

DAUGHTERS of DEMOCRACY

The Voices of Girl Scout Troop 622

Scouts OK with academic summer camp

Troop 622 conducted a workshop in April for the Girl Scout Democracy badge. The workshop participants, ages 6-11, discussed Tennessee Senate Bill SB 7002, "Intervening to Stop Learning Loss". This bill proposes programs and camps for struggling students and discourages promotion of third graders who are not reading on grade level.

Today we discussed a law Tennessee is trying to pass, "Intervening to Stop Learning Loss". One of our questions was, "Why is it important for kids to read at their grade level?" We answered with: kids who struggle with reading sometimes end up dropping out of school. And we learned that there is a strong connection between poor reading and future imprisonment and poverty. Reading is important because you need it to get a job, sign a contract, and find out about government. Reading is fun once you are good at it.

When asked, "How has the school year gone during COVID?", everyone said it has gone well.

We were asked what our opinion was about the academic summer camp offered to help you catch up and if we would be happy in that summer camp. One person said yes, she would be happy in summer camp. However, she had said earlier that she did not like school. Another person said maybe, we do have Educare after school. Then asked if she'd rather have the camp after school instead, she said, "Kind of."

Our last question on this topic was, "What do you think of kids having to repeat third grade instead of going to summer camp?" One person said, "I think that would be frustrating. It would be better to take the summer camp instead of staying back." - *Lily (Brownie)*

Find out more about SB 7002 at <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/>.

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Scouts fulfilled requirements for the Democracy badge with their contributions to this newsletter!



Scouts practice the fine art of legislation

While we were working on the Democracy badge, we learned about how a bill is made into a law, and wanted to try to make our own and vote on it. We decided to let a troop volunteer be president.

When a congressperson has an idea for a law, they introduce a bill. Two congresspeople can volunteer to be on a committee for that bill, and they decide on the wording of the bill. When they are happy with the bill, they introduce it to the House of Representatives, which debates and votes on the bill. The Senate does the same thing with the same bill. If more than half of the people in both houses vote in

favor of the bill, it is presented to the president for his or her review. The president can veto or accept the bill. If the president accepts the bill, it becomes a law. If the president vetoes it and Congress does not override the veto, the bill dies. Congress can override the veto if 2/3 of the Congress members vote to make the bill a law.

Our Bill

In our badge workshop, a bill was introduced by Congresswoman Ada proposing that, "Everyone in the country gets a free chocolate cupcake on every Wednesday afternoon." She volunteered to be in the committee, along with Congresswoman Lily. After quite a bit of debating they produced a bill ready to be debated and voted upon.

During the debating, thanks to Congresswomen Anna Grace and Sephina, some very important points were made: What about people who are allergic to gluten? How are the cupcakes going to be delivered? How are we going to pay for these cupcakes? Are these cupcakes *really* free?

Here is the final (and absolutely lovely) text of the bill:

Everyone in the country gets a free chocolate cupcake on the first Wednesday of each month.

The White House



- Sephina (Daisy)

At exactly 4pm every working person and their children gets one chocolate cupcake with radius of 1 in and height of 2 in. The cupcake is gluten-free, and has 1 Tbls cocoa powder, 1/4 c of sugar. A person gets a choice of vanilla or chocolate icing.

On Sundays the cupcakes are made in Washington DC. On Tuesdays they are shipped to state capitols, and then disbursed to the people in the states by delivery workers.

In the Census, people will indicate chocolate or vanilla icing. The number of people in the household will be used to determine the number of cupcakes to deliver.

There will be a new chocolate cupcake income tax to cover the cost. They will be made in the cheapest possible way!

During the voting period, the vote was unanimous: all four congresswomen voted to pass the bill to the president.

Mrs. President clearly did not agree with this absolutely practical and perfect bill, and it was unceremoniously vetoed, with an uncompromising wave of her hands.

But, luckily for the honest, hardworking individual, the veto was overruled with a unanimous vote to make the bill into a law. - *Ada (Junior)*

All scouts get a voice in choosing newsletter title

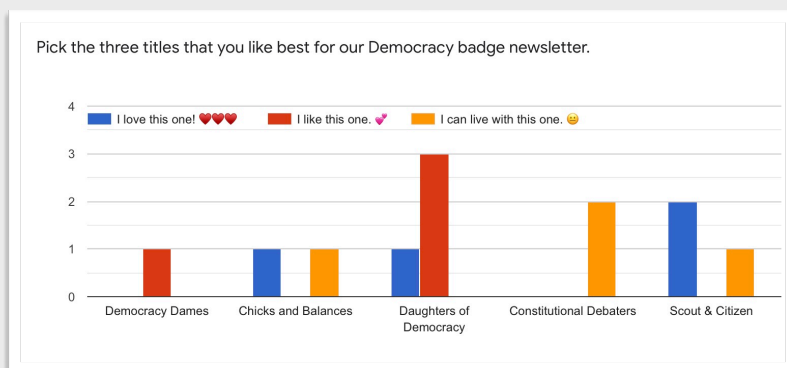
Troop 622 held an election in choosing the title of this newsletter, and used this opportunity to learn about ranked-choice voting. Also known as RCV, this method was used for the first time in Maine in 2020 to elect the president and US senators. Voters rank candidates in order of preference. In a case when there is no candidate that wins a majority of first-choice votes, votes are tabulated in elimination rounds that take into account second-choice votes, third-choice votes, etc. An explanation and video about RCV is available at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/rcv.html>.

In the newsletter election, several titles were nominated:

"Democracy Dames", "Chicks and Balances", "Daughters of Democracy", "Constitutional Debaters", and "Scout & Citizen".

Four scouts voted, using an online ballot to rank their top three choices. After one round of elimination, the election resulted in

a toss-up between "Daughters of Democracy" (first choice of one scout and second choice of two scouts), and "Scout & Citizen", (first choice of two scouts and third choice of one scout). In the case of a tie, Maine's RCV rules call for drawing by lot, making "Daughters of Democracy" the winner. - *Rose (troop volunteer)*



Getting their hands dirty on Earth Day



Troop 622 held an Earth Day volunteer event at North Side Elementary School on April 21, 2021. These girls worked so hard on this cold afternoon. They picked up trash, weeded garden beds, planted flowers, spread mulch, and even learned a little bit on how they can do their part in keeping the earth clean and healthy. - *Amy (troop leader)*



Citizens have many ways to participate in city government

There are many different ways to participate in city government.

You can participate in passing ordinances by attending a public hearing and expressing your opinion, volunteer for boards and committees, or complete a survey offered by the city. Children can participate by taking a city government program offered by Science Hill High School or offering opinions and suggestions by contacting local elected leaders.

Finally, you can run for city commissioner. This is a bit more hard to do than all the other things, but that doesn't mean it's not possible! To be eligible for office, you have to be a qualified voter, own property in Johnson City, and cannot have been convicted of any corrupt practice.

Go to <https://www.johnsoncitytn.org/meetings> to see live and recorded meetings, and <https://www.johnsoncitytn.org/boards> to find information about various boards and committees that you can volunteer for. - *Ada (Junior)*