

# girlsecurity.

## Secure You, Secure America

U.S. National Security  
Public Policy Patch Program

Grades 6 - 12

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Our mission is to educate girls  
about U.S. national security and  
support future generations of  
women in national security

Curriculum Developed by Girl Security for the Girl Scouts (GC/NWI) and not for further distribution.

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## **Girl Security Public Policy Patch**

Grades 6 -12

### **As part of this program, you will:**

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Understand the meaning of  
national security

Explore a security policy that  
applies at the national and state  
levels (election security)

Discover how women are shaping  
national security

Engage as a global citizen

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## **Girl Security Public Policy Patch**

Grades 6 -12

### **Field Trip Program:**

Girl Security and the Cook County Clerk's Office in Chicago invite you and one (1) adult for a visit to their office for a discussion about what the County is doing to secure elections.

The GSCNWI will share additional details and registration information.

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**why girls?**

**We believe **girls** have an important contribution to make to America's national security**

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Girls develop a unique understanding of safety that shapes how they thrive and overcome obstacles through adulthood.

The world is dynamically changing. Thriving in the face of safety concerns is how we at Girl Security define "resilience." And resilience is America's strongest national security tool.

Girls and women have an important leadership role to play in America's security, today and in the future.



## Personal Security



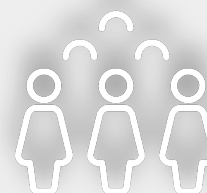
1

person

**1 resilient person  
"bouncing back" after  
loss, trauma,  
disappointment, or  
adversity**



## National Security



325M

people

**325 million resilient  
Americans "bouncing back"  
after loss, trauma,  
disappointment, or  
adversity**

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## How Girl Security Works



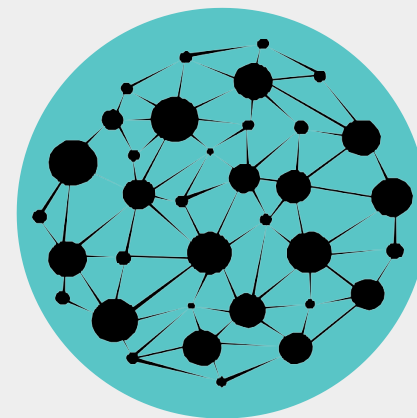
### empower

By learning about national security, girls can develop context about issues affecting their lives every day.



### secure

Through simulations, girls can express their inherent ability to problem solve in a national security world.



### advance

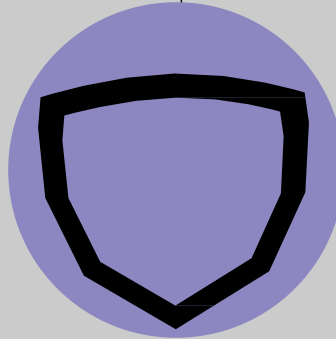
By connecting to women in national security, girls interested in these careers can find mentorship.

## With this program, Girl Security will:



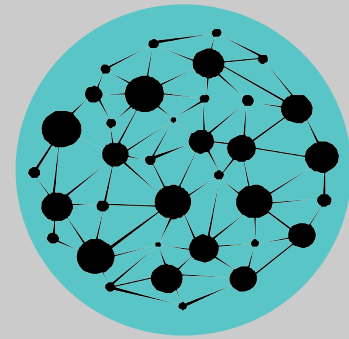
### **empower**

The public policy patch program will provide you with knowledge about national security.



### **secure**

You will participate in brief simulations to develop your problem-solving and collaboration skills.



### **advance**

Upon earning your patch, you can be paired with peers and mentors.

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We can do anything we want in America, unless it's prohibited by **laws**. **Policies**, on the other hand, are usually a course of action by our government to address an issue affecting our country as a whole, like school safety or healthcare.

## Girl Security Defines "National Security" as:

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A network of **people** (for example, military, intelligence officers, government employees, lawyers, for example) and **institutions** (government agencies and departments),

Governed by **laws** and guided by **policies**,

Designed to **protect** and **defend** America's most important national resources

Including its 325 million people.

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The US “government” is a system of laws and rules and the people responsible for making laws and rules. There are (3) branches: Executive Branch (President), Legislative Branch (Congress), and the Judiciary (Courts).

## More About National Security:

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National security requires working with **partners** around the globe.

National security requires working with **state** governments (governors) and **local** governments (cities and mayors) in the US.

"The National Security Strategy of the United States" is published by the White House every few years and is a helpful online guide to understanding what challenges America faces.

