CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE PATCH PROGRAM



In this patch program, girls will gain knowledge about the history of voting and the importance of voting today.

Leadership, advocacy, and civic responsibility are essential parts of the Girl Scout program. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote. After a decades-long fight, and even with the passage of this amendment, many women still experienced discrimination.

To earn this patch, Daisies/Brownies must do one activity from each section, plus one additional activity. Juniors must do two activities from each section, plus one additional activity.

Cadettes/Seniors/Ambassadors must do one activity from each section, plus two additional activities of your choice. You can purchase this patch from any GSSEM council shop during working hours and while patches are available. **The deadline to complete this patch is December 31, 2020.**

Discover

- What does suffrage mean? What's the difference between suffragist vs suffragette?
- Michigan was home to prominent suffragists such as Sojourner Truth, Anna Howard Shaw, Clara Arthur, and Lucia Voorhees Grimes. Many other suffragists were incarcerated for their actions. Research one of them and share their story with your family, troop members, or friends.
- What date did Michigan ratify the 19th amendment? What were the first states to do so? When was the 19th amendment officially ratified? Create a timeline of important events.
- Research symbols of the suffrage movement such as flags, banners, mascots, and create one of your own. Hang it in a visible location in your home to remind everyone about the suffrage movement and the importance of voting.
- After the passage of the 19th amendment, African American women, particularly those inhabiting southern states, still faced a number of barriers. Research what they were and what actions they took to overcome them. Tell their story to your friends and family.

Connect

- Visit a museum or a memorial to view official historical suffrage documents or tributes to suffragists. What documents did you see and what's their significance? Research local museums and memorials and create a list where you can find information on suffrage.
- Talk with women in your family and find out if any of your ancestors took part in the Suffrage Movement or any other campaign promoting women's right to vote. What significance did the 19th amendment have on them?
- Do voting inequalities or barriers exist today in your area? Create a campaign to overcome them and connect with your local government.
- Explore local organizations like the League of Women's Voters. What's their role? Are there other organizations that support women voter registration and voting rights? Connect with someone from the organization.
- Read a book on suffrage and share what you learned. You could also start a book club and read books centered around women's rights.

Take Action

- Ask your troop, family, neighbors, local government agencies, or other buildings to shine purple and yellow lights on their buildings on a designated date in support of the Centennial of Women's Suffrage. You might select a date of importance like Election Day or the day the 19th amendment was ratified.
- Plant yellow roses in your home, school, or community gardens and share photos on social media using the hashtags #WomensVote100, #SuffrageSisters, and #SuffraGents. Why are yellow roses significant in regards to women's suffrage?
- Hold a virtual or in-person (when safe to do so) viewing of a movie depicting struggles that women have overcome. Some of you might choose *Iron Jawed Angels*, *A League of Their Own*, or several suffragette YouTube videos. Discuss the significance of the movies/videos.
- Voting is an important right that shouldn't be taken lightly. Research why many people don't exercise their right to vote. Create a campaign to help others learn the importance of voting and how to register to vote. You might make posters and/or pins to distribute, create a song/jingle, or record a short video to share.
- Lead a discussion with family and friends, host a panel discussion, or invite a prominent person to a meeting (virtual or in person—if safe to do so). Talk about celebrating suffrage while acknowledging the setbacks of the suffragettes.

Resources

- Suffrage Centennial Toolkit
- Library of Michigan
- Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission
- Displaced Histories
- Suffragist Memorial
- Rock the Vote
- National Park Service
- History.com

Related Badges

- Daisy - Good Neighbor
- Brownie - Celebrating Community
- Junior - Inside Government
- Cadette - Finding Common Ground
- Senior - Behind the Ballot
- Ambassador - Public Policy
- All Levels - Democracy