



## KIDS VOTING COMING

This year your child will take part in the national **Kids Voting** USA project, which involves millions of students of all grade levels across the United States. Included will be lessons about democracy, along with nonpartisan activities and an opportunity to vote at their official polling site on Election Day, using ballots that replicate those used by registered voters. Recent research has demonstrated that the critical thinking and decision-making skills your child will acquire during the program are enduring and significant.

**The Kids Voting** USA mission fosters informed political dialogue among students and the adults in their lives, and we hope that your household will talk together about politics, government, and the candidates. Research has shown us that one of the most valuable and enduring results of the Kids Voting program is sustained and thoughtful study of current events. If you and your child watch or read the news together and follow up with discussion, you will be patterning the most basic skill of citizenship.

The culminating activity will be the actual vote. Kids Voting Southeast Pennsylvania has made arrangements with election officials for students to vote at the polls on November 2nd. Look for information regarding specific hours at your local polling location. Volunteers will be available to assist students with the voting process. The results of their vote will be published in *The Intelligencer* and the *Courier Times*, along with the official adult returns.

If you have any questions concerning Kids Voting please contact Richard O. Coe, Ed. D., Executive Director, Kids Voting Southeast Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 372, Washington Crossing, PA 18977, Phone: 215.345.3372.

E Mail: [kidsvoting@comcast.net](mailto:kidsvoting@comcast.net), Web site: [www.kidsvotingsoutheastpa.org](http://www.kidsvotingsoutheastpa.org)

.....

<p><b>Kids Voting</b> is a wonderful vehicle for fulfilling our mutual responsibilities to prepare our youth to become active citizens.</p>		
<p>If you would like to volunteer please contact your school building principal.</p>		
Name:	Phone#:	Email:

# Facts about Kids Voting for Educators and Parents

---

## ✓ **DEMOCRACY COMES ALIVE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Classroom activities focus on democracy in America, active citizenship, elections and voting.

Families dialogue about current events .

## ✓ **AN AUTHENTIC VOTING EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS**

Students vote at actual precinct sites with their parents.

Kid Voting stations are supervised by trained volunteers.

Student ballots are similar to official ballots.

Results are published in *The Bucks County Courier Times* and *The Intelligencer*.

## ✓ **REGIONAL IMPACT**

Kids Voting is endorsed by School Districts, the County Commissioners, the United Way, the League of Women Voters, business and community leaders.

Kids Voting Southeastern Pennsylvania includes all thirteen Bucks County School Districts and two school districts in Eastern Montgomery County.

## ✓ **NONPARTISAN/NONPROFIT**

Kids Voting does not endorse candidates, political parties or political positions.

Kids Voting is funded entirely by contributions from the community.

## ✓ **STUDENT RESULTS**

Pennsylvania Civics and Government Instructional Standards are supported by the Kids Voting Curriculum.

Kids Voting increases the likelihood that young people and adults will vote.

Kids Voting lays the foundation for Civic Responsibility and Public Service.



# Important Dates In 2010

## February 2010

15 Presidents' Day

## April 2010

19 Last day to register to vote in May primary

## May 2010

1 Law Day

11 Last day to request an absentee ballot

14 Last day absentee ballot may be received by County Board of Elections

18 **PRIMARY Election**

25 Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (must be postmarked no later than May 17)

31 Memorial Day

## June 2010

14 Flag Day

## July 2010

4 Independence Day

## September 2010

6 Labor Day

**Back-to-School Nights - Post signup sheet to recruit Election Day volunteers for adopted precincts**

Remind parents to vote.

Have voter registration forms and Kids Voting materials available.

17 Constitution Day

## October 2010

Kids Voting Month - Hold school wide student registrations.

4 Last day to register before the General Election

26 Last day to request an absentee ballot

29 Last day absentee ballot may be received by County Board of Elections

November 2010

2 ELECTION DAY



# Timeline

## **District KV Coordinator/Social Studies Coordinator**

Winter/Spring:

- Communicate with district administrators (*see Kids Voting Coming/Facts About KV*).
- Recruit a district volunteer coordinator (*see District Volunteer Coordinator Responsibilities*).
- Communicate with principals.
- Assist the volunteer coordinator in communicating with parent groups and obtaining a firm commitment before school is out as to which precincts they will adopt in November.
- Seek a lead teacher at each school to serve as ambassador and cheerleader for Kids Voting.
- Organize/choose lessons for grade levels (possibly with district social studies committee) and distribute them (*see Suggested Lessons*).
- Find a teacher to work with and organize student volunteers at the high school level. (*see Attention High School Clubs*). Student groups/clubs can adopt precincts and be an extra pool of volunteers for those precincts needing more volunteers.
- Encourage staff to attend Kids Voting training.

Summer/Fall:

- Follow-up with principals and teachers.
- Assist volunteer coordinators as needed.

## **Principals**

Winter/Spring

- Communicate to the faculty that the district is involved with Kids Voting - faculty orientation (can use Power Point on web site).
- Communicate with parents and recruit volunteers (*see Sample Letter to Parents/Kids Voting Coming*).

Fall

- Get the voting message out to parents/students (*see Kids Voting Coming/Facts About KV*).
- Promote classroom/school wide voting activities.

