

# Welcome to Your Vote Week

## Speak Out resource

Speak Out champions have created these activities to support Rangers to complete the Voting interest badge.

## Everyday politics game

### Note to leaders:

See our breakdown for guidance on who is responsible for which area of government.

This activity is to encourage Rangers to think about different areas of their lives that are impacted by politics.

- In pairs or small groups, write down everything you do in your typical day. Think about your routines, what you do in the morning, your journey to school or work.
- Highlight the parts of your day that you think are impacted by politics.
- Discuss in your groups who would be responsible for the parts of the day impacted by politics. Would this be local council, Scottish Parliament, or UK Parliament?
- Come back together as a unit and share what you thought. Are there any parts of the day that you didn't think were political? Have a chat about these and think about whether there is a political connection.
- For example, water provision, road maintenance, or waste collection.
- Did anything surprise you about this? Maybe something you don't immediately connect to politics.
- Thinking about the timeline of your day, and how it relates to politics, pick 3 parts of the day that are most important to you.
- Do these 3 issues sit at a local level, national level or UK level?
- Come together as a unit and each share your top 3 issues. Hold a vote for which are the top 3 issues in your unit.

| Councils   | Scottish Parliament   | UK Parliament   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education services</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence</li> <li>• Foreign policy</li> </ul> |

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|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth and leisure facilities</li> <li>• Planning decisions</li> <li>• Social housing</li> <li>• Managing parks and public places</li> <li>• Social services</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Roads</li> <li>• Rubbish and recycling</li> <li>• Running elections</li> <li>• Checking up on and regulating local businesses</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Local government</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Economic development</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some taxes</li> <li>• Immigration</li> <li>• Gambling</li> <li>• Currency</li> <li>• Classification of illegal drugs</li> </ul> |
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Inspired by the Electoral Commission resources for Welcome To Your Vote Week

## Mock election

### Note to leaders:

This activity comes with a vote of what box of chocolates to bring a box to the next meeting. To eliminate the cost of the chocolates you can adapt this by voting on the next badge the unit will complete, a film to watch at the end of term, or an idea for a themed unit meeting.

- Ask Rangers what their favourite box of chocolates is, maybe Celebrations, Heroes, Quality Street or Roses? Make sure that they pick a box, not one chocolate specifically, this will become relevant later!
- Think about who we vote for in an election. Does anyone know who?
- In Scottish General Elections we have 2 votes. One for our MSP (Member of the Scottish Parliament) who represents our local constituency, and one vote for the party to represent our region. Parties are made up of other MSPs.
- Does anyone know what a political party is? (explanation – a political party is an organised group of people who share common beliefs and goals and aim to influence government policy and compete in elections for power to take political office).
- Political parties are sort of like a box of chocolates! Think about the box of chocolates you chose earlier. All boxes of chocolates tend to have a nutty one, a chocolatey one and a caramel one. Just like political parties all have economy policies, education policies and health policies.

- When you buy a box of Celebrations, you don't get to choose to remove the Bounty bars and replace them with a Purple One from a box of Quality Street. You have to take all the chocolates in the box.
- Hold a mock election in your unit, voting on what box of chocolates to bring to the next meeting. This is similar to voting for a party, you have to take all their policies when you vote for them. You can't pick and choose policies from different parties.
- In your unit, set up an area with mock polling booths and ballot papers. You will have 2 ballot papers, one for your constituency vote (voting on who will bring the chocolate to Rangers next week – leaders can also be included on the ballot) and one for your regional vote (voting on which box of chocolates you want at Rangers next week).
- Cast your vote! Take your ballot papers to a polling booth and cast your vote by putting 1 X in 1 box on each ballot. Then place this securely in a box to be counted.
- Count the votes. Which box of chocolates won? Did you get the result you expected? How did this make you feel about voting in the General Election?

## Race to register

### Note to leaders:

Rangers will need access to their National Insurance number to register to vote. If they do not have one they can explain why on the registration page. E.g. I am 14 and too young to have a National Insurance number.

- In your units we're going to have a race to see how fast you can register to vote.
- Split into groups of who has registered to vote and who hasn't.
- Those who haven't registered to vote are going to register in this session.
- Those who have already registered are going to see how many times you can complete a challenge in the time it takes for someone else to register to vote.
- If no one in your unit has registered, you could time each other to see how long it takes to register.
- Or take this home and get each Ranger to time themselves and have a prize for the Ranger with the quickest time.

### Ideas for the race

- How many times can you say the Promise?
- How many times can you sing taps?

- How big a tower can you build?
- How many times can you walk around your meeting space?
- Or something specific to your unit!

## Actions you can take after this session

- Write to your MSP, you can use our [template letter](#) which includes the Speak Out manifesto.
- Do other Ranger activities around democracy including:
  - Take Action skills builders
  - Rangers Just One More Moment UMA
  - Protesting interest badge
  - My Say interest badge
  - Women's Rights interest badge
- Do your own research, see our trusted sources:
  - [Scottish Parliament website](#)
  - [Electoral Commission](#)
  - [Girlguiding website](#)
  - [Shout Out UK](#)
- Share how long it took you register with the #GGSracetoregister