

# Stand Up & Be Counted

**Purpose:** Learn about the U.S. Census and discover why we count everyone, what happens afterward, and how you can become involved.

## Step 1: Learn more about the U.S. Census

Every 10 years, the United States Census Bureau counts every person living in the country to make sure people have the things that they need—like schools, fire stations, and parks. This is called a census. The very first U.S. Census was conducted in 1790—229 years ago!

Research the 2020 Census online to find out:

- What questions are included on the 2020 Census?
- Who can access census data and how is it used?
- What happens when we don't count people correctly?
- Why might people not complete the 2020 Census?

## Step 2: Explore older U. S. Census results

U.S. Census records remain confidential for 72 years. The last census that has been made available to the general public is the 1940 Census. The 1950 census records will be released in April 2022.

Search the National Archives Census Records online at [bit.ly/GSCensus](https://bit.ly/GSCensus) to explore older census results. Begin with the most current census year available and work backwards. What do you notice? What's changed? What hasn't?

## Step 3. Take your own census in your community

Now you know that the census counts people and that counting people helps the government make important decisions—like how many parks we need or how many schools we should have. It's important to be counted in the census!

Draw a picture of everyone who lives in your home, whether they are related to you or not. Then count every face to determine how many people live in your household. The average household size in the United States is 3. Is your household bigger or smaller than the average?

## Step 4: Take the lead in your household

Share what you've learned about the U.S. Census with your family, and make sure they know how important it is to count every person in your household on the 2020 Census, including you!

Make a pledge to complete the 2020 Census accurately, and work with your family to complete it together. Print and sign the Family Pledge certificate on the next page and hang it on your refrigerator!

## Step 5: Spread the word

Use your newfound knowledge to help educate your community about the 2020 Census. The next time you have a virtual troop meeting, tell the girls in your troop about this patch program!

*To earn the patch, complete the requirements and the online reporting form at [bit.ly/GSCensusPatch](https://bit.ly/GSCensusPatch). Patches will be available for purchase at council shops once offices open.*



Council Patch Program



# Family Pledge



We pledge to complete the 2020 Census fairly and accurately. We know that a good census is the first step in making sure our community has good jobs, roads, and schools now and in the future. We pledge to work together to do our part!

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*Girl Name*

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*Adult Name*

  
**girl scouts**  
of texas oklahoma plains