Government employees who are part of ensuring our national security all take an oath to safeguard America.



## What Does the U.S. National Security Community Do?

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If we think of America as a superhero, made up of 325 million super heroes, then our superhero power is resilience (bouncing back). Many times throughout our nation's history, we have shown resilience – often in response to great harm such as the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. An aspect of the American way of life was changed, but Americans thrived.

What the national security community does is ensure America's superhero power – its resilience – remains strong in the face of threats.

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# **action 1:** **Understanding an Oath**





## **action 1: An Oath to Serve, Honor, Protect or Defend**

**The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, reads:**

**“ We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”**

**All civilian employees of the Federal Government take the same oath of loyalty to the Constitution - not a person, position, or political party**

**"I, (full name), do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well; and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter."**

**The US Constitution is the “Law of the Land” and is itself the most important institution of American government because it defines our democracy**

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## action 1: An Oath to Serve, Honor, Protect or Defend

what you will need: a pencil, a blank sheet of paper

what you will do: compare the different oaths from national security professionals on the following page.

- 
- Identify what words the oaths have in common. Write down your understanding of their meaning.
  - Oaths are a calling to do something. Share your thoughts on paper about what the Girl Scouts oath calls you to do.
  - Consider what the oaths are calling others to do and write down your thoughts.

The Girl Scouts' Oath states, “on my honor, I will try to serve...my country...”



Oaths are important in the national security field to create unity of purpose

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## action 1: An Oath to Serve, Honor, Protect or Defend

**U.S. Army Oath of Enlistment:** I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

**Lawyer's Oath:** I solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of [ ] and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of an attorney and counselor at law to the best of my knowledge and ability. As an officer of the court, I will strive to conduct myself at all times with dignity, courtesy, and integrity."

**Oath of (U.S. Supreme Court) Justices and Judges:** Each justice or judge of the United States shall take the following oath or affirmation before performing the duties of his office: "I, \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as \_\_\_\_ under the Constitution and laws of the United States. So help me God."

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# Completing action 1

Consider how your oath to  
the Girl Scouts might  
change as you mature







## The Personal-National Security Lens



### personal security

Our personal security lens is colored by our own experiences with safety – at school where we perform drills, in the car where we are prohibited from texting, or online where we protect our data.

Your personal security lens means that you react to things around you differently based on your experiences with safety.



### national security

The national security lens values the safety of **Americans**, in addition to the our **infrastructure** (internet, roadways, and food supply), **institutions** (government, businesses, schools, religious institutions), and **values** (liberty, justice, equality) that define a way of life for many in the U.S.

**widening our personal security lens to value our national security strengths makes all of us more engaged and secure as a nation**

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Did you know that all combat positions in the military have only been open to women since 2015?

## America's National Security Lens

There are several important features of America's national security lens:

- **Geography:** the U.S. has relied on its location and large ocean borders as a deterrent (e.g., something that prevents limits) to those who might harm the US
- **Size:** the sheer size of the U.S. would make it very difficult for a foreign enemy to dominate
- **Natural Resources:** the landscape of the U.S. offers abundant resources that most other nations do not have, such as oil and gas, water, minerals, and arable land (i.e., able to grow crops) .
- **Population:** the sizable, educated, and engaged population has been a security strength, particularly in times of war or threats

This **lens** has formed a foundation for building America's national security community



## What Are Our National Security Strengths?



### U.S. institutions & values

including government and values such as democracy, life, liberty, equality, fairness, public education and justice

### military

including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard



### diplomacy

U.S. relationships and partnerships with other countries and international organizations, like the United Nations

### economy

a healthy and competitive American economy (how money is made and used) is critical to national security



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## What Are Our National Security Challenges?

### cyber security

threats to sensitive data about people, the government, and other entities, or threats to U.S. systems that rely on the Internet

“influence” operations, such as spreading false information about America to weaken public confidence in the U.S.

non-physical threats posed by other countries

### terrorism and radicalized violence

Violence against people intended to have a social or political impact on the U.S. (e.g., disrupt our way of life)

issues affecting women, populations and children

human security

an attack on one of our systems, including roadways, waterways, or healthcare

the security of our systems

### nation state warfare

the threat of “conventional” war, (e.g., weapons on a battlefield; the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan) involving the U.S.

the spread of nuclear weapons arsenals and technology, risk of nuclear war

nuclear weapons

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Estimates of the  
national security  
budget range from 600  
billion to 1 trillion  
dollars

## Who Pays for Our National Security?

The budget — or money the government sets aside — to pay for national security is complex because it involves so many different activities by many different people and institutions.

