

4-H "To make the best better"

Being a Good Citizen by: Carine Ghannoum

Miami-Dade County 4-H, the place parents & educators go to for educational answers.

1st place winner of the 5th Grade level 2008-2009 Tropicana Public Speaking Competition.

First part of being a good citizen is being able to make a difference in your community. Some examples of this would be; planting a garden to make your neighborhood greener or maybe helping at your local beach by cleaning up trash. You will definitely be appreciated for the positive changes you make. It feels good to look back at your accomplishments and see how they have impacted others. It's the small things that make a big difference in our society.

Secondly, doing something for the good of the community touches the lives of others. Every Tuesday my Girl Scout troop and I go to the His House Children Home for foster children. We work in the pantry organizing canned foods. This allows more volunteers to spend one-on-one time directly with the children. Let's face it, working in a sticky, dusty, pantry is unpleasant, but writing this speech has inspired me to work even harder because the children really need me. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said "The reward of the thing well done is to have it done."

Finally, every community must help those in need. So why not give a few dollars of your money to a local charity like the Salvation Army. Remember; always be grateful for what you have. Do not focus on what you don't have. For example, whenever I go to the mosque, where I worship, there is always a special box set up especially for the less fortunate. Each time I go there I try to donate money, even if it's just a little. So be thankful for the great life you have and share some of your possessions with those who are not as fortunate.

In conclusion, I hope you understand that being a good citizen means respecting your community and the people who live in it. In addition, others will be touched by your work and last but not my fellow classmates, today; I am here to give you some tips on how to be outstanding citizens. First raise your hand if you have ever walked by a piece of trash and just ignored it? Let's be honest. Even I have done that too many times. A good citizen would stop, pick up the trash and throw it away. I am sure you have guessed my topic by now. Good Citizenship. I chose this topic because I think that helping my community by getting involved in some capacity is important. Sure playing video games and watching TV might be fun, but this has no real effect on our community. Are you asking your self why you should be a good citizen? Well being a good citizen may directly help your community. Secondly when you do something that impacts your neighborhood, people are touched and grateful. Your work will have lasting results. Last but not least, some of the important things that you do will help the less fortunate.

