



Citizenship

June

Citizenship

Character Qualities

- Responsibility
- Respect
- Thankfulness
- Caring
- Perseverance
- Unity
- Integrity
- Service
- Moral Courage
- Citizenship
- Fairness
- Self Control

I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The Pledge of Allegiance

City of Mission Viejo
200 Civic Center
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Citizenship is defined as demonstrating your responsibilities, rights and privileges as a citizen of a country, community, neighborhood or school. It also involves patriotism: love, devotion, service, and respect for our country. As citizens of the United States, we enjoy certain hard-won rights, but we also have responsibilities.

Certainly in times of crisis we are often united and resolute, as was exemplified by the number of noble responses to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Rarely, however, does our understanding of *citizenship* include the ongoing action that is part of the allegiance we owe. In his inaugural address, in 1961, President John F. Kennedy offered a memorable challenge: “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” With these words, he made it clear that *citizenship* involves responsibility. American democracy rests on a balance between what our country can do for us and what we can do for our country. Life as an American should involve giving as well as taking.

The residents play an important role in the quality of life of the community by practicing *citizenship*. Through a lifestyle of *citizenship*, individuals contribute to the safety of the city.

Citizenship is demonstrated by participating in activities that benefit others, such as reporting suspicious activities in your neighborhood, active involvement in Neighborhood Watch, respecting the rights of others, and obeying the law. Students enhance the classroom experience by practicing *citizenship*, as they obey class rules and treat others with respect. Individuals of all ages strengthen our nation through expressing patriotism and appreciation of those who serve our great country. There are blessings and responsibilities we experience as citizens of the “land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Flag Etiquette

One important component of good *citizenship* is proper behavior when our flag is presented and during the National Anthem.

- When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute.
- To salute, all people come to attention. Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute. Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart and men with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over the heart. Members of organizations in formation salute upon command of the person in charge.
- The Pledge of Allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting.
- When the National Anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note and hold the salute through the last note. The salute is directed to the flag, if displayed, otherwise to the music.

The American's Creed

“I believe in the United States of America as a Government of the people by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my Country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.”

BOOKS OF CHARACTER

Fiction

The Day Gogo Went to Vote: South Africa, April 1994
by Elinor Sisulu
(Preschool to 3rd grade)

The Day the Trash Came Out to Play
by David Beadle
(Preschool and up)

Papa's Mark
by Gwendolyn Battle-Lavert
(Preschool to 3rd grade)

Nonfiction

Becoming a Citizen by Sarah De Capua
(2nd to 5th grade)

America: A Patriotic Primer
by Lynne Cheney (Preschool and up)

Being a Good Citizen: A Book About Citizenship by Mary Small
(Preschool to 3rd grade)

Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence
by Russell Freedman
(5th to 9th grade)

I Pledge Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance: With Commentary
by Francis Bellamy
(1st to 4th grade)

Patriotism by Pam Scheunemann
(Kindergarten to 3rd grade)

Responsibility by Glenn Alan Cheney

Vote! by Eileen Christelow
(3rd to 5th grade)

For Love of Country: What Our Veterans Can Teach Us About Citizenship, Heroism, and Sacrifice
By Howard Schultz and Rajiv Chandrasekaran

Miracle at Philadelphia: The Story of the Constitutional Convention
by Catherine Drinker Bowen

Quotes

“Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” **John F. Kennedy**

“If you will help run our government in the American way, then there will never be danger of our government running America in the wrong way.” **Omar N. Bradley**

“A nation, as a society, forms a person, and every member of it is personally responsible for his society.” **Thomas Jefferson**

“The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he should be able and willing to pull his weight.” **Theodore Roosevelt**

“Patriotism is easy to understand in America--it means looking out for yourself by looking out for your country.” **Calvin Coolidge**

“Sure I wave the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave? Sure I love my country with all her faults. I'm not ashamed of that, never have been, never will be.” **John Wayne**

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.” **Ronald Reagan**

What is Citizenship?

- Demonstrating your responsibilities, rights and privileges as a citizen of a country, community, neighborhood or school.
- Being patriotic.
- Obeying the laws and rules of the land as well as the classroom.
- Treating others with respect.
- Taking care of the environment, recycling, conserving water and resources.
- Respecting authority.

Practicing Citizenship

- Volunteer in your community.
- Report suspicious activity to the police to keep our parks and neighborhoods safer.
- Take the U.S. Citizenship test, available online, to strengthen your knowledge of *citizenship* in our country.
- Recognize Flag Day on June 14.
- Invite a U.S. veteran to speak to your class.
- Role-model proper flag etiquette.
- Obey the laws of the land.

Applying Citizenship

- Be respectful of others.
- Write to your local, state or federal elected representatives to voice your thoughts on an issue.
- Exercise your right to vote.
- Show respect to the United States flag; role model proper flag etiquette.
- Thank our veterans and current military personnel for their service to our country.
- Plan or attend a Flag Day event.
- Join or support an organization that promotes good *citizenship*, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or a service club at your school.
- Discuss the significance of parts of our flag and learn about the proper care of the flag.

Personal Commitments to Citizenship:

- I will obey the laws and the classroom rules.
- I will treat others with respect.
- I will give back to my community by volunteering.
- I will protect the environment.
- I will be kind, courteous, and fair to others.