

WYOMING CHARACTER



that's what we're made of

Tips to citizenship/ cooperation

Everything we do and say makes a difference to someone or something. It can start a chain reaction that affects the decisions of others that are around us. So what message are you sending? Think about this before you speak at your next meeting. We all have the power to decide what we do and say... and ... we are responsible for the consequences of our choices.



**Quote of the month: Compliance is about what I must do;
ethics is about what I should do.** Michael Josphenson

Cooperation Activity Corner?

Supplies:

- PVC pipes 1" in diameter 10-15" long 4 per team
- Masking tape
- Marble that will roll through PVC pipe

Directions:

Mark off a beginning line and a finish line with the masking tape that is at least 120" (can be farther). Divide groups into equal team size. One person starts the team off by placing the marble in their PVC pipe. As a group the youth have to transport their marble to the finish line by keeping it in the PVC pipes. The marble can not be touched once it is placed in the pipe and the youth that has the marble in their pipe can not move their feet.

Character Counts Citizenship

November 2013



What is Citizenship?

When asked this question many may immediately come up with a definition something like —people are responsible for making their community, nation and world a better place to live. This is no doubt true, but it goes beyond just individualized acts or just following the laws that are set forth to us. Citizenship is about cooperation. Cooperation is an act or instance of working or acting together for a common purpose or benefit. Citizenship and cooperation go hand-in-hand. If we want to be good citizens we have to learn and do our part in supporting the groups we are working with; support the location we live in; and support the people we work with. If we learn to cooperate together it improves team work, communication and inclusiveness.

How can we accomplish cooperation as 4-H members and leaders? Two tips to think about:

- * **Be actively engaged.** That means, one-come to meetings and two more importantly contribute -be part of the working of the meeting. How can you help? What can you do to contribute? If everyone was actively engaged meetings would be funner and more could be accomplished.
- * **Inclusive environment.** Are your 4-H meetings inclusive to everyone and provide and environment of encouragement? Are ideas respected and is floor time shared equally?



Everyone must handle a PVC pipe at some time. If at anytime anyone touches the marble, moves their feet when they shouldn't or the marble is dropped the team must start over.

Processing questions:

Ask these questions at the conclusion of the activity.

- Did you agree on a plan before you started?
- Did you follow the rules?
- What was at fault when it did not work?
- Was communication good between team members?
- Was there an inclusive environment?
- Was everyone actively engaged?

Like this activity? Find more like it in the "Good Ideas Book" at your local Extension Office