What was the process to get to the Supreme Court? What was the decision? How close was the vote? Do you agree with the result? Share your thoughts.

**Hold a Mock Trial:** Mock trials can be a great way to learn the ins and outs of the court system. Decide on a case to try. You can find lots of examples online, from real-world cases to fictional ones. Watch informative videos of the mock trial process, then dive in!

**Go to Court:** One of the best ways to understand the legal system is to see it for yourself! Make a plan to attend a session in court. You can start by contacting your local U.S. District Clerk's Office to find out what cases are on the calendar, what time they'd recommend for a student visit, and anything you should know before attending.