

Activity Challenge: Practice Civic Engagement

Have you ever been concerned about an issue in your community? Whether you are passionate about helping with food insecurity, wanting to have a cleaner park, gender equality, or working to save endangered animals - if you want to make change it means you will need to advocate.

1 Ask the girls questions to get started:

- ▶ What is an advocate? (An advocate is someone who publicly supports a cause or policy.)
- ▶ What does civic engagement mean? (Working to improve the lives of people on your community.)

2 Do this activity:

- ▶ Identify a non-partisan* issue or problem that you care about in your community. Brainstorm potential solutions to the problem.
- ▶ With the help of a trusted adult, do some research to find out what government official has the authority or power to address the issue or problem you identified.
- ▶ Advocate for your solution by addressing the appropriate government official. You can write a letter, send an email, or even call their office to share your thoughts on the issue.
- ▶ Encourage your friends and family to join your cause by joining you in speaking out!

3 Reflect on the experience:

- ▶ Was it challenging to identify an issue in your community?
- ▶ Are there a lot of issues you are passionate about or is there one you are very passionate about?
- ▶ Was it easy to come up with a solution? Will everyone like your solution or are there barriers that could cause the changes not to be made - if so, what are they?
- ▶ How do you continue to advocate even if it will take a long time to make progress?
- ▶ Is it easy to make lasting community change?

If you want to learn more about how our government works, how to take action and make change, continue your journey by earning the new civics badges.

*Non-partisan means not biased toward any particular political group. As a 501c3 organization, Girl Scouts does not endorse any particular candidate or political party.

This activity is aligned with (but does not fulfill all the badge requirements for) the badges listed in the graphic. You can find the complete badge curriculum on the [VTK!](#)