- **Executive Branch:** the President and his or her Cabinet set the priorities for our country and recommend a budget based on discussions with the Departments and Agencies most directly involved in national security
- **Legislative Branch:** the Congress determines whether the recommended budget is enough and appropriate; the US Constitution grants the “power of the purse” to the legislative branch, which then ensures Americans’ tax money is used according to what Americans want.

Despite the huge budget, money is only a small part of how we pay for our national security. We will consider the national security costs for citizens in [action 2](#).

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## **action 2:** **Securing our Nation and Protecting our Freedoms**





## action 2: Securing Our Country and Protecting Our Freedoms

Our national security strengths also include our privacy, particularly in the digital age, and **our freedoms** (freedom of action and speech).

You already understand the balance between privacy and security. A parent or caregiver might require that you keep your tablet unlocked, or provide a curfew, or accompany you to an event like a concert. You might accept these because you trust your parent/caregiver and understand his/her concern for your safety. At a certain age, at a more mature time in your life, you might express the need for more privacy and more freedom. This becomes an on-going and important trust-building conversation between you and a parent/caregiver into adulthood.



Securing our country while protecting our freedoms may seem at odds, at times. Amid fear or uncertainty, for example (e.g., following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001), decisions might be made by the US Government on behalf of Americans that impact our freedoms in order to secure our country.

Ensuring our freedoms remain protected requires us as citizens to stay informed about U.S. national security and engage with national security conversations and decisions. In a sense, we must have an on-going trust-building conversation with ourselves about what our government may ask of us in the name of national security, and whether what is asked of us affects us positively or negatively.

You can't know every person working on behalf of your security, and those in national security can't know your best interests like your family. This means you may be giving up something like privacy in exchange for your nation's security (in other words, the security of others you can't see and don't know).

**Your voice is vital to our national security.**

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## **action 2: Securing Our Country and Protecting Our Freedoms**



The following action asks you to consider possible steps to make your school safer. You are also asked to weigh (or consider) whether these steps positively or negatively affect you.

The goal of this action is to invite you to engage with one of the most important (and challenging) discussions in national security decision-making:

How do we protect our freedoms, while protecting our national security?

We're using school safety as the topic. And, when thinking about whether these steps positively or negatively affect you, we've provided three key words to assist your thinking:

- **liberty**
- **convenience**, and
- **privacy**.

These are sometimes referred to in a national security conversation as the “costs” of security.

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## action 2: Securing Your School

**what you will need:** a pencil, a blank sheet of paper

- List three (3) steps that might make your school safer. There are no wrong answers.
- Write down whether these steps would positively or negatively affect you, and write down what you might be asked to give up in exchange for those steps.
- Are there other ways to make your school safer that don't require giving anything up?



### liberty

steps that might  
prevent you from  
moving through the  
school freely



### convenience

having to enter school  
through one assigned door  
as opposed to any door you  
choose



### privacy

video cameras in the  
hallways

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## Completing action 2

Consider what you would  
**not** give up, including the  
way you live and the values  
that are important to you





## Who is the U.S. National Security Community?

National Security, like Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”), incorporates several different subjects, including law, history, political science, languages, and STEM. It also requires different skills, such as reading, writing, research, and critical analysis.

The U.S. military plays one of the most important roles in national security, but the national security community includes people in intelligence, politics, academics and business.



**Intelligence Analyst**



**Diplomat**



**Lawyer, Judge or Advocate**

In addition, there are national security **teachers**, **journalists**, **historians**, and many other roles – all critical to the common purpose of securing America.

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## Sample of Who's Who?

**analyst**

an intelligence analyst studies information from different sources and determines which is most credible to understanding threats

**agent**

a federal agent gathers evidence of certain crimes against the U.S. or work in labs analyzing evidence

**service member**

a military service-member works at home protecting American resources or abroad in a combat operation or humanitarian effort

**lawyer**

a national security lawyer drafts new laws to protect America or prosecutes persons charged with crimes against America

a foreign service officer works abroad to promote U.S. national security needs through diplomacy

**foreign service employee**

A researcher provides important data and policy analysis to inform national security strategy

**researcher**

An advocate works to ensure the U.S. government and others are following their own laws or advocate for the laws of foreign persons in the US

**advocate**

A scientist provides key scientific understanding to the government & labs about threats

**scientist**

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## **action 3:** Understanding **who** **else** Contributes to National Security





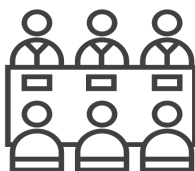
## action 3: Who Else Safeguards America?

