



## ADULT HOW-TO GUIDE

# Inside Government For Girls in Grades 4-5

## LAY DOWN THE LAW

**In this activity, you'll help your Girl Scout set up some laws for their own faux country.**

1. First, take her through some laws that she may recognize from the United States. If desired, she can research some U.S. laws on a computer or tablet.
  - Examples: free speech, religious freedom, the right to vote, etc.
2. Now that she is familiar with laws in the United States, it's time to develop her own set of laws for her faux country. Have her write a minimum of 10 laws.
  - Some things for her to consider: Will you have money, or will people work in trades? Will there be taxes? How will people protect the environment? Will people vote for leaders? What happens in your country when someone breaks a law?
3. Once the girl has written at least 10 laws, have her write them on the paper or poster board.



### Supplies Needed

- Paper (or poster board if you have it)
- Markers

### Time to Complete

- 20 minutes

## INSIDE LOCAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**For this activity, your girl will do some research to familiarize herself with local and federal governments.**

1. Use the local government worksheet\* and have your girl search online to fill in the correct answers for your specific town or community.
2. Once the local worksheet is completed, move on to the federal government worksheet.\*
  - i. Start the worksheet by having her identify what each branch of government is responsible for. You can do this here: <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/education/three-branches/three-branches-of-government>
  - ii. Have her try to complete the worksheet without using the internet to research.



### Supplies Needed

- Local Government worksheet
- Federal Government worksheet
- Writing utensil
- Computer or tablet

### Time to Complete

- 20 minutes

## LOONEY LAWS

**Now that your girl knows the basics of our government structure, she will have some fun looking into silly laws that some states and towns have in place.**

1. Grab a computer or tablet and have the girl research some weird laws that states have. You can do that here: [bit.ly/looneylaws](http://bit.ly/looneylaws)
2. As she researches, have her write down the 5 most bizarre ones she sees.
3. After she is finished, have her look back at the laws she created for her faux country in activity one. Are any laws she created even close to the crazy ones she found?



### Supplies Needed

- Computer or tablet
- Paper
- Writing utensil

### Time to Complete

- 15 minutes

## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

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**It's time to look back at your town's history. What makes it unique?**

1. Lots of towns have a historical society that works to preserve their history for future generations. Does your town have a historical society? Check into that on a computer or tablet.  
If the town does have a historical society, have the girl investigate their website and find out all she can about your town's history.  
If the town does not have a historical society, try searching the web for information on the town.
2. After the girl finishes researching, have her draw a picture or write a story about what it would have been like to grow up in your town 100 years ago. What did the town look like? How many people lived there? What could you do for fun?



### **Supplies Needed**

- Computer or tablet

### **Time to Complete**

- 15 minutes

## IT'S TIME TO CAMPAIGN

**To finish off this badge, your girl will be creating a campaign poster as if she were running for local office!**

1. Have your girl decide what position she wants to campaign for! Does she want to be president? How about treasurer or secretary? Or even mayor!
2. Have the girl do a bit of research online about what a campaign poster looks like. What should it include about the candidate?
3. Once the research is done, have the girl create her own campaign poster and slogan for her platform. How creative can she be to win the election?

\*Included in the Inside Government resource packet at the end of this document.



### Supplies Needed

- Poster board or construction paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Glue
- Craft supplies
- Writing utensils/markers/crayons

### Time to Complete

- 30+ minutes



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