## **Volunteer Coordinator**

LateWinter/Early Spring

- Recruit Volunteers.
- Be in touch with parent groups at each school and get a commitment from them as to which precincts they will adopt for November. Suggest they have a committee sign up in the fall for volunteers at the polls. (Use *Adopt a Precinct* booklet).

- Work with high school(s) to determine which students organizations/clubs will adopt a precinct and be a pool of volunteers for those precincts that need help (*see Attention High School Clubs*).
- Once a precinct is adopted, have the group identify a Precinct Captain and obtain their contact information. Provide captain with the *Welcome Precinct Captain* letter and an *Adopt a Precinct* booklet.

#### Summer

- Recruit community organizations to adopt remaining precincts (*see Adopt A Precinct Recruitment*).
- Have precinct captains make a site visit in the summer/early fall to obtain permission from the local site and ask them for a separate room to set up Kids Voting. Ask them to provide two or more tables and some chairs. Some polling sites have special restrictions. Have them report this information to you so you can keep a master list.

#### Fall

- Communicate with precinct captains/schools and provide assistance as needed.
- Participate in training of precinct captains in late September or early October.
- Remind precinct captains to communicate with their precinct Election Judge in early-October to introduce themselves and assure them that Kids Voting will not interfere with the actual voting.
- From your precinct captains, obtain a list of volunteers at each precinct including name, address and phone numbers. Have captains send the list to you (District Volunteer Coordinator) and to the Election Judges.
- Election Night – be at Election Headquarters for your district and handle requests from polling sites.
- Election Night – collect ballots dropped off mid-way through the night and work with a volunteer team to check that ballots were completed accurately.
- End of Election Night – help collect, organize all supplies. Deliver or have someone deliver supplies to District Headquarters.

### Teachers

#### Spring

- See list of *Suggested Lessons* and go to Kids Voting website to access lessons.
- Participate in orientation of program.
- Current events - Discuss primary elections. Have students go to our Kids Voting website [www.kidsvotingsoutheastpa.org](http://www.kidsvotingsoutheastpa.org) for online surveys and primary election voting.

#### Summer

- Attend staff development in-service (optional) – 6 hours, date and location to be announced.

#### Fall

- Go through a registration process.
- Teach at least 3 Kids Voting lessons (as per your district).
- Show and explain the ballot (ballot will be on website).
- Participate in classroom/school wide voting activities - this is highly recommended as not all kids will be taken to the polls by their parents.
- High school students should vote at school.
- Encourage children to go to the polls on Election Day.
- Debrief Kids Voting experience.

- Do Kids Voting follow-up lesson.
- Remainder of the Year: incorporate Kids Voting lessons appropriately according to your curriculum

## **Community Relations/Public Information Officers**

### **Spring**

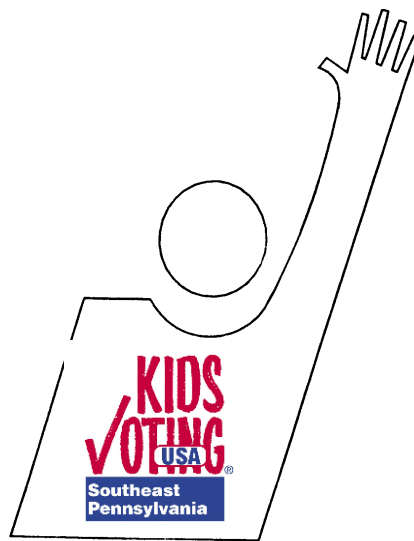
- Promote/advertise any voting activities done in classrooms for the primary elections and share with Kids Voting any internal publications where Kids Voting is included. Possibly include any information on district and/or school web sites.

### **Summer**

- Get the message out about Kids Voting in summer district newsletter.
- On the November page of the school calendar, place Kids Voting graphic and times kids can vote on Election Day with a possible note to encourage parents to take their kids to the poll. If your school/district has photos from 2008 or before, you may want to include these in the calendar.

### **Fall**

- Promote/advertise any voting activities done in classrooms for the general election and share with Kids Voting any internal publications where Kids Voting is included. Possibly include any information on district and/or school web sites.



## **ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOLS CLUBS**

### **Kids Voting Southeast Pennsylvania Needs You!!**

- ☆ Kids Voting Southeast Pennsylvania is a non-profit, non-partisan education program designed to promote greater voter participation and to educate students in Bucks and Montgomery Counties regarding the voting process.
- ☆ On November 2 over 100,000 students in grades K - 12 will be able to go to the polls.

**We would like your club to consider sending its members to help staff precincts in your district.**

- ☆ We are looking for High School students to help. We need to have volunteers for Kids Voting at several precincts. That's quite an undertaking! So please consider becoming a part of our program. This volunteer opportunity is completed in one day, but will make a difference in our community for generations to come.

If you can help, please fill in this form and send it as soon as possible to: (ADD YOUR CONTACT INFO.)

**For more information about Kids Voting Southeast Pennsylvania, visit our web site at:**

[www.kidsvotingsoutheastpa.org/](http://www.kidsvotingsoutheastpa.org/) or by mail, P.O. Box 372 Washington Crossing, PA 18977

Phone 215.345.3372 or email [kidsvoting@comcast.net](mailto:kidsvoting@comcast.net)

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_