

# Suffrage Centennial

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO  
VOTE AND OUR COURAGEOUS PAST

“It’s important that young people know about the struggles we faced to get to the point we are today. Only then will they appreciate the hard-won freedom of blacks in this country.”

— Amelia Boynton Robinson



# Your Vote is Your Voice

2020 marks 100 years since the ratification of the 19th Amendment, ensuring the right to vote for most women. Both Washington and Idaho, along with the western states of Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Washington, led the country in the effort of women's suffrage. Idaho was the 4th state in the nation where women won the right to vote and Washington was the 5th.



LONG BEFORE THE RATIFICATION OF THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT, WOMEN ACROSS THE UNITED STATES COURAGEOUSLY WORKED FOR THE NATIONWIDE RIGHT TO VOTE. ITS RATIFICATION REPRESENTED THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK OF DOZENS OF WOMEN. SUFFRAGISTS, ALSO CALLED SUFFRAGETTES, MET IN HOMES AND AT LARGE OPEN-AIR MEETINGS TO PLAN STRATEGIES. THEY MARCHED IN PARADES, HELD RALLIES, STAFFED TENTS AT FAIRS, AND DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS. THEY EVEN SOLD CANDY AND SUFFRAGE ITEMS AT BASEBALL GAMES TO SPREAD THE WORD OF HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS FOR WOMEN TO BE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

IN 2020 THE CENTENNIAL OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT GIVING WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE WILL BE CELEBRATED ACROSS THE NATION. ALTHOUGH THE US SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT BEGAN IN NEW YORK STATE, THE WESTERN STATES TRAIL BLAZED FOR WOMEN'S VOTING RIGHTS, AND BY COMPLETING THIS PATCH PROGRAM YOU WILL BECOME MORE AWARE OF THAT MOVEMENT AND THE WOMEN WHO HAVE SHAPED HISTORY THROUGHOUT TIME. THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT STARTED IN THE 1840'S, LONG BEFORE THE FORMATION OF THE GIRL SCOUTS ORGANIZATION AND GIRL SCOUTING. ONCE GIRL SCOUTS HAD BEEN FORMED, MANY OF THE SUFFRAGISTS BECAME MEMBERS OF GIRL SCOUTS. ONE SUFFRAGIST EVEN SERVED AS THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF GSUSA. MANY OTHER FAMOUS WOMEN AND GIRL SCOUTS HAVE IMPACTED THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND ARE RECOGNIZED AT THE WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME IN SENECA FALLS, NY.

## REQUIREMENTS

### Discover

Explore the history of the right to vote.

### Connect

Explore how the right to vote affects their everyday life and that of their community.

### Take Action

Make a difference in their communities by taking action on an issue they are passionate about.

#### Girl Scout Daisies

2 Discover, 1 Connect, 1 Take Action

#### Girl Scout Brownies

2 Discover, 2 Connect, 1 Take Action

#### Girl Scout Juniors

3 Discover, 2 Connect, 1 Take Action

#### Girl Scout Cadettes

4 Discover, 3 Connect, 1 Take Action

#### Girl Scout Seniors/Ambassadors

5 Discover, 4 Connect, 1 Take Action

*"I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality."*  
—Alice Paul



# Discover

- Learn what voting means? What is suffrage?
- Discover who the first women to lead the suffrage movement were.
- What are the colors of the American suffrage movement? Why were they chosen and what do they represent?
- Learn about the history of the right to vote in your state.
- Learn more about what an Amendment is and why it is important.
- Learn about the 19th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- How did the Nineteenth Amendment affect minority women?
- Why do you think African American men gained the right to vote decades before women did?
- Why do you feel people were opposed to women voting?
- Learn the definition of civil disobedience.
- Learn who represents you in the United States Congress and how to contact them to express your opinion on an issue important to you.
- Learn about elected positions within your school or community. What are the requirements for being elected?



# Connect

- Learn how to register to vote – complete a mock registration card.
- Educate yourself on the importance of voting. Find out what populations have lower voter registration and turnout.
- Find out how voting takes place in your community. Is voting done by mail-in ballot or in person at a local near you?
- Discuss with a family or community member why they vote.
- Review a map of women's voting rights before 1920. Why do you think so many western states, like Washington and Idaho, permitted women to vote before the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment?
- Which strategies of the women's rights movement were most effective? Why?
- Select a famous Suffragist, learn more about her and tell her story.
- Learn who your elected officials are and what they do for the following positions.
  - Local – Mayor, School Board Member, City Council
  - State – Governor, State Senator, and State Representative
  - National – President, Senator, and House of Representatives



# Take Action

- Help others learn about the importance of voting and how to register to vote.
- Select an issue that is important to you and create a 1-minute presentation and banner to promote the issue and educate others about it (i.e., Recycling, Literacy, Carbon Footprint, Poverty/Homelessness). Write a letter to your elected official about this issue.
- Explore primary source documents and help the Library of Congress's Campaign to transcribe significant documents from the women's suffrage movement.
- Go online to find a nonprofit organization or social group that cares about the same things you do. Consider volunteering for this organization.
- Get involved with an issue that is important to you. Learn ways you can take action to make a difference in your community.
- Run for student council or ask to speak at your city council meeting. Both options give you a platform and can help you not only spread the word but also influence decision making for a cause that is important to you. Write an op-ed article and email it to [jtennant@gsewni.org](mailto:jtennant@gsewni.org)
- Create a comic book featuring suffragists you learned about and their struggle for the right to vote.
- Create a Public Service Announcement about the importance of voting using audio, video, visual or written mediums and present it to others. Some ideas are:
  - Create a song using a familiar tune about voting
  - Create a bookmark
  - Create a billboard
  - Design a webpage
  - Make a mini movie
  - Write a poem/limerick
  - Write a newspaper article





# Congratulations!

We would love to hear about your take action projects.

Please share your story with our council at [customercare@gsewni.org](mailto:customercare@gsewni.org)

Upon completion of the program, girls can purchase the patch from our [council shop](#). Girls from any council are welcome to participate and order their patches from our [council shop](#).



*"Woman is learning for herself that not self-sacrifice, but self development, is her first duty in life; and this, not primarily for the sake of others but that she may become fully herself."  
—Matilda Joslyn Gage*

A special thank you to Girl Scouts of Western New York and Texas Girl Scouts for providing the inspiration for this patch & its requirements