Grades 6-8

In addition to the U.S. military and the Intelligence Community, many other groups help safeguard America.



**We, the People**



**Business**



**Other government\***

\*Other government includes people, agencies, and departments working on healthcare, agriculture (food and farming), and science.

what you will do:

connect a line between the groups on the left that you think keep America secure to the shield



**national security**

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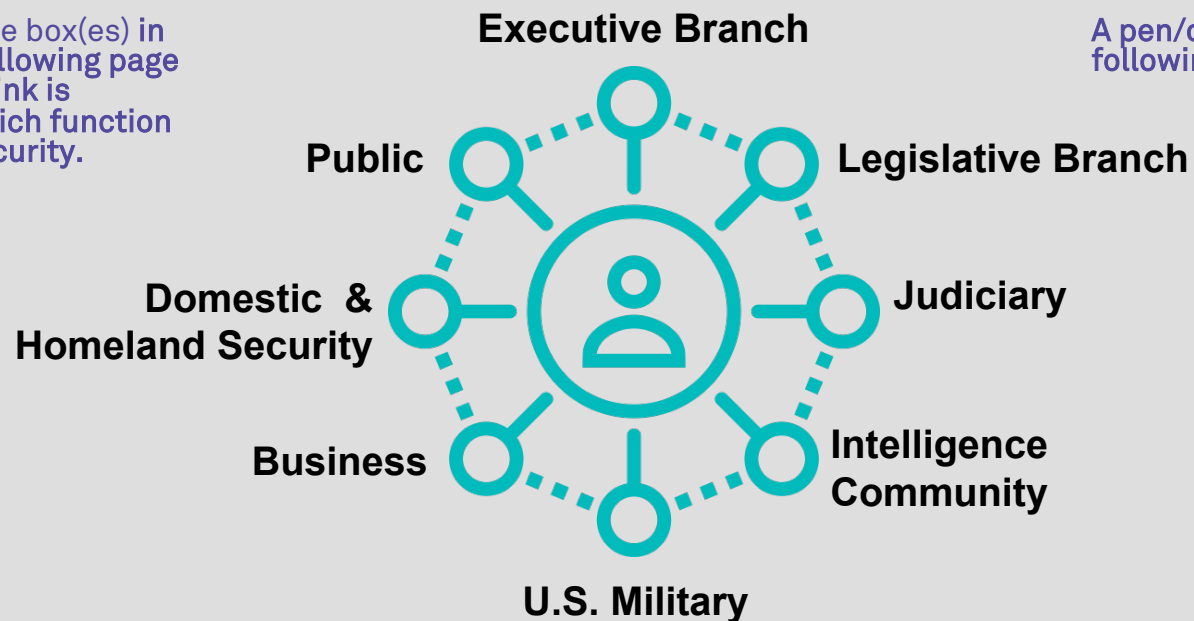


## action 3: Who else Contributes?

Grades 9-12

### What You Will Do: ✓

Place a check in the box(es) in the chart on the following page next to who you think is responsible for which function in U.S. national security.



### What You Will Need:

A pen/cil and the chart on the following page

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## action 3: Who else Contributes?

Grades 9-12

Who	Laws	Policy	Security
Executive Branch (includes the President)			
Legislative Branch (including Congress)			
Judiciary (Courts)			
Intelligence Community (e.g., Central Intelligence Agency)			
Military			
Homeland Security			
Public (Citizens, Business, Organizations)			

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## Completing action 3

Consider how you contribute  
to national security as a Girl  
Scout or a student

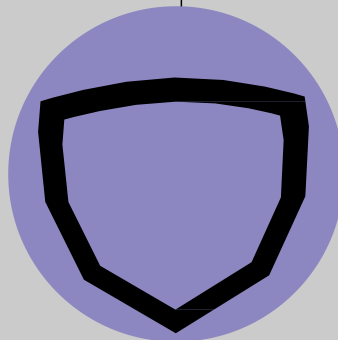


## Let's secure your knowledge with practice:



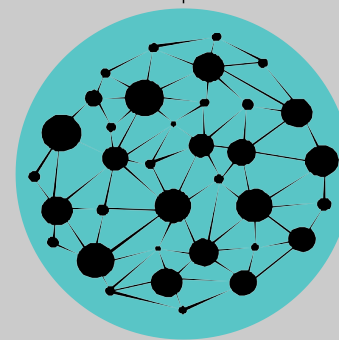
### **empower**

The public policy patch program will provide you with knowledge about national security



### **secure**

You will participate in brief simulations to develop your problem-solving and collaboration skills



### **advance**

Upon earning your patch, you can be paired with peers and mentors

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## girl security mini-simulation: how to

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A **simulation** is a game based on real-life events that challenges you to ask hard questions and make hard decisions. You won't have all of the information you need to make the hard decisions. Making decisions without all of the information can create risks or error. And that's ok during a simulation.

