



CHARACTER COUNTS!

“ CITIZENSHIP ”

What is Citizenship? How can you be a good citizen?

Citizenship is the Pillar of CHARACTER COUNTS! Essay and Art Contest for 2018.

This lesson was written by Edith McClain, KAFCE Vice President and reviewed by Sharon Giacometti.

Definition:

How can you be a good citizen? By being active in the needs of your community. We must not forget how we got the right to be a free Citizen. Because of the men and women who gave the greatest sacrifice for us to be free.

We must repay that debt by assisting to the needs of our community; whether volunteering at shelters, donating to food pantries, or helping our neighbors.

Each community has its own unique needs. As a citizen we need to seek out those needs and assist in whatever capacity we can. Share the community needs with other organizations. Many people are willing to help with Community needs if they know what those needs are. The local newspaper can be a great help sharing the needs of the community. A good citizen becomes involved in the community and stays informed about the community needs.

Let's not forget our senior citizens. There is so much we can do to make life a bit easier for them:

- Provide rides

- Spend quality time with them

- Do yard and household chores for them

- Provide programs at Nursing or care facilities

Get the youth involved. Encourage them to assist with the community needs. Teach them to be great volunteers/citizens. The Essay and Art Contest with the 4th Grade students is a great way to reach some of the youth. Don't forget those students that are home schooled. 4-H Groups, Churches and local Libraries are also a great places to connect with the youth.

Those of us born in the U.S.A. are citizens. Those that immigrated here have to earn their citizenship. We could all benefit by learning what those individuals have to learn to be sworn in as citizens of the United States of America. As a citizen, we must always show our pride in this Country. Doing so we exercise our rights to vote, display our flag proudly, respect our elected

officials (even if we did not vote for them) and above all, assist our military and veterans by continuing to show gratitude for their service.

Educational Goals:

- *Learn what it means to be a Citizen
- * Learn what is needed in your Community
- *Learn what you can do for others

Community Activities:

- *Assist with the voting process, work at the polling sites, give others rides or assist with absentee ballots if needed
- *Assist with identifying the Community needs, share that information with others
- *Assist at Food pantries or soup kitchens..Help at local libraries or Historical society centers
- *Spend quality time with Senior Citizens
- *Welcome newcomers to the neighborhood...let them know you care.
- * Thank the Veterans in every way possible
- *Set up booths &/or displays
- *Prepare handouts of attractions available in your community if one is not available elsewhere.
- *Have Flag ceremonies...teach others to respect the flag

MOST OF ALL: Do Random Acts of Kindness and Pay it Forward