



Teen Leadership 20

Citizenship Basics

Intended Audience:

- Teens

Lesson Objectives:

Teens will:

- Understand the concept of citizenship.
- Understand their role as a citizen in at least one community.
- Identify the communities they are part of.

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies:

- Giant sticky notes
- Markers

Do Ahead:

- Review lesson
- Gather supplies

BACKGROUND

The dictionary defines citizenship as the quality of an individual's response to membership in a community. Citizenship is actively participating in your community. This can be on a small scale of a school or neighborhood or on larger scale of the state or nation. On any scale, understanding and following the rules or laws, and participating in a community's guiding bodies is all part of citizenship (Witmer, n.d.).

WHAT TO DO

Activity: Where am I a Citizen?

Using a giant sticky note or white board, brainstorm with group about different communities they belong to. Some examples might be: church, school, club, city, county, state, nation, world.

Divide the group into teams of 3-4 people. Assign each team one of the identified communities. Give each group a giant sticky note and marker.

Have the teams brainstorm what a citizen in that community would be expected to do. Give the teams 5 minutes to brainstorm.

Have each group share what they determined a citizen in that community would or should do.



Sources:

- Witmer, D. Teaching Your Teen the Responsibilities of Citizenship. About Parenting. Retrieved from <http://parentingteens.about.com/od/behavioranddiscipline/a/Teach-Your-Teen-The-Responsibilities-Of-Citizenship.htm>

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TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

What commonalities does a citizen have from the different examples?

Why is citizenship important to you and your community?

Apply:

What communities are you a citizen of?

How can you get involved?

Please take time to complete the Participant and Facilitator evaluations, found online at go.osu.edu/TeenLeadership20.