

"Next Gen Leader" Award Application Form

Award winners in this category will be selected for actions taken to identify, recruit and prepare the next generation of League leaders.

Your League Name: League of Women Voters of San Diego

When did your efforts to identify, recruit and prepare the next generation begin?

September, 2018

Briefly describe the characteristics you sought. Briefly describe your efforts to identify potential leaders.

We actively recruited high school and college students with an avid interest in politics and civics. In many cases secondary school teachers, knowing the work the League does, recommended that students contact us. We also recruited students at public events such as Politifest on the campus of San Diego State University

Briefly describe your efforts to recruit potential leaders. What steps did you take to encourage or entice them?

For one thing, one of our members offered an internship to several students, which was very successful. Some of our student volunteers joined the League at the recommendation of their high school civics teachers. San Diego State University holds a Politifest every year, and we recruited students there, as well as at a political event at another local college, San Diego University. As potential leaders emerged among students who attended our monthly Youth Empowerment meeting, we have them active leadership roles which led to their initiating events and projects and joining as student representatives in several of the League Voter Empowerment events.

Describe how you prepared the recruits to take on and perform a leadership role.

- a. We prepared them by asking them to take leadership roles at our committee meetings, such as facilitating the meetings and preparing the agendas.
- b. We offered training to those students who volunteered for events such as candidate forums.
- c. We provided voter registration training to enable students to run their own voter registration drives.

Have you seen results? Please describe them. Please also describe any lessons learned from undertaking this process; anything you would do differently.

Our goal is to educate students to become active, informed voters, We are very proud of the fact that one of our students invited us to participate, at her school, in a series of three civics classes, which were intended to supplement the course work provided by the school. This student did all the administrative work and advertising for the event, and helped develop and present the classes.

Another achievement was the creation of an original script depicting the struggle of women to gain the vote. Several high school students enthusiastically participated in the making of a video

of this play, which we shared with schools, community groups and other Leagues along with a toolkit for teachers.

Do you believe that this project has potential to be a model for use by other Leagues? If yes, tell us the critical elements for success.

We do believe that our Youth Empowerment Committee can serve as a model for other Leagues. The critical element in our success has been offering opportunities for students to take the initiative both in Youth Empowerment activities and in activities and events offered by the League as a whole. Holding regular student-led committee meetings and encouraging the students to participate in the programs of other League committees has given our group of active students "skin in the game,"

We did this in many ways, including inviting them to observe League board meetings, asking them to participate in activities such as the 100 Days of Action and candidate forums, and encouraging them to use their prodigious social media skills to reach out to their respective communities. We gave them the opportunity to set up their own website and to have their own Instagram account, which we were able to monitor using the platform called Later.

It has been quite gratifying to watch many students develop their leadership skills as they came to respect and value the work of the League of Women Voters.





SAN DIEGO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

WELCOME BACK TO WHAT PROMISES TO BE A VERY UNUSUAL SCHOOL YEAR. IT'S ALSO THE YEAR OF ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTIONS OUR NATION HAS EVER HELD. WE KNOW VOTING IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, AND WE WANT TO HELP YOU SHARE THAT PASSION WITH YOUR STUDENTS.

SHARE YOUR PASSION by showing our video, "They Were Here Before Us," which tells some of the history of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution through the eyes of two high school students who are running a voter registration event in their school. These students learn from seven suffragists why the fight to maintain and expand voting rights continues.

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

SHARE YOUR PASSION by using our toolkit containing a detailed history of women's voting rights around the world, as well as questions for discussion and topics for research.

[CLICK HERE FOR TOOLKIT](#)

SHARE YOUR PASSION by empowering your students to register to vote if they are over 18, or preregister to vote if they are 16 or 17. Please reach out to us for suggestions and materials if you wish to hold a registration drive in your classroom or your school.

OUR MISSION, IN THE WORDS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS U.S., HAS ALWAYS BEEN "EMPOWERING VOTERS, DEFENDING DEMOCRACY."

THE LWVSD YOUTH EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE

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SAN DIEGO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

A TEACHER'S TOOLKIT: THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

An Exciting and Creative Way to Kick
Off Your Unit on Voting Rights and
the Upcoming Election

INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL PLAY
"THEY WERE HERE BEFORE US"

Assembled by the
SD LWV Youth Empowerment Committee