



# Character Counts

## Citizenship

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

*Thomas Jefferson, Founding Father and third U.S. president*

### Citizenship

- ◆ Do your share to make your school and community better
- ◆ Cooperate
- ◆ Stay informed; vote
- ◆ Be a good neighbor
- ◆ Obey laws and rules
- ◆ Respect authority
- ◆ Protect the environment

### Create a Climate of

#### Good Citizenship

Think about all of the ways a 4-H club mirrors a democratic society— members vote for club officers, everyone has an opportunity to share what they

think, members, parents and leaders work to better the 4-H club by volunteering to help with committees and activities. All of these characteristics make the 4-H club a place where members can learn what it means to be part of a democracy and how to be an effective citizen.

A climate of good citizenship can be created in your 4-H club in many ways. Prepare simple club rules for everyone (even leaders and parents) to follow. An example could be that only one person speaks at a time so that he/she can be heard. Listening also shows respect for the person who is speaking. Your club can also create a list of club "community" responsibilities and privileges. Then each family could take turns with the responsibilities. An example of this might be providing snacks or lining up guest speakers for club meetings.



**For Character Counts Activities please visit [www.4h.uwyo.edu](http://www.4h.uwyo.edu)**

### Role Modeling to Reinforce Citizenship

Young people are watching all the time...what you do, what you say, how you behave. As adults we reinforce good citizenship when we:

look beyond their own needs and see the needs of others.

The learning doesn't stop with completing a community service project. In fact, after the project is finished, is when the most important learning can begin. Take time to celebrate what your club accomplished and make sure to reflect upon what difference the community service project made in the community, in someone's life, in the member's own life. Ask:

- What is the most important thing we did?
- How do you think the people living in the nursing home felt about our visit?
- How did you feel when the project was over?

- Express concern for others and do what we can to help.
- Consistently follow the rules, and do not bend or ignore the rules to fit our situation or need.
- Follow through with our responsibilities to the community or group.
- Take care of our environment by conserving resources, reducing waist and cleaning up after ourselves.

## Citizenship in 4-H

### **4-H Club Activity**

A natural way to learn about the importance of being involved in your community is to organize community service projects. Give members a chance to share what they think is needed in their community to make it a better place or if there is a group of people whom would benefit by being involved with them. Asking members to pay attention to what's happening in their community will help them

