

Virtual Troop Meeting

VIRTUAL MEETING PLAN: JUNIOR INSIDE GOVERNMENT

Find out more about the basics of government and start to become an active citizen.



PREPARE

This guide is designed to be used alongside GSUSA's Civic Engagement badge materials. Buy or download:

- [Badge Requirement Digital Download](#)
- [Volunteer Toolkit](#) meeting scripts and resources (Free)

TECHNOLOGY

Girls will need to have an internet connection and device (computer, smartphone, tablet) to join a video chat/conference service to participate in troop meetings. Encourage everyone to leave their cameras on and mute themselves while the leader is sharing. Google Hangouts and [Zoom](#) are popular. Zoom offers the first 40 minutes free. For girl safety, we recommend you do not publicly post or share recorded meetings outside your troop.

SUPPLIES

Some Girl Scout activities may require families to be resourceful. If it's cloudy out, you may need to wait another day. If a material isn't available, get creative with what you can find around the house. Send parents a list of supplies to gather before beginning the first badge meeting.

LOCATION

The Junior Inside Government badge steps work well in a small, indoor area with a desk. They can be done in a small yard, or on your sidewalk. Remember to stay the recommended "social distance" away from people who aren't in your household. If you can't get outside, you'll need to get creative!

STRUCTURE

Designed for 3 virtual meetings, 30+ minutes/each, plus badge work at home between meetings.

- Reflect: Talk about activity since previous meeting
- Topic: Introduce the topic with a short activity
- Question: Lead a short discussion, inviting girl ideas and questions about the topic.
- Activity Intro: Explain the badge activity for girls to complete before the next meeting.

Follow up with an email to the family that includes instructions.

- Close: Virtual friendship circle.

What is a virtual friendship circle? You get to design one together as a troop!

VIRTUAL MEETING 1: Understanding Civic Engagement

- Promise & Law

- Topic Intro

Watch this video that introduces Civic Engagement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6bNwmrBPXI>

- Discussion Questions

What does being an active citizen mean to you?

What things are important that everyone at your school, town, or household do for the benefit of the entire group? (I.e. throw trash in the garbage, say please & thank you, etc., volunteer at the food bank, donate clothes & books, etc.)

- Activity: After hearing everyone's discussion make a list of the 10 things you feel are the most important characteristics for being an active citizen.

Once everyone is done share out your answers.

- Activity 2: Once you have shared everyone's personal feelings about being an active citizen, girls are going to further elaborate on creating their ideal community by creating a collage of what they think it means to be a Global citizen. Give everyone about 15 minutes to use whatever art supplies they have available to create their collage. Give prompts when there are 5 minutes and 2 minutes remaining, but let them know they are welcome to continue working on their collage when the meeting is over. Once everyone is done share everyone's art work via Webcam.

- Close

Reflect on what you did in the meeting.

Remind girls to continue thinking about ways that they can be active in their community- Bonus if they can think of things they can do while sheltering at home.

Talk about the week's activity and answer any last questions

Virtual Friendship Circle

VIRTUAL MEETING 2: Understanding Government

- Promise & Law

- Reflect

Did you think of any new ways that you could be an active citizen? Did you discuss this topic with anyone in your household or anyone else? What did they think about civic engagement?

- Topic

Understanding Local Government

Review this chart (link below) of California's branches of government. Ask each girl to draw these branches while the group discusses what each of these branches means for their local community. Adult should support as needed.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/politics/legislature-faqs>

- Questions

Which role in government do you think is the most valuable to your community? Why?

Is there any roles that you think don't affect you? Why not? Have the group discuss.

- Activity Intro

For option "Interview a local historian or longtime citizen" Have everyone draft 2-3 questions in advance about the history of certain issues in CA over the last 20-50 years (I.e. Gay marriage, POC, public transportation, etc.) Then allow them to interview someone who has lived in California for 20+ years. Make sure the segment is being recorded & ask them to share the video with family, friends, etc. via the web & to discuss with them as well.

- Listen to the story She Persisted:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFJkBSbJe18>

Discuss as a group times (if any) the girls have been told "no" on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, etc. Did you feel you were capable even though someone else said you were not? How does it make you feel?

- Close

Reflect on what you did in the meeting.

Talk about the week's activity and answer any last questions.