In a **simulation**, you are encouraged to examine the questions from the points of view of diverse real-life participants. Adopting different points of view allows you to understand how many national security scenarios can have different solutions and outcomes.

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## girl security mini-simulation: how to

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As you work through this [mini-simulation](#), please keep these “best practices” in mind:

- Do not “fight” the scenario. In other words, accept that this is a real challenge and that you are responsible for solving it rather than poking holes in the story
- Move through your worksheet quietly to ensure your unique thoughts are captured
- If you are completing this with peers or an adult, give everyone time to share their unique ideas too. Then, discuss your opinions and recommendations.



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**Democracy** is defined as a government (system of laws and people) run by the people, you and me. Voting is one way we participate in our United States democracy.

6-8 Grades

## girl security mini-simulation 1: school council election security

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Elections are how ‘We, the People’ vote for political leaders in the United States. Elections are an important part of U.S. democracy.

America uses elections for many other organizations, like school councils, to make sure that every person has a voice. Every person has a chance to vote for someone or something they think would be best.

When you participate in elections — or even run for an office — in a school setting, you are engaging in a democratic process.

Elections give a voice —  
by giving a vote — to  
everyone



## girl security mini-simulation 1: new student council voting system prompts discussion

Each year, students gather in the gym to vote for student council representatives (including treasurer and secretary) and president.

The election process is anonymous – no one will or should know whom you vote for. This makes sense, because maybe your good friend would be hurt if she knew you didn't vote for her, or maybe another good friend would disagree with you for voting for another student. In other words, privacy in these matters is crucial.

Student votes were submitted by paper ballot in a cardboard box last year, but this year the school has implemented a digital voting system, where students line up in the library and input their votes directly into an [online database](#).



The [paper ballot system](#) offered a certain level of security because the council secretary could count the votes by hand. It takes up to one week to receive winner results.



The [online voting system](#) offers convenience because the system automatically counts the votes and results are received within hours. However, there was confusion about how the new system works and several students questioned whether they entered their vote properly. There is also no way to “count” votes digitally, so students must trust the system calculated the votes correctly.



## girl security mini-simulation 1: new student council voting system prompts discussion

You will begin this [simulation](#) by playing the part of the student council secretary. The secretary is responsible for recording all student council activities, so this is a person who would be expected to know how to keep things organized and accurate.



The principal approaches you in the hallway. She suggests that maybe the parent association should now oversee the student council elections in light of the new technology and confusion. The principal asks you to prepare a list of considerations and recommendations to assist her in making this decision.

Use the [worksheet](#) on the following page to outline your recommendations and suggestions.



## girl security mini-simulation 1: worksheet

### ► Elections: Paper or Online?

Using what you now know about paper voting and online voting, which voting system would you recommend to the principal? Why?


### ► Elections: What role might the parents play?

Parents / caregivers know things. Could they play a role, such as (for example), working with the principal to find the best online voting system possible for the students?


### ► Elections: Should Students or Parents Run Elections?

Parents have their child's and the school's best interest in mind, but students have always run council elections, know their peers best, and are more familiar with technology.


### ► Elections: The Role of Social Media?

The principal has asked you whether social media is a useful tool for student council candidates during elections? Share your thoughts.




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9-12 Grades

## **girl security mini-simulation 2:** **U.S. election security**

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Remember elections are how we vote for political leaders in the United States? Ensuring U.S. elections and the systems upon which they rely remain secure protects:

1. Public trust in the electoral process
2. U.S. democracy, and
3. National security, which relies on a healthy democracy.

**Elections occur locally (mayor, city council),  
statewide, (governor, state legislature) and  
nationally (president, congress)**



9-12 Grades

## **girl security mini-simulation 2:** **U.S. election security**

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In real-life, the President of the United States recently declared election security a “national emergency” putting all levels - local, state and national - on notice that the U.S. election systems must be strengthened against threats. All levels of government are working together today to meet that call to action.

