

## Democracy for Cadettes 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 the news right now that's important to you? Do you think there's something more that lawmakers can do to help? Write a letter to one of your representatives about why the issue matters and what action you'd like to see from them.

**Explore Territories:** Learn about what it means to be an American territory, and how they are represented in Congress. Do you think the system is fair? Why or why not? Share your thoughts.

**Research Representation:** Find out how many women are currently serving in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. Compare this year to previous years. How have things changed? Come up with ideas to further increase the number of women serving in Congress.

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

**Look Into the Cabinet:** The president's cabinet includes the heads of 15 different departments; these people advise the president on a variety of topics. Research the current presidential cabinet members. Find out who they are and some of the things they're responsible for in their role. Talk about your findings. Which role do you think is the most important? Why?

**Create a Presidential Trivia Contest:** How many presidents have won Grammy Awards? Which president was known for his love of jelly beans? Come up with fun questions for your own quiz.

**Craft Branches:** Start by drawing a picture of a tree with three branches, then label the branches with each branch of government. Take a list of people or groups of people and make them into "leaves" for the corresponding branch. You can write them near the branches or cut out leaves from green construction paper and glue or tape them on.

##### Find Out About the Federal Judicial Branch

**Talk to a Lawyer or Judge:** Find out everything you can about what they do. Why did they

choose their profession? What do they think are the most important cases in national and state history? How do the courts in your state work with the other two branches of government? Ask any other questions you may have.

**Investigate a Case:** Take a closer look at a well-known Supreme Court case from history. (Some examples might be *Miranda v. Arizona* or *Brown v. Board of Education*.) Find out everything you can about the case and see what changes were made as a result, if any. Do you agree with the decision of the court? Why or why not? Talk about your findings with family or friends.

**Go to Court:** One of the best ways to understand the legal system is to see it in action! With help from an adult, find a time 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, the best time for a student visit, and anything you should know before attending.