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**Request to Participate in AAUW-COV GovTrek Project**

**What is AAUW-COV?**

COV is the Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). AAUW’s mission is to advance equity for women and girls through education, research and advocacy.

**What is Gov-Trek?**

GovTrek is a project of AAUW-COV, whose purpose is to introduce young high school women to careers in public service and to encourage them to engage in those careers. It is a 6-month immersion course in “How Politics Really Works.”

There will be one 2-hour session per month, consisting of: “Politics 101,” “So You Want to Be a Lawyer?”, “How City Government Works,” How State Government Works,” “How Federal Government Works,” and “Are You Ready to Run?” (running a campaign). Each session will consist of a one-hour presentation followed by a one-hour hands-on activity. The three sessions on “How Government Works” will be led by a sitting legislator.

**How Can I Help?**

Legislators will be asked to:

* Give the topic presentation, to include but not limited to the following:
  + Why did you decide to go into politics?
  + What does the city council/mayor/state legislator/Congressional Rep do?
  + What kinds of issues do you have to decide?
  + What issues do you confront that directly, or disproportionately, affect women/girls/students?
  + Was gender a factor in your campaign?
  + Is it a factor in getting your job done? Do women have a voice in (your legislative body)?
  + What advice would you give for a young woman thinking about entering politics at your level? (city/state/federal)
* Offer ideas for hands-on project
* Assist the girls in their workshop if time permits
  + Be accessible as they work through their problems, offer information/guidance
* Provide a summer internship