In this simulation, the U.S. presidential election is 8 months away. There are 10,000 election jurisdictions in the US. Each jurisdiction may use a different type of voting technology.

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## girl security mini-simulation 2: who should be responsible for securing U.S. elections?

When you register to vote, the information you use to register is stored in a Voter Registration Database ("VDR"); it contains sensitive personal information, including names, social security numbers, address, and other information about registered voters. These databases are often "housed" by a private third-party vendor (in other words, the State contracts with private company who manages the VDRs off-site).

Voter Tabulation Systems ("VTS") are systems used to collect votes on election day. VTSs vary from state to state; some states use electronic voter tabulation systems and others use paper voting systems. Regardless of which system states use, actual votes are stored electronically and connected to the Internet.



Recently, the President of the United States issued Executive Order 18348, declaring threats to U.S. elections a national emergency and imposing certain sanctions for foreign interference with elections (executive order attached). The order states that the spread "of digital devices and internet-based communications has created significant vulnerabilities..." for U.S. elections.

The following 3 "Need to Know" pages provide you with additional information you need to engage with the simulation.

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## girl security mini-simulation 2: who should be responsible for securing U.S. elections?



Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution grants States the responsibility of overseeing federal elections: “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of Chusing Senators.” **In other words, States are responsible for their elections.**

Protecting states’ rights (e.g., the right of states to protect their elections) is critical to a healthy democracy (government by the people). States might be wary of accepting certain help from the federal government if state government believes the federal government might “infringe” upon (or take away or limits) one of its rights (e.g., overseeing elections).

On the other hand, the federal government has more experience organizing its resources to respond to new or different security threats that affect the entire nation, such as terrorism and threats to US cyber security.



## girl security mini-simulation 2: **who should be responsible for securing U.S. elections?**



Consider the role of the public in voting, and as we have discussed throughout this curriculum, in national security. National security requires a secure democracy – one in which voters exercise their right to vote however they freely choose. In turn, a secure democracy requires national security – that a nation's citizens are able to exercise that right without the threat of their personal data being exposed or votes potentially being changed once submitted on a voting system.

Consider also that voters vote locally, even for national elections. Voting booth locations are located in your town or City, or a nearby town or City within your state. You are closest to your State Governor and other authorities responsible for securing elections, such as state election board or commission. Your elected officials determine how your elections are run and secured (in other words, how your data is best protected).



## girl security mini-simulation 2: **who should be responsible for securing U.S. elections?**



Consider the changing nature of national security threats. The Internet was “born” during the 1960s. It was initially made as a way of simply connecting multiple computers. Since then, the World Wide Web and the Internet has become one of our most important tools. We rely heavily on the Internet for how we live – communicate, transport, consume goods, access information, and vote!

What makes the Internet so marvelous – its interconnectedness – creates certain vulnerabilities for US national security.



## girl security mini-simulation 2: worksheet

- **Question 1: Who should be responsible for protecting elections?**

States or federal government? Explain why.

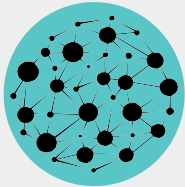

- **Question 2: Should all states voting systems have the same format? Should there be electronic voting systems or paper ballot voting systems?**


- **Question 3: What role should the public play in securing elections?**

There are no wrong answers.


- **Question 4: Should election systems be considered “critical infrastructure” by states and the federal government like transportation, energy and water provision, and food provision?**


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## For 9<sup>th</sup> Through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Scouts:

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- Please submit your recommendations on election security to Girl Security founder Lauren Buitta @ [LaurenB@girlsecurity.org](mailto:LaurenB@girlsecurity.org).
- Your recommendations will be anonymized and summarized for election security leaders in Cook County, IL and Indiana.
- You may also bring your recommendations to the Cook County Clerk's office, if you attend the field trip.



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## What have you Secured?

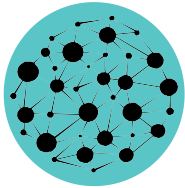
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After working through these two [mini-simulations](#), do you have a better understanding of the information we discussed from the “empower” instruction and exercises?

Were the choices difficult to make without more information? Were they hard because no one option seemed perfect?

How do you feel about your ability to share your thoughts with your peers?

What is the one thing you learned from this experience that would make you approach another [simulation](#) differently?



## advance

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Once you have earned your patch, by completing this program, Girl Security would like to help guide you along a path of pursuing a career in national security. Having mentors and role models that will inspire you and help you as you mature and acquire more knowledge and passion for national security, we at Girl Security believe is critical to helping you succeed.

