

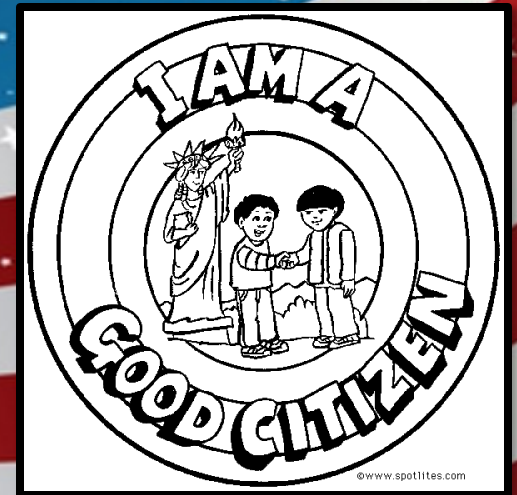


Rights & Responsibilities
of Citizenship

What is a citizen?

Citizen= a legally recognized subject or national of a state

- Either native or naturalized
- Someone who owes loyalty to a nation
- Anyone born on U.S. soil is a citizen—also includes American territories and military bases around the world



DUTY VS. RESPONSIBILITY

- Duties: Things we must do
- Responsibilities: Things we should do



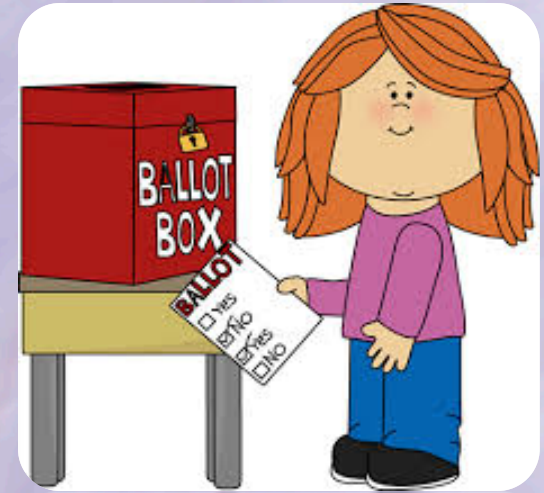
DUTIES OF CITIZENS=MANDATORY

Having privileges of a citizen requires us to...

- Attending school—till age 16; our country can't function without educated citizens
- Obey the laws—"Officer, I didn't know the speed limit"
- Serving in the armed forces
- Appearing in court or jury duty
- Paying taxes: money to pay for public roads, police/fire depts, public schools
 - Property tax, sales taxes



responsibilities



- Voting
- Being informed on issues and the government
- Respect the opinions and beliefs of others (practice tolerance)
- Contribute to the common good



DEFENSE & THE DRAFT

- Duty to protect and defend nation
 - All male citizens ages 18-25 are required to register through the Selective Service, you can even register online
 - in case draftees were needed in war
 - Haven't had a draft since 1973; Vietnam war
- To re-instate the draft, Congress would have to pass legislation and the president must sign off on it
- Draftees are selected by lottery: first to be called would be men whose 20th birthday falls during that year, followed by those aged 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25
 - Must meet physical and mental standards



JURY DUTY

- Jury **duty**
 - Involves listening to a court case and reaching a verdict
- Duty to testify in court
 - If you witness a crime you are expected to testify about it



Vote (Responsibility)

- Citizens choose leaders
 - Learning information about the candidates and the issues
 - 18 years old; can vote
- Financial Support
 - Can give money to Political Action Committees (PACs)– collect money to give to candidates you support



Called to Serve the Community (Responsibility)

- **Rely on volunteers**
 - Volunteer firefighters
 - Neighborhood watch
 - Donate blood
- **Organizations that work with government**
 - American Red Cross: help citizens in time of natural disaster/other emergencies
 - Habitat for Humanity: helps build houses for low-income families
 - Boy/Girl Scouts: Planting trees



What is an immigrant?

- **Immigrants:** people who permanently move to a new country
- *Legal immigrants* have **many** of the same rights as natural born citizens except:
 - Can't vote
 - Can't hold public office
- Once a legal immigrant is granted full citizenship they can still:
 - lose citizenship if they break the law
 - Can not become president or vice president



BECOMING a U.S. CITIZEN

1. Anyone born in the U.S. or a territory it controls= citizen
 - Example: Puerto Rico
2. People born in a foreign country:
 - can become U.S. citizens if one of their parents is a U.S. citizen
3. Foreign born people can complete a long process to attain citizenship=
naturalized citizen



TO BECOME NATURALIZED...

- Must be a *legal* Immigrant (green card)
- Must be 18 yrs. old
- Have to live in the U.S. for at least 5 years
- Financially stable (if not must have a sponsor)



[What to expect](#)

PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD (A.K.A. GREEN CARD)

Serves as proof that its holder, a lawful permanent resident, has been officially granted immigration benefits, which include permission to reside and work in the United States.



- **Must prove:**
 - law abiding citizens
 - series of tests: prove can read, write, speak English
 - Basic understanding of U.S. history/ government
 - Background check
- **Appear before Naturalization Court**
 - oath of allegiance
 - Receive certificate of naturalization
 - All minors of the new naturalized citizen also become citizens



