



PARENT-GUARDIAN PERMISSION PACKET

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Oregon Secretary of State's Office (SOS) is excited to announce the third year of Oregon's Kid Governor®, an award-winning statewide civics program created by The Connecticut Democracy Center. The program is designed to teach 5th graders about civics and civic engagement – and your child's class will be participating! Through this program, your child's class will join 5th grade classrooms across the state in learning about state government, how it works and the importance of civic engagement through the election of a 5th grade governor.

In the weeks leading up to Election Day 2019, your child's class will participate in lessons about Oregon's three branches of state government, voting and elections, and campaign platforms. Students will then discuss community issues important to them and choose one to research. They may choose topics such as recycling, animal rights, pollution, bullying, etc. Once they have researched an issue, they will work to craft campaign platforms and speeches. Students that choose to run for Oregon's Kid Governor will deliver their speeches as part of the election process. The process will include class-wide and/or school-wide primaries. As in real life, the student with the most votes will be the school's nominee for the Oregon's Kid Governor® Statewide Election.

The school's nominee will then create a campaign video with the help of classmates. The video will outline: why they want to be Oregon's Kid Governor; what leadership qualities they have; a community issue that they want to address and why it's important; and a three-point plan that will help 5th graders across Oregon make a difference on that issue. Teachers will submit their student nominee's video to SOS. An Advisory Committee of civics and education professionals will select the top seven (7) candidate videos statewide and those videos will be posted online at OR.KidGovernor.org. During the Statewide Election, November 4-12, 2019, 5th graders throughout Oregon will view these videos, cast their votes and elect the 2020 Oregon's Kid Governor.

In the coming weeks, your child will learn how to vote and how to run for office and may want to run as a candidate for Oregon's Kid Governor at the school level. If your child wins the school primary, he or she will be a potential statewide candidate in the race for 2020 Oregon's Kid Governor. Real candidates get approval from their families before they run for office and your child should, too. **We want to make you aware of this program in advance so you can determine how you would like your child to participate.** If your child has your approval to run for office, **please review the following information, complete the form, and return it to your child's teacher by:**
_____ (due date).



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Responsibilities and Expectations of Oregon's Kid Governor®

The winner of the 2019 Statewide Election will serve as the 2020 Oregon's Kid Governor® from January-December 2020. The winning Kid Governor will serve in an active leadership role, advocating for change related to their platform and community issue during their one-year term. They will have opportunities throughout the 2020 term to meet people, share their winning campaign platform, and encourage action! Nominees for Oregon's Kid Governor agree to fulfill the following minimum responsibilities and expectations, if elected:

- Attend Inauguration Day in January 2020 (*attendance is required*).
- Actively work with the Oregon Secretary of State's Office (SOS) to achieve their three-point platform by creating resources, tools and videos to inspire action among constituents and students.
- Film a video about civics and state government in collaboration with SOS.
- Write blog posts about their term in office, community issue, and action being taken by students statewide to make a difference.
- Participate in programs and events with SOS.

For more information about the expectations of the successful candidate and to review the official *Rules & Entry Forms*, visit OR.KidGovernor.org. We ask that you review the website and resources to better understand what may be expected of your child should they win the statewide race. You can also read about our past Kid Governors, their platforms and their terms in office.

The spirit of Oregon's Kid Governor is not about winning and losing, but about students learning about civics and that they can have a positive impact on their communities. We hope that students who create platforms for school primaries or as their school's nominee will work on implementing their platform throughout the school year and tell us about the difference they are making locally.

After reviewing this document and the website, please check the appropriate box below and sign:

- I give permission for my child to participate in The Oregon's Kid Governor® program and enter the race to be the nominee from our school.
- I give permission for my child to participate in The Oregon's Kid Governor® program but not to enter the race to be the nominee from our school.

Student name (please print)

Date

Parent/Guardian name (please print)

Parent/Guardian signature

****Note to teachers: this permission slip is for school-use only. When submitting your candidate's video, please complete and attach the entry forms and releases in the Rules and Regulations packet (available for download at OR.KidGovernor.org).**