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**MISS TAMPA RELEASES FREE CHILDREN’S BOOK PROMOTING IMPORTANCE
OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Ahead of the 2020 presidential election, Leah Roddenberry is using her public platform as Miss Tampa 2020 to encourage early involvement in the political process, especially among young girls

TAMPA, Fla., July 1, 2020— Miss Tampa 2020 Leah Roddenberry, 21, has released a children’s book, *Leah Goes to Washington*, which aims to educate elementary school students on the importance of political engagement, community service and setting big goals for themselves.

The book follows the title character, Leah, a young girl who aspires to become President of the United States and her journey within her local community, all the way to Washington D.C. and the Oval Office.

“Growing up, I felt I never received a strong education when it came to civics education or government,” said Roddenberry.

“Government always seemed to be an imaginary place where all the rules are made, and I never quite understood it. I would hear about presidential elections, but was never taught how they worked or pushed to learn more about it. I created *Leah Goes to Washington* to inspire elementary age children, and especially young girls, to learn about civics in a fun and interactive way.”

Roddenberry is a senior at the University of Florida majoring in Family, Youth and Community Sciences and wrote *Leah Goes to Washington* as an extension of her social impactful initiative as Miss Tampa, “Be a LeadHER: Igniting the Spark Within”, inspired by her own struggle with self-confidence during her youth.

She founded the University of Florida campus chapter of IGNITE, a national nonprofit organization that provides college programming to address the barriers that impede political ambition and offers young women a like-minded and passionate community from which to learn and grow.

Inspired by the popular “Flat Stanley” project, *Leah Goes to Washington* also features a character cut out of the book’s title character. Readers are encouraged to take “Little Leah” with them as they complete acts of service in their community and share photos on social media utilizing the hashtag #LeahsLeadHers to join an interactive community of servant leadership.

“Leadership skills must be taught at a young age to develop positive habits,” added the author. “My goal with *Leah Goes to Washington* is to teach children to never put limits on their dreams and to cultivate their passions along the way.”

Leah Goes to Washington is available now for free download at LeahGoesToWashington.com and Roddenberry is taking requests for live, virtual readings for educational and child care professionals through the “Book Leah” form on the website. *Leah Goes to Washington* is also available in a coloring book format.

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About the author: Leah Roddenberry is Miss Tampa 2020 and a senior at the University of Florida. A Florida native, born and raised in Bradenton, Roddenberry is a member of the UF Dazzler dance team, Alpha Delta Pi sorority and the founder of the first Florida chapter of IGNITE, a national nonprofit that provides college programming to address barriers that impede political ambition in women. For more information, visit LeahRoddenberry.com or follow her on Instagram [@LeahKRodd](https://www.instagram.com/LeahKRodd)