We want you to succeed!

Adelaide Hawkins, a mother of 3, was hired as the first woman in the U.S. intelligence field in 1941.

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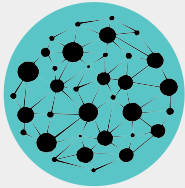
## how to engage in national security

- Read different news and information sources
- Vote
- Write a letter to your State Representative about a national security issue
- Write an article for your school paper or local paper with your ideas on a national security issue
- Talk about national security with friends and family
- Ask questions of adults about what national security looked like when they were your age

Have Questions about the Curriculum? Want more resources?

Email Us: [LaurenB@girlsecurity.org](mailto:LaurenB@girlsecurity.org)

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# More girls, more women, more security



Women remain underrepresented in U.S. national security, particularly in leadership positions. Cultural and other barriers to women's advancement remain.



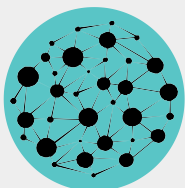
Yet girls are on the frontlines of some of our most important national security challenges: as social media users in cyber space; as voters in elections; as potential servicemembers, analysts, lawyers, and advocates; and as citizens.



America is only as resilient as its citizens, and females make up more than half the U.S. population. A secure America must value the voices of girls and the leadership of women.

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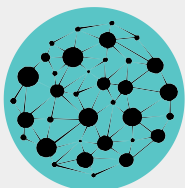
## **in their own voices: young women in national security**

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Introducing a few young women in a wide variety of national security roles, and a few pioneers in the field, who want you to believe you can do it, too!

In their own voices is a snapshot of girl security profiles. Please visit our site, [girlsecurity.org](http://girlsecurity.org) for more like these!

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**Lauren**

## **in their own voices: Meet Lauren – Founder, Girl Security**

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### On founding Girl Security:

National security is a critical unifying purpose for our country, an ever-present opportunity for working together, but “national security” as a career can appear unavailable to girls and young women whose contributions are vital to that purpose. Let’s change that.

### What trait makes you equipped for your role:

Good ears. I am a highly trained listener.

### Name a role model:

My mom has been the finger in my back for decades now gently nudging me forward when I’ve felt most afraid of certain decisions, all of which have turned out to be the most rewarding decisions.

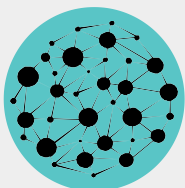
### Explain one of America's many national security strengths.

An engaged and informed public is critical to America’s resilience.

### Favorite Quote:

“For the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts...” from George Eliot’s “Middlemarch,” which means to me that each of us has a role to play – big or small - in making the world a better place, and in my mind, a more secure place.

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## **in their own voices: Meet Kate - Nuclear Security Specialist**

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### On discovering her interest in national security:

Growing up in Richland, WA , home of the Hanford site of the Manhattan Project. We produced the plutonium for the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan in WWII.

### What is one action girls can take each day to strengthen their security?

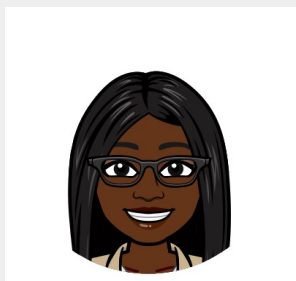
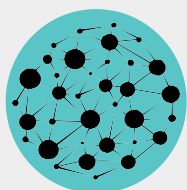
Educate yourselves by watching or reading different news sources and then talk to your families and friends. Knowledge is power – when you make an issue of importance your own and you openly discuss it with those around you, you’re becoming the change-maker.

### Advice for girls?

Don’t ever let anyone tell you that your dreams are too big or that you aren’t “enough” of something. Women who refuse to give up or change who they are will make our nation and world safer. Never ever give up.

# Kate

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**Elizabeth**

## **in their own voices: Meet Elizabeth - national security specialist**

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### On discovering her interest in national security:

My high school AP World Politics course was instrumental in a love of geopolitics, international relations, and world history.

### On the importance of mentors:

I would implore girls to look beyond fear or thoughts of competition and jealousy to seek out female friendships and peer-to-peer and mentor-to-mentee relationships.

### What is one action girls can take each day to strengthen their security?

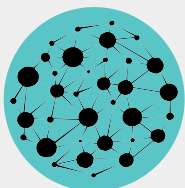
Invest in yourself through constant learning.

### Advice for girls?

Know your worth.



