



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 22, 2024

MEDIA ADVISORY

Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest Hosts 'Chalk the Vote' to Encourage Voter Participation

What:

[Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest](#) (GIPNW) is organizing a 'Chalk the Vote' event with local teens to inspire community members to participate in the upcoming election. Although youth cannot yet vote, they are keenly aware of the profound impact this election could have on their health, safety and future prospects. They have decided to use their organizing power to call on adults to vote. Through creative and impactful chalk messages such as "Youth need you to vote" and "Voting is your voice," these teens are urging adults to exercise their right to vote.

The teens organizing the event are from two Girls Inc of the Pacific Northwest programs: Leadership Council, a cohort of young leaders promoting girls rights, and Eureka, GIPNW's STEM summer camp. This fall, Girls Inc. youth have been learning about the importance of voting and our democracy and they felt inspired to creatively engage in democracy

This event is particularly significant as 2024 is the 104th year of women's right to vote highlighting the ongoing importance of civic engagement and voter participation and these teens are carrying on the legacy of the Suffragette movement as they also used chalk to advance women's rights more than a hundred years ago.

When:

Saturday, October 26th at 10 a.m.

Expert Spokesperson:

"At the core of our work at Girls Inc is the fundamental belief in the protection of girls' rights and freedoms, and teaching girls how to advocate for themselves and their community. This year is such an important election year for girls specifically, and these teens were inspired to get out here to encourage others to champion girls' by using their voices in this election."

Hailey Hardcastle - Advocacy Program Manager, Girls Inc. PNW.

**Where:**

OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry)
Public spaces surrounding the museum

Why:

Chalk the Vote is an example of the girl-led advocacy promoted at Girls Inc. PNW. This event was born out of youth interest in the upcoming election and Girls Inc.'s long history of advocacy. GIPNW believes in being a champion for the rights and opportunities for girls and youth, so they can grow to be strong, smart and bold.

Although many of the participating teens are not yet eligible to vote, they recognize the profound impact this election could have on their health, safety and future prospects. By hosting this event, they are calling on adults to recognize their responsibility and power in shaping a better future through voting.

Note:

This is not a public event; however, it will take place in public spaces, allowing community members to observe and be inspired by the messages.

Visuals:

Expect vibrant and thought-provoking chalk art created by local teens, aimed at encouraging a dialogue about the importance of voting and civic responsibility.

Background:

Girls Inc. PNW provides young people with trusting, stable mentoring relationships by fostering an inclusive environment with research-based, hands-on programming to build leadership and life skills for youth to grow into empowered, independent and healthy individuals. GIPNW programming is grounded in the goal that youth lead healthy lives, succeed academically and develop skills for adulthood with services at no cost to the families they serve.

The 'Chalk the Vote' campaign is an initiative by Girls Inc. PNW, driven by a commitment to foster civic engagement and awareness within their community. This initiative underscores the crucial role of voting in shaping policies and decisions that affect the younger generation.