ENCOURAGING GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN TOWARD CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND POLITICS
Resources for Utah Educators and School Counselors

1. UTAH PROGRAMS & OPPORTUNITIES

Camp Congress: The Girls in Politics national program offers several different opportunities for girls to learn the historical context of governing, civic engagement, and political advocacy. One program is Camp Congress, a leadership program that introduces girls ages 8 to 15 to politics. For 2019, this Camp will be held in SLC (Saturday, May 4, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 345 W. 100 S., SLC), with details at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/camp-congress-for-girls-salt-lake-city-2019-tickets-45507774980. All programs are interactive and hands-on. Camp begins with a girl-friendly lesson on the structure of our political system. See www.girlsinpolitics.org.

American Legion Girls State Program—Utah: This summer program is for girls between their junior and senior year of high school. It is designed to develop leadership and promote civic responsibility in young women. Registration fee is $400, and application begins in September for the June 2019 program at Weber State University. Home school students are welcome to apply. For more information, contact Angie at alautgirlsstate@gmail.com, the Department Office at alautah@yahoo.com, or visit the Weber State University Girls State page at http://continue.weber.edu/girlsstate/.

Utah State Board of Education: Some support and initiatives include the following: 1) an annual Constitution Day with Utah State Bar volunteers visiting classrooms to facilitate mock trials, constitutional lessons, guest speakers, etc. 2) Utah History Day competitions (toward National History Day competition in D.C.), 3) field trips to state courts and state capitol, 4) online civic resource page through UEN, and “We the People” and Law-Related Education programs, as well as Mock Trial competitions. See details on their Social Studies webpages: https://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/socialstudies.

Other Support & Potential Partners

- Office of Civic Engagement (BYU): Provides students with skills and opportunities to become engaged in their own communities. Promotes civic service and finding solutions to problems in society. (Maybe partner with them for younger students.) See https://civicengagement.byu.edu.
- Girl Scouts of Utah: Mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. See www.gsutah.org.
- Action Utah: A nonpartisan community advocacy organization dedicated to boosting civic engagement. They provide education, tools and advocacy opportunities to give people a voice in the policymaking that impacts our families and communities. See http://www.actionutah.org/.
- VOTERISE: a nonpartisan 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Utah that is committed to increasing voter registration and turnout among those 18-29-years old and other underrepresented groups. See https://voterise.org/.
2. NATIONAL PROGRAMS

**Girls in Politics:** This program, headquartered in Washington D.C., offers several different opportunities for girls to learn the historical context of governing, civic engagement, and political advocacy. All programs are interactive and hands-on: [www.girlsinpolitics.org](http://www.girlsinpolitics.org). This organization also offers Virtual Academy subscriptions to schools and certified education organizations.

- **Camp Congress:** see note in the Utah section.
- **Camp United Nations:** a one-day leadership program to introduce girls ages 8-15 to the work of the United Nations.
- **Camp Parliament:** a one-day leadership program to introduce girls ages 8-15 to parliamentarian systems of government.
- **Exploring Careers in Politics:** a webinar for girls ages 13-17 with an interest in a political career.
- **Politics, Advocacy & Political Careers for Girls:** a one-day session for girls ages 14-17. Guest speakers help participants learn about professional opportunities in the public sector.
- **Daughter and Mother Camp Congress:** a leadership program that introduces girls ages 8-15 and their moms to the U.S. political system. Each girl will “run for office” and her mom is her campaign manager. Participants actively learn the legislative process and will get to meet an elected official.

3. ONLINE PROGRAMS & SUPPORT

**IGNITE National High School Program: Political Power in Every Young Woman**
This 50-hour curriculum trains young women to understand how government works, why it matters, and how to analyze the policy issues that impact their lives. Schools can choose to license this curriculum program for educators to use with their students. Details can be found at: [http://www.ignitenational.org/high_school_programming](http://www.ignitenational.org/high_school_programming).

**Teach a Girl to Lead:** The Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) created this project to inspire girls and young women to follow in the footsteps of women leaders, past and present. Making women’s political leadership visible to America’s youth will help both boys and girls grow up with more inclusive ideas about who can lead. This site is designed for educators, leaders of youth-serving groups, media outlets that target young audiences, and parents. Includes lesson plans, activities, places to go, ways to bring women leaders into the classroom or events, and tools. See [http://tag.rutgers.edu/](http://tag.rutgers.edu/).

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