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**Jamie**

## **in their own voices: Meet Jamie - national security specialist**

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### On discovering her interest in national security:

Growing up in the Midwest, national security was rarely talked about when I was in high school. I was always drawn to protecting my nation, with the goal of going to West Point since when I was 14.

### What trait makes you most prepared for your job?

Being simultaneously curious and a self-starter has been the most helpful as I have begun my career.

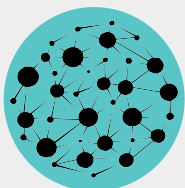
### Why Women and National Security?

When considering all the possible ideas to protect our nation, it is first important to hear and amplify all the possible voices contributing to the discussion. That's why women are so important in national security.

### Advice for girls?

Stay humble. Hustle hard.

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**Erin**

## **in their own voices: Meet Erin - nuclear security specialist**

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### On discovering her interest in national security:

The moment I realized I wanted to pursue national security was while writing a paper on Iran in college.

### Name one of America's greatest national security challenges:

Learning to communicate our national security challenges to the people effectively is a major challenge.

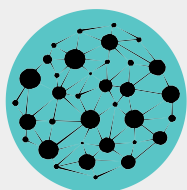
### What is one action girls can take each day to strengthen their security:

Read the news and set alerts for "national security." Information is a powerful tool and you want to want to be sure you are informed.

### Advice for girls in their eventual careers?

Find your people. Find people who respect you and your opinions, root for you, and comfort you, and do the same for them.

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**Read the  
news!  
Stay  
informed.  
Care.**

**Suzanne**

## **in their own voices: Meet Suzanne - Homeland Security Policy Expert**

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On discovering her interest in national security:

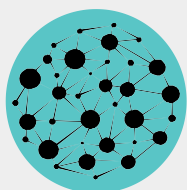
In 7th grade, I became passionate about stopping the spread of nuclear weapons around the world while listening to politicians talk about it.

Name one of America's greatest national security challenges:

One of America's greatest challenges is directly related to its greatest strength: our democratic system and the freedoms that system is designed to preserve. We see adversaries like Russia using our open marketplace of ideas to spread lies and misinformation, especially on social media.

We must fight back, acknowledging that we fall short every day in our effort to live up to our aspirations as a nation; that racism is still far too prevalent; that we haven't solved the challenge of securing our nation while being true to our tradition of welcoming immigrants; that the gap between haves and have-nots continues to widen; and much more—but that we cannot solve these challenges through tribalism and fighting each other. We need to be reminded of the value and importance of democracy and our democratic institutions—as imperfect as they may be.

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**Asha**

## **in their own voices: Meet Asha — U.S. Army Veteran; Professor**

### On discovering her interest in national security:

My study abroad in China during my junior year in college inspired me because I learned about the rising Chinese Power.

### Why Women and National Security?

Women play a very important role. Most women are great at diplomacy or engaging with our foreign partners. We tend to outperform our male counterparts in negotiations. Our intelligence and interpersonal skills are great assets in conflict resolution. Also, women are awesome at gathering intelligence and serving as military commanders in a combat zone.

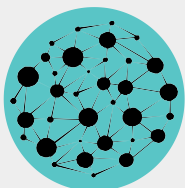
### Name one of America's greatest security challenges:

Cybersecurity along with psychological operations is one of the greatest national security challenges. Girls should learn about global trends in the economy and emerging threats as they enter the global economy and a world more interconnected through technology.

### Advice for girls?

Follow Oprah Winfrey's advice: "Think like a queen. A queen is not afraid to fail. Failure is another steppingstone to greatness."

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**Gina**

## **in their own voices: Meet Gina — Senior Counterterrorism Officer**

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### On discovering her interest in national security:

Growing up, societal norms made me believe national security jobs were only for men. So when I found myself interested in foreign policy as a college student, I was surprised. But I knew was a calling.

### What is one action girls can take each day to strengthen their security?

Heeding your internal compass and having the courage to speak up makes everyone more secure. When someone has mistreated you, standing up and speaking out is the only way to regaining your security. When someone says something harmful or hurtful to a friend, family member, or even a stranger, standing up and speaking out is the only way to provide security to that person and all involved. It is not easy, and sometimes you will fail to improve the immediate situation. But, you have to persevere to create change.

### Name one of America's greatest national security strengths:

Security is not living in total safety, it is the ability to act freely and independently despite being unsafe. When we view our national security this way, then no one can ever take it away. Our greatest strength is our faith in democracy, which because we are a government of, by, and for the people, means our faith in each other. girlsecurity.