

Registering Voters during the Girls Lead Month of Action

While discussing the importance of girls' political participation around the world, you can also promote political participation in your own community by registering voters and promoting voting during the month of action. Whether you choose to share voting information at your club meetings and documentary screenings or set up a standalone registration drive, you're promoting youth civic engagement!

While the general election isn't until November, primary elections determine party candidates for president, as well as down-ballot races like governors, members of Congress and local elected officials that take place from February all the way to September. Primary elections usually have lower voter turnout but are just as important in choosing who represents you! Voting is one of the most important ways you can make a difference for kids, so be sure to register when you are able and encourage your friends to do the same.

Every state has different laws related to voter registration, voter ID requirements and primaries. [Rock the Vote](#) is a terrific nonpartisan resource for learning everything about voting in your particular state, and it was founded specifically to serve youth! Rock the Vote provides information on voter registration, important deadlines and election dates, what to bring to the polls and even rules on voting as a student. Simply visit their page called ["Get Ready to Vote"](#) and click your state on their interactive map to learn everything you need to know about elections in your area.

Not 18 yet? You can still help your older classmates register to vote. Students can register to vote if they will be 18 by Election Day, and some states allow minors to pre-register for future elections at age 16 or 17. Check [your state's voter registration rules](#) for more information.

Ready to register new voters? Visit our voter registration page here: [LINK]

You can share this information with your classmates and community by posting on social media, hanging up posters or flyers around school, promoting voting information at your month of action events or event hosting a standalone voter registration drive.

Planning your registration drive

When planning a voter registration drive (VRD), the first step is to research your state's voter registration laws. Some states have few or even no laws about VRDs, while other states have more restrictive rules around helping others register to vote. The best source for up to date information on voter registration is your state election office. Check out this [directory of state election offices](#) to locate your state's website. If you can't easily find a web page on voter registration and drives, type "voter registration drive" into the website's search bar to find the most relevant information.

Consider these common issues when researching your state's rules around VRDs:

- **Training:** In most states, people and organizations participating in registration drives do not need to undergo training before they can register new voters. But other states require special training in order to run registration drives or provide optional training opportunities.

- **Registration:** In most states, anyone may get involved in a VRD. However, in some states people who wish to register new voters must register with the state.
- **Paper forms:** In addition to using the online voter registration tool, you may also want to have some paper forms on hand.
 - **Requesting forms:** Usually you can obtain a small number of voter registration forms from your local or state election office (around 25) without needing to formally request them or register their registration drive. To obtain a larger number of forms, you may need to submit a formal request. Such requests often include a signed statement affirming that the registration forms will be used only in accordance with established local or state guidelines.
 - **Returning completed forms:** Determine how you can return completed voter registration forms. Can you deliver them to a municipal office or mail them? Keep in mind that many states require registration forms to be submitted within an established deadline.

Guidelines for your registration drive

Keep these important rules in mind when conducting your voter registration drive:

- Don't worry about who is and is not eligible to vote. Our online voter registration tool collects information from registrants to ensure they meet the state's voting requirements, including age. It can also help people check their registration status so they don't submit a duplicate registration form.
- Don't discuss your own political leanings or candidate preferences. Remember that SCAN is a bipartisan organization and you are a voice for kids when representing this organization.
- You can't fill out any forms for applicants; you can only provide them with the Rock the Vote link or paper form and answer questions. The exception is for registrants with disabilities who request help, and in some states you must indicate on the form that you provided this assistance.
- For paper forms:
 - Return completed registration forms by the required return deadlines specified in your area, if any, and before the voter registration deadline.
 - Even if registration forms are late, you must still return them. Failing to submit completed registration forms is against the law.

Best of luck with your voter registration drive! Know that you are helping others exercise their constitutional rights and be represented in government leadership. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to your SCAN staff contact.

How to answer common questions

Below are some questions you may be asked when registering voters, as well as how to answer them:

Q: When are the upcoming elections?

A: Rock the Vote shares primary election dates and registration deadlines under the "Important Dates & Deadlines" section of your state's voting information web page.

Q: (For college students or boarding school students) Should I register to vote where I go to school or in my hometown?

A: Either one, but not both. You can only be registered to vote at one address.

Q: I'm an international student. Do I have to be a citizen in order to register to vote?

A: Yes. You must be a born or naturalized U.S. citizen to register to vote.

Q: I think I already registered to vote at a different address, but I'm not sure. What should I do?

A: Rock the Vote can help you check your current voter registration status. Click the "Lookup for Voter Status" button under the "Voter Registration" section of your state's voting information web page.

Q: Can I use a P.O. Box or dorm as my voting address?

A: You cannot use a P.O. Box, but you can use the physical address of your dorm. Be sure to include your room number.

Q: Where do I vote?

A: Rock the Vote provides a link to find your polling location under the "Prepare to Vote" section of your state's voting information web page.



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