

## A Teachers Guide

This guide is designed for K-8 students. Teachers may adapt lessons as they see fit.

# A VOTE FOR SUSANNA

## The First Woman Mayor

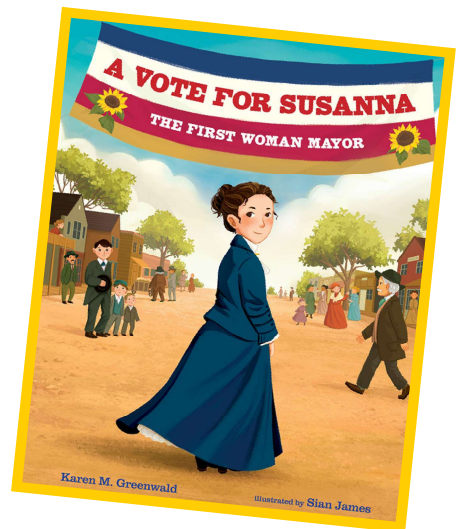
By Karen M. Greenwald



Illustrated by Sian James

### ABOUT *THE* BOOK

In 1887, the state of Kansas gave women the right to vote in municipal elections. But some men in the city of Argonia, Kansas, didn't think women should have a say in choosing their next mayor, so they put a woman on the ballot—as a joke. That woman was Susanna Salter—and soon the men would find the joke was on them! Narrated by a grandmother who remembered what happened on that election day, this is the true story of a woman who stood up for her right to vote and accomplished so much more.



### ABOUT *THE* AUTHOR

Karen M. Greenwald published her first poem when she was five. Seeing her name in print hooked her on writing (even though the school paper credited her older sister). In addition to being a children's author, Karen is a nonpracticing attorney and an international-award-winning brand strategist. Karen is a Maryland native. Visit her online at [www.karengreenwald.com](http://www.karengreenwald.com).



### ABOUT *THE* ILLUSTRATOR

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Sian has been drawing for as long as she can remember. Despite growing up as a city girl, she loves daydreaming about enchanted forests and magical adventures. After completing a PhD in archaeology, she decided to pursue her passion for illustration. When not drawing or painting, she loves to volunteer at museums or curl up with a good book.

# GIRL SCOUT GUIDE

## Earning Girl Scout Badges with **A Vote for Susanna: The First Woman Mayor**

You can empower your troop with Susanna's story as you earn badges at every level. The following are ideas for incorporating the book into your meetings.

### DAISY

**Honest and Fair Petal** (light blue): Read the book and discuss voting rights during Susanna's life. Is it fair that only white males could vote until Kansas passed their law? To demonstrate, randomly choose one girl and allow her to pick all the activities and snacks for your meeting or a short portion of it. Everyone else has to do what she chooses even if they don't want to. Discuss how it feels not having a say in what you do.

**Courageous and Strong Petal** (red): After reading the book, discuss the different ways Susanna was courageous and strong (ignoring the bullies, running for election, leading her town). Have girls list the ways they demonstrate being courageous and strong in their own lives. As an activity, have girls create posters or bookmarks to empower others to be strong, lead others, and stand up to bullies.

**Respect Authority Petal** (magenta): After reading the book, take a field trip and meet your own mayor. If it's not possible to meet in person, the troop may be able to have a virtual visit or tour city hall. Before the meeting, they can research a little bit about the mayor or write letters about issues that are important to them.

### BROWNIE

#### Celebrate Community

Susanna became more than just a mayor. People around the world saw her as a symbol of hope. As your girls earn the Celebrate Community badge, encourage them to use Susanna as a role model.



- Find female leaders in the local, state or national community. Make posters to celebrate their accomplishments.
- Susanna was from the state of Kansas. Have the girls learn the state song of Kansas and sing it (as well as the state song of their home state).
- Create a parade of female leaders. Each girl can dress up as a famous leader and march in the parade. Or see if your troop can be part of a community parade on Independence Day, Veteran's Day, or another important day in your town.

## JUNIOR

### Inside Government

Susanna was an active citizen because she cared about which candidates were on the ballot and she encouraged others to vote. Your girls can also become active citizens by earning this badge.



- Read the book and list all the ways Susanna was an active citizen.
- Have your girls be active citizens by reading the book to a younger troop and giving a presentation on women's suffrage.
- Research laws that limited voting rights for different groups of people (women, minorities, the uneducated, and poor). Create a time line of voting rights in America.
- Write an essay or poem about the importance of voting rights. Share it with your classmates, publish it in a newspaper, or post it on author Karen M. Greenwald's site at [www.karengreenwald.com/girlscouts](http://www.karengreenwald.com/girlscouts).
- Discuss ways girls can be involved in politics now. Do their schools have a student council? Talk about what it means to be an elected leader and encourage them to learn more about the process.

## CADETTE

### Public Speaker

Susanna was passionate about helping others find their voices. As you earn this badge, reflect on Susanna's story and share your own voice with the world. Perhaps you can try one of these ideas:



- Publish a poem, story, or essay about something that is important to you.
- Join a club or group that shares the same beliefs and goals as you do.
- Write a play or create a video about an issue that is important to you. Share it with others. Where appropriate, post on [www.karengreenwald.com/girlscouts](http://www.karengreenwald.com/girlscouts).

### Democracy for Cadettes

To earn this badge, you must learn about different levels of government leaders. Find out who represents you at the local, state, and national level. Include leaders in the executive, judicial, and legislative branches.



- Do any of the people that represent you have special distinctions?
- Learn about other leaders in your country who are the first to earn leadership positions.
- Who are the women who have served as US Supreme Court justices? Learn about their lives and share your learning through reports, skits, or an online presentation.

## SENIORS

### Democracy for Seniors

After reading the book, discuss different ways Susanna impacted her community. Learn more about how your community is governed.



- Sit in on a city council meeting.
- Arrange a meeting with your mayor or city council to discuss issues that are important to you.
- Find out if your community has citizen improvement groups. See if you are eligible to join one or find another way to help improve your community (libraries and parks often allow teens to volunteer on committees, too).
- How did Susanna's election impact other communities in Kansas? How did it impact communities outside of Kansas?