

“Gov Trek”

How to Rock the Next Generation

Welcome

Presentation materials:

- Download the presentation from the AAUW California website home page.
- The meeting recording, a summary Q&A document and example documents will be posted following the meeting.

Questions:

- Use the Q&A function to pose a question. We'll stop periodically to answer general questions.
- Chat has been disabled.

The screenshot shows a Zoom 'Question and Answer' window. At the top, there are two tabs: 'All questions (1)' and 'My questions (1)'. A red dashed arrow points from the text 'Check here for answers to all questions.' to the 'All questions (1)' tab. Another red dashed arrow points from the text 'Check here for answers to your questions' to the 'My questions (1)' tab. Below the tabs, a message from 'You' at 09:45 AM asks, 'Where can I download the presentation?'. Below this is a 'Collapse all (1)' link and a response from 'AAUW California' at 09:46 AM. At the bottom, there is a text input field with the placeholder 'Type your question here...'. A red dashed arrow points from the text 'Type your question here.' to this input field. In the bottom left corner, there are two circular icons: 'Chat' (highlighted with a yellow circle) and 'Q&A' (highlighted with a red circle). A red dashed arrow points from the 'Q&A' icon to the input field. In the bottom right corner, there is a red 'Leave' button. A text box on the left side of the window states 'Chat has been disabled. Use the Q&A function'.

**Carlsbad-
Oceanside-
Vista (COV)
Branch of
AAUW
Presents**

GovTrek

A program to encourage more young women to become involved in politics.

Presenter:

Kathi Harper

AAUW California Public Policy Co-Chair

Public Policy Chair, COV



MY “AHA” MOMENT

A Convergence of Quotes

1. Conversations with my granddaughters
“Grandma, we’re not interested in politics”
2. Preparation for Suffragists’ events -
Susan B. Anthony
*“There will never be complete equality until
women themselves make laws.”*



Women in government

Women outnumber men in America, but not in government office. Although female representation has increased steadily in recent decades, it stands at about 23% today

Plus a Little Research

Number of men for each woman

2020



SUPREME COURT

3 WOMEN, 5 MEN



SENATE

20 WOMEN, 80 MEN



HOUSE

84 WOMEN, 351 MEN



GOVERNORS

6 WOMEN, 44 MEN

3.8

4.3

2.9

2020



STATE SENATE

443 WOMEN, 1,529 MEN



STATE HOUSE/ASSEMBLY

1,362 WOMEN, 4,049 MEN



**MAYORS
100 LARGEST CITIES**

19 WOMEN, 81 MEN

3.8

3.3

3.7

SOURCE: CENTER FOR AMERICAN WOMEN AND POLITICS
MAYOR FIGURES AS OF JANUARY 2016

TIME

The Solution:

GovTrek was designed by COV to interest young women in careers in politics.

Journey with us to learn how we implemented this program and how it might be launched in your branch.

- Challenges encountered
- Lessons learned
- Possible improvements



What is GovTrek?

The Concept

GovTrek

- Encourages young high school women to pursue a career in politics.
- Immerses students into the real world of politics.
- Current female legislators and experts present real-life political concepts.
- Students participate in workshops to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The Components

- Forming a team and assigning tasks
- Finding a venue
- Developing a budget and ensuring funding
- Developing a format
- Developing the curriculum
- Designing the workshops
- Developing materials
- Getting buy-in from the education sector
- Recruiting students
- Securing presenters



GETTING READY

Finding a Venue

What We Did

- Determined classroom needs:
 - Desks or tables
 - AV capability
 - White board
 - Adequate room size
 - Accessibility and parking
- Assessed potential venues
- Selected satellite campus of local community college - less expensive, perfect for classroom needs

What We Might Change

- Choose a venue that has more scheduling flexibility.
- Investigate free government office space.

