



# Earn Your Suffrage Centennial Patch: A Guide for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors

The Suffrage Centennial patch offers you a way to learn more about the history of voting, why it affects all of our lives, and how you can make a difference in your community. To earn your patch, complete 3 of the options under “Discover”; 2 of the options under “Connect”; and 1 of the options under “Take Action”. And when you’re finished, [order your own suffrage patch](#) from Girl Scouts of the USA! And wear it proudly.

## OBJECTIVE

To earn your Suffrage Centennial patch, you’ll explore why voting matters, find out about voting in your own community, and take an action to persuade others to support a cause that is important to you.

### **DISCOVER: Learn about voting and suffrage.**

(Do three activities from the following list.)

- Have you ever been to a voting booth? What was it like?
- Ask an adult in your family what they do in a voting booth?
- Do you know what they have voted for?
- What does it mean to vote? Is it important? Why or why not?
- Does voting make you a good neighbor?

### **CONNECT: Talk to your community.**

(Do two activities from the following list.)

- Do the adults you know vote? Ask them why or why not?
- Find out where a voting location is in your town.
- Speak with an adult in your family and ask what they vote for.



## BACKGROUND

Girl Scouts was founded in the final years of the suffrage campaigns, and many women supported both movements. For example, Edith Carpenter Macy and Mamie Williams were both suffragists.

Early on, Girl Scouts placed importance on understanding democracy and government, beginning in 1918 with the first Civics badge and followed in 1920 by a Citizens badge. This continues to be very important to Girl Scouts.

**Explore More:** To learn more about suffragists and their fight for the right to vote, download the complete [Suffrage Centennial Toolkit](#).

**TAKE ACTION: Share your knowledge, and help others discover the importance of voting.**

(Do one activity from the following list.)

Not everyone agrees on what should be done in our communities. We talk with our elected officials to let them know what we feel. Voting is another way we let them know what we want.

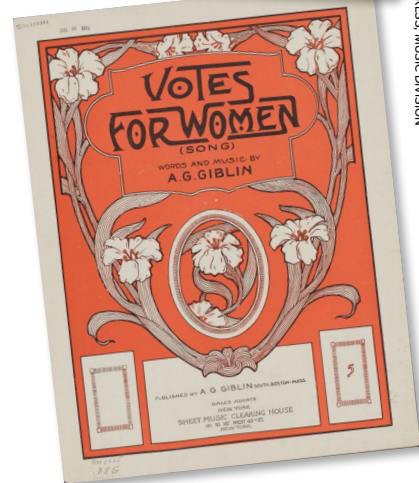
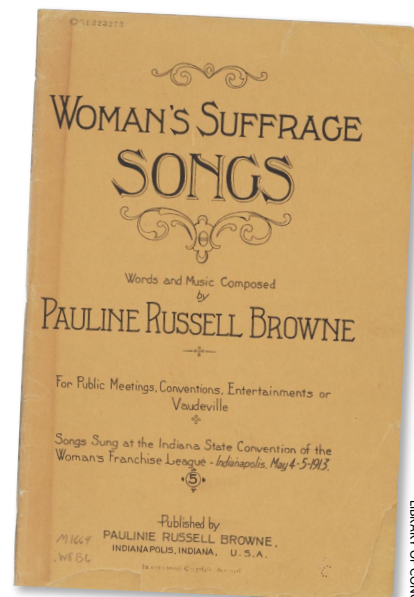
Think about what is important to your town or community, and create a one-minute talk and a poster to teach others about why it is important to vote on your issue. Your issue might be recycling, literacy/reading, protecting animals, the environment, or homelessness, for instance.

Some other ideas are:

- Create a song using a familiar tune about something that is important at your school.
- Create a bookmark or drawing about an issue you think is important.
- Record yourself speaking about why voting is important.
- Write a poem or limerick about what is important in your town or community. Limericks are often funny poems where the first, second and last lines rhyme, and the third and fourth lines rhyme. Here's a famous limerick by Edward Lear as an example:

*There was an Old Man with a beard,  
Who said, 'It is just as I feared!  
Two Owls and a Hen,  
Four Larks and a Wren,  
Have all built their nests in my beard!'*

However, not all poems rhyme, so feel free to write a poem that sounds like you!



*People raised their voices in song for—and against—women's suffrage. Sheet music and songbooks helped them share the tunes.*