

Parent & Teacher Guide — League of Constitutional Voters youth programs

What the League is

A nonpartisan membership organization, incorporated in Washington and seeking recognition as a 501(c)(3) charity, that works to make sure no public office is decided without a choice on the ballot. It presents every candidate to the public on equal terms and teaches anyone who wants to run how to do it.

What the League is not

It is not a party, a campaign, or an advocacy group. Its bylaws forbid endorsing, rating, or opposing any candidate or party and forbid taking positions on any policy question — taxes, schools, land use, guns, health care, anything. That rule (Article I) can be changed only by two-thirds of all members. The League has no affiliated 501(c)(4) or political committee and will not create one. Your student will not be asked their politics, their family's politics, or their opinion on any issue, by anyone, at any League program.

The programs for young people

Junior participants (13–15). Free, non-voting, with your written consent. Juniors attend meet-and-greets with you or a chaperone, help with the research project, and are first in line for Youth County at 16. **Student membership (16 and up).** \$10 a year, waivable on request. Full voting membership, a named volunteer role within 90 days, and eligibility for the board seat the bylaws reserve for a member under 30. **Youth County (16–18).** A one-day Saturday mock county: file for office, campaign, answer identical questions at a moderated forum, vote, take the oath, pass a budget. No real party, platform, or issue is used; delegates draw into caucuses named Cascade and Salish. Sponsored by the county chapter at no cost to families. Full program rules are published on lcvoters.org/youth-county. **The Empty Ballot Research Project.** A four-week class project compiling the county's uncontested races from public records; fits the required civics course; the League signs credit documentation and publishes the result with student credit. **The "Who Will Stand?" oration contest.** For students under 20; judged on understanding and delivery, never on the position taken (the rubric says so in print). **Future Voter sign-up.** Washington lets 16- and 17-year-olds pre-register at VoteWA.gov and registers them automatically when eligible. The League offers the sign-up at every youth event; it is the Secretary of State's program, not the League's.

Safety

Every adult working a youth program has completed the League's youth-protection screening. Two adults are present at all times; no adult is alone with a student. Names and photos are not published without your written consent. Student data is never shared with anyone.

What we ask of you

Consent form and emergency contact for any program. For Youth County, a ride there and back. For the research project, a teacher's sign-off on the credit letter.

Questions

[chapter contact] · lcvoters.org · "Nonpartisan by bylaw, not by promise."