The Team

What We Did

- Duties of chair
 - Develop budget
 - Develop work plan
 - Develop all written materials
 - Develop basic program format
- Duties of committee members
 - Find venue
 - Set up meetings with school personnel
 - Make presentations to students
 - Set up meetings for chair with presenters
 - Facilitate workshops
 - Contact schools

Staffed by eight members of Public Policy Committee

What We Might Change

- Solicit additional participants from general membership who are committed to the project.
- Reduce the responsibilities of the chair.

Budgeting and Funding

What We Did

- Budgeted \$750, bulk for venue and materials
- Applied for \$500 state project grant
- Board
 - did not allocate general fund dollars. Required use of Public Policy or other funds
 - fronted the budget expecting repayment if grant received

What We Might Change

- Look for cheaper venue.
- Solicit sponsorships.

The Format

Considerations

- What do you want to accomplish?
- How long will it take you (how many sessions)?
- What is the best schedule (days, times, length)?
- Student schedule work-arounds
- Members' availability
- Presenters' availability

COV Format

What We Did (or Planned)

- 6 sessions - Oct, Nov; Jan-Apr
- 1 Saturday per month - 2 hours each
 - 1 hour presentation/1 hour workshop
- Sessions
 - Civics 101
 - Value of a Law Degree
 - How City Govt Really Works
 - How State Govt Really Works
 - How Federal Govt Really Works
 - How a Campaign Really Works
- End with 4-hour "conference" - May
 - Elections
 - Mediation/negotiation workshop

What We Might Change

Consider alternative schedules

- Weekly sessions
- Twice a month sessions
- 1 weekend, with (3) 2-hour sessions each day, with conference the following weekend
- 1 week in the summer between 11th and 12th grades over a 4-day period
- Change the session length to 3 hours

Materials

School packet

- Classy tri-fold brochure
- Outline to present to school personnel
- Student application
- Student/parent photo release form

Presenter packet

- Letter of introduction and Request to Participate form
- Program description and brochure

User manual

- Schedule
- Presenters' biographies
- Session materials



RECRUITING: STUDENTS & PRESENTERS

The Presenters

Who

- Consider members' backgrounds
- Political contacts of committee members
- Contacts from local colleges/universities
- Cold calls

What

- Contact offices for in-person meeting
- Present with Request to Participate, provide brochure
- Give overview of program
- Discuss expectations of their participation; brainstorm for additional ideas
- Secure commitment - may need to be flexible on date

When

- Start calling for appointments as soon as curriculum developed
- Need to have secured before advertising with schools
- Follow-up with Legislative Aides two weeks, then day before event

Reaching Students on Campus

What We Did

- Started in July
- Contacted three school districts
 - Attempted to schedule appointments with superintendents
 - Requested approval to contact students on campus and secure assistance of school staff
 - Principals
 - Counselors
 - History and Govt teachers
 - Asked counselors to post flyers and applications in office
 - Asked teachers for opportunity to make presentations (did three)

What We Might Change

- Start earlier in April or May
- Get more school support
 - One Super was super
 - One enthusiastic but no follow through
 - One unwilling to meet
 - Only one principal wanted to meet
 - Some teachers helpful; others not so much
- Need to follow up, don't wait
- Need to be creative in finding ways to reach students

The Students

Student selection criteria:

- Juniors and Seniors
 - U.S. History and Government classes
 - A.P. classes preferred
- Letter of reference from teacher
- Response on application to “Why I want to take part in this project”
- Must commit to attend minimum 5 of 6 sessions

Hoped for 15 - got 24! Perfect number

THE SESSIONS

Session 1:

Civics 101

The Exercise

- 24 students: broke into 4 groups of 6 each; pre-organized to mix up schools and grade levels
- On a cruise ship which capsized, each group swam to a different island; asked to be leaders
- Had to choose name, motto and form of government for island

The Presentation

- Presenter: AAUW member, Community College history professor
- Basic constitutional concepts, Bill of Rights

