



Making the Character Connection with...

Citizenship Public Adventures

Being a person of good character means following the Six Pillars of CharacterSM everyday. As you work through the Citizenship project think of ways that being a person of good character relates. You will learn about the way our government is run and the importance of democracy which is based on fairness and respect. You will discover the importance of patriotism and showing others that you are a responsible and caring citizen. You have chosen Citizenship as one of your projects, showing your interest in developing a better understanding of how character influences those in power and the decisions made in our government. Everything you learn can help you become a better citizen.

This Character Connection contains:

- **Explanation of the Six Pillars of Character.**
- **Explanation of how the Six Pillars of Character relate to your Citizenship project.**
- **Activities suggesting how to demonstrate good character while enhancing your Citizenship knowledge.**
- **Questions to help you think of other ways to demonstrate good character in everyday life.**

Character Connection: Citizenship

Trustworthiness	Responsibility	Caring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Always be honest with your project leader. ✓ Tell people your honest opinion about what you're learning. ✓ Be dependable; make sure people can count on you to be there when you volunteer. ✓ Don't share confidential information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do your civic duty. ✓ Even if you can't vote, help out in other ways. ✓ Do what you say you will do; be where you say you will be. ✓ Think about your words and actions before doing or saying them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do what you're good at; others will appreciate your expertise. ✓ Determine what others want kept private, and don't pry into their business. ✓ Beware of others' needs.
Respect	Fairness	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Respect everyone, even if you don't agree with their views. ✓ Show respect for different beliefs and views; remember that's what this country was founded on. ✓ Show respect for those in authority or who have earned their positions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Don't expect anyone to change their views. Instead allow them to express them; you may learn something. ✓ Allow everyone to speak before making group decisions. ✓ Don't leave places off the map just because you think they're not important; include everything! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be a volunteer; help out whenever you can. ✓ Participate in making things better in your club; join the officer team, vote on issues and develop plans to improve the club. ✓ Honor your teachers, parents and adult leaders. Follow the rules they set for you.

Character Connection: Citizenship

Activity: Johnny Be Good

The Citizenship project talks about the importance of considering stakeholders involved in your decision making processes. This activity will help you think further about stakeholders and how your decisions affect those around you.

DO:

Discuss the following scenario with your Citizenship project group:

Johnny works in a music store. While the manager is away from the store for a few days, Johnny calls his friend, Sara, and tells her to come to the store so he can give her several of her favorite CDs. Reluctant at first, Sara finally agrees and gets the CDs.

Who are the stakeholders affected by Johnny's decision?

Have the group make suggestions. As someone suggests a person or group of people, have them join Johnny in the front of the room.

In this role play, what seemed like such an innocent decision really affected many people.

There are five simple questions we can ask ourselves when making decisions to help us decide if the decision is one we really want to make.

1. Is there possible danger of physical harm to you or anyone else?
2. Could you or someone else suffer serious emotional pain?
3. Could the decision hurt your reputation?
4. Could the decision impede achieving any important goal?
5. Could you or someone else suffer significant monetary or property loss?

Use these questions to discuss other situations that affect stakeholders.

REFLECT:

1. How often do you think about every person affected by your decisions?
2. Has there ever been a time you have found out after the fact that your decision has negatively affected someone?
3. Do you think considering the stakeholders first would change a decision you make?

APPLY:

Being a good citizen means more than just voting and being patriotic. It also means understanding the rights of others and trying your best to not taking those rights away by decisions you make. Considering stakeholders helps you make decisions, and it also makes you more aware of the world around you, one of the main goals of your citizenship project. Remember to always consider those affected by your actions, and try to minimize negative influence on others.



Character Connection: Citizenship

Activity: Patriotism: what's it all about?

DO:

There are many ways to show patriotism; this activity will help you think of ways you can help out in your community and show that you are not only interested in what's going on around you, but responsible enough to care about making things better. With a group of your project members, create a diagram of different things you can do in your community to show patriotism. Things you think would be pretty easy for you to do write in green; those things that would require a little help from an adult write in black and anything that you would need help from a political person or other official write in red. This color coding will help you when putting together your plan of action.

Now that you have your chart, plan one thing from each category (red, black and green) that you would really like to do. Don't worry about asking others for help; remember that patriotism isn't just wearing red, white and blue - it's becoming involved in the democratic processes and learning about the way your community is governed. People will be willing to help you accomplish your goals.

Once you have finished your three projects, give a presentation to your club or project group about what you have done. Tell them what you have learned about being a responsible citizen and being patriotic.

REFLECT:

1. Have you ever volunteered or been involved in community activities before?
2. How does it make you feel to know you are contributing to your community?
3. What types of things can you see yourself being involved with as you get older?

APPLY:

Remember patriotism isn't just waving an American flag on the 4th of July; it's learning about your community and country and taking action. By becoming involved in your community through volunteer work you are helping your community and bettering yourself as a citizen. Remember to ask for help, everyone will be willing to teach you about their position in the community and help you as you strive for any of your goals.

