Model Citizen

Voting and Elections

Leaders, The Office of the Secretary of State offers your troop **free** resources to help you reach your goals—and have some fun along the way. This flyer is designed to be used with the Model Citizen Voting and Elections Track brochure.

The Office of the Secretary of State offers you these free resources while supplies last:

- Kids' Activity Books;
- Top 10 reasons why voting is important;
- County elections department contact information;
- Puppet Theater DVD;
- Citizen Voting Rights brochures;
- Voter registration forms;
- Online voting in the 2008 Mock Election; and
- Girl Scout Day on January 23, 2009.

For resources or to register for Girl Scout Day by December 22, 2008, contact Lindsay Pryor at lpryor@secstate.wa.gov . Space is limited.

1. Ask Around

To encourage your troop to begin thinking about this topic, hand out copies of the Secretary of State Kids' Activity Book. Paper copies are available for free while supplies last or download the book at www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/pdf/2007/ActivityBookweb.pdf .

2. Voting is Important

There are many great reasons to vote. Discuss our list with your troop and then let them decide which three reasons they list.

3. In Person

County Auditor and elections department contact information is available at www.vote.wa.gov . Alternately, you can choose to attend Girl Scout Day at the Office of the Secretary of State on January 23, 2009. Register by December 22, 2008. Space is limited.

4. Puppets Vote

Access the video on the Secretary of State's kids' website, on YouTube, or you can request a DVD.

5. My Elected Officials

This information is most likely available on your county website. If it isn't, call your county elections department and ask for a list of countywide elected officials.

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6. "Are you registered?"

To find out who is eligible to vote, read the Citizen Voting Rights brochure available at www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/pdf/Citizen_Voting_Rights.pdf . Review eligibility requirements with your troop before they begin this task. Consider handing out real voter registration forms.

7. Citizenship Worldwide

Here are a few differences to get your troop thinking: Australia, Belgium, and Brazil have compulsory voting systems; people who aren't citizens can vote in Argentina; and in Kuwait, men and women vote at separate polling places.

8. Create it

Encourage your troop to include at least ten pictures of good citizenship and to pick a variety of ways to be a good citizen.

9. Practice Voting Part 1

An alternative is to vote in the Secretary of State's mock election. The polls are open the week before the November General Election. Girls can vote online for their statewide elected officials and for President.

10. Practice Voting Part 2

Return to the mock election voting website after the mock polls close and you'll see how Washington students voted.

11. Watch it

The Presidential Inauguration will be on January 20, 2009, just three days before Girl Scout Day.

Washington Secretary of State SAM REED

Girl Scouts.