Materials

- Constitution w/Bill of Rights
- Forms of Governments

What We Might Change

Format

- More time (3 hours)
 - 1 hour intro/group set up
 - 1-1/4 hour presentation
 - 3/4 hour on immediate needs

Presentation

- Poli Sci teacher, maybe not member
- More emphasis on politics - forms of govt; political parties - less history lesson

Exercise

- Better coordination with mentors
- More time for report back

Session 2:

Value of a Legal Education in Political Career

The Presentation

- Presenters: 5 attorneys (members)
 - 3 Govt, 1 Immigration, 1 private
 - Law school, careers
 - Overview of legal/judicial system

The Exercise

- 5 laws that prohibit some types of conduct of citizens on their island
- 5 laws that prohibit some types of conduct of government
- 5 laws giving government the authority to act

Materials

- Public Policy on system overview
- Bill of Rights

What We Might Change

- Too many attorneys! - maximum of 2
 - Law school in your area?
 - Constitutional Law professor
- More time on legal overview

Session 3:

How City Government Really Works

The Presentation

- Presenter: Carlsbad City Councilwoman
- Background info
 - Why she chose city govt
 - What she likes, doesn't like
 - Challenges in running for office
- City govt structures
- Typical municipal issues
- How decisions are made

The Exercise

- List 10 issues your "city-island" faces
- Choose one issue and propose a solution

Materials

- Presenter biography
- Carlsbad City organizational chart
- Oceanside at a glance
- Forms of local govt



Session 4:

How State Government Really Works

The Presentation

- Presenter: State Representative
- Background Info
 - Why she chose state govt
 - What she likes/doesn't like
 - Challenges of running
- State government issues
- How bills gets passed

The Exercise

- Select an issue your "state-island" faces
- Come up with a law to address it
- Write a fact sheet

Materials

- Presenter biography
- Description of CA State Legislature
- Schematic for "Path of a Bill"
- Sample fact sheet

Typical Fact Sheet

- Brief description - what will bill do?
- Background - what led to bill being introduced?
- Problem - why is it necessary?
- Solution - what bill will do to fix the problem?
- Support - what groups support the bill?

Session 5:

How the Federal Government Really Works

The Plan

The Presentation

- Presenter: Our Congressman's Chief of Staff
 - Insight into "behind-the-scenes" careers in political arena
- Overview of inner workings of Federal Government
- Relationships between House and Senate, House and President
- Current issues Congress is working on
- Typical schedule of U.S. Representative

The Exercise

- They are now an "Island Nation," have joined with other islands
- Select a topic critical to new status - 10 min
 - Each team suggests 5 topics
 - 2 that appear on all lists will be selected for debate
- Debate
 - Teams 1 & 2 , 3 & 4 face off - 1 pro, 1 con
 - 20 min to prep: choose principal and rebutter, devise argument
 - Each set has 15 min to debate

Session 6:

How Politics Really Works

The Plan

The Presentation

- Presenters -
 - Our Congressman's Campaign Manager
 - President of "Run Women Run"
- Importance of having more women in politics
- Nuts and bolts of running a campaign
- Positives, negatives
- Tips for success

The Exercise

- Each team selects candidate, campaign manager and publicist.
- Campaign managers have 5 min to make a pitch for their candidate.
- Publicist presents campaign slogan, graphics.
- Students vote; top 2 face run-off for presidency at conference

The Conference

Schedule (4 hours)	The Plan
9:00 - 9:30	Continental breakfast
9:30 - 10:00	Keynote speaker - Congressman
10:00 - 12:00	Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Presenter: Project Manager, National Conflict Resolution Center● Topics:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discuss the Code of Civil Discourse, followed by interactive activity to reinforce○ Discuss the “mediation mindset” and tie into conflict resolution in the political arena
12:00 - 12:30	Candidate’s speeches, election
12:30 - 1:00	Evaluations, awarding of Internships <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Congressional campaign● Attorney’s office

**For more
information**

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AAUW California Website
aauw-ca.org/govtrek-how-to-rock-the-next-generation/