Tell girls to think about 1-2 laws they may propose in the future and why? Plan to share at next meeting

Virtual Friendship Circle

VIRTUAL MEETING 3: Running the government

- Promise & Law

- Reflect

Did you think of any laws that you feel should be proposed? How is it valuable to the people in your community?

- Topic

How to handle different community struggles.

How would your troop decide to help? In Step 3 for the option "Think about laws you might propose someday" present the 3 scenarios one a time to the group and ask them how they would suggest to help? What laws could they put into place? It is ok if the girls do not decide on the same resolution.

- Questions

Ask them to consider how the laws they come up with may affect other people and or situations. Would they still want to enact them?'

- For options "Plan a campaign if you were running for office" or "Work on someone else's campaign" Allow the girls to decide if they would like to run a campaign of their own or support someone else's (another girl or actual candidate in any upcoming election) Discuss marketing strategies & how to convince their community that the issues they are advocating for are the most important.

Make sure the flyer they create includes at least 3 issues that are important to them.

- Close

Reflect on what you did in the meeting.

Talk about the week's activity and answer any last questions

Virtual Friendship Circle

At your next virtual meeting, have girls share and reflect on their campaign posters they created.

Congratulations, your Girl Scout Juniors have earned their Inside Government badge!

Alternate Adult Facilitator Guide:

Steps:

1. Decide what being an active citizen means to you
2. Go inside government
3. Look into laws
4. Report on the issues
5. Get involved in government

Purpose: When I’ve earned this badge, I’ll know more about how government runs.

Girl Supplies:

- Favorite item during shelter-in-place (I.e. Book, toy, game, snack, etc.)
- Pen or other writing utensil
- 5 sheets of Binder Paper/ other blank paper
- Snack(s)
- Art supplies (if available) Markers, colored pencils, crayons, magazine (to cut), scissors, glue, colored paper, etc.

Activity	Time	Staff Supplies	Girl Supplies	Facilitation Description
Introductions	10 minutes	One item that brings joy	An item that brings them joy during the shelter-in-place.	Ask the girl to share their name, city, and to share (on camera) one item that has made them happier during their time at home (I.e. favorite toy, book, snack, etc.)
Step 1	15 minutes	Paper, Marker	Pen, 1 sheet of Paper	For option “Be an active citizen in action”. Discuss with group of girls what active citizenship means. Allow 2 minutes for them to brainstorm things on their own. Then group share out of ideas & fill out on chart paper- encourage everyone to share at least 1 idea.

Civic Engagement Activity	20 minutes	Sample	Art supplies: Coloring utensils, magazine, glue, scissors, etc. Paper	Discuss with the group what it means to be a global citizen. Ask everyone to make a collage that shows what being a global citizen means to them & then have them share out their responses.
Step 2	15 minutes	Paper, Marker, Chart of CA Government Branches (see link below)	Pen, 1 sheet of Paper	For option "Chart the government structure for your school district, town, county, or state." Discuss the branches of CA State Government & how they affect local communities.
Snack Break	10 minutes	Snack	Snack	
Step 3	15 minutes	3 sheets of Paper	Pen, paper	For option "Think about laws you might propose someday" Ask everyone to consider the three options in depth (3 minutes each) and consider laws they may enact for those scenarios. Share out with the group.
Step 4	20 minutes	Volunteer/ Family Member with understanding of CA history in approx. last 20-50 years	Pen, Paper	For option "Interview a local historian or longtime citizen" Have everyone draft 2-3 questions in advance about the history of certain

				issues in CA over the last 50 years (I.e. Gay marriage, POC, public transportation, etc.) Then allow them to interview someone. Make sure the segment is being recorded & ask them to share the video with family, friends, etc. via the web & to discuss with them as well.
Step 5	20 minutes	Samples (from current CA elections)	Art supplies: Coloring utensils, magazine, glue, scissors, etc.	For options “Plan a campaign if you were running for office” or “Work on someone else’s campaign” Allow the girls to decide if they would like to run a campaign of their own or support someone else’s (another girl or actual candidate in upcoming election) Discuss marketing strategies & how to convince their community that the issues they are advocating for are the most important.
Debrief	15 minutes	NA	NA	Ask everyone what is the most important thing they learned about government

				during the badge activities. Go through the 3 Debrief questions about action steps for each community.
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