

Citizenship is Important for Everyone

By Tucker Ward

6th Grade Emerson Elementary School

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Many citizens of the United States would view paying taxes, respecting the rights and beliefs of others, and giving back to their communities as responsibilities and might even complain about taking part in these things. I view these things as privileges. So many other countries do not have these responsibilities. Therefore, they do not have the privileges we do as US citizens. These things are part of being a good citizen and we should all take part in these and do it because it is for the greater good of the United States and all of its citizens.

Why do we have to pay taxes?

Taxes support a lot of things, such as our military, social services, and emergency services, and help keep our roads and schools nice. Without taxes to support these services, our country would not be as safe as it is today. For example, who would we have to protect our freedom if we did not pay taxes to support our military. Next, it is important to help people who cannot help themselves. These people are members of the community as well and tax dollars can give them a hand up to improve their lives. Emergency services like the fire department, police department, and disaster relief are also paid for with tax money, without these services, our community would not be safe. Lastly, without tax money we may not have roads and the roads we do have would not be well maintained. It is also important to have good schools. If we did

not have tax money to fund schools, kids would not have a proper education. These are all good reasons to pay our taxes and to be happy to pay them!

Respecting others is good citizenship

Did you know that we all have a right to freedom of speech and religion? The people you know, your teachers, classmates, and neighbors, may have different beliefs than you do. That is all right because we can all learn from one another and our differences. It is important to celebrate differences and remember that our constitution and rights as a citizen protect these differences. It is important for good citizenship to respect the people that we meet, no matter their beliefs. This is another example of being a good citizen, respecting all people, no matter what.

Service to your community

The place that you live in is your community, and it is a part of the United States. We all should honor and value the place we live in by taking care of it. Taking care of your community may be as simple as picking up trash to keep it clean. Service to your community can even look like something that I do a lot at school, raising and lowering the flag. Service to your community can also be something much bigger, like joining the military or holding a political office for local, state, or national government. All these are examples of small and big ways to give back and serve your community.

I practice good citizenship, will you?

Good citizenship is very important to me. As a 6th grader, I may not have ever paid taxes or gotten to vote, but I do understand that I love my country and I want to do all that I can to make my city, state, and country a better place. I would like to someday be an attorney here in Oklahoma and help Oklahomans in need, those who don't always have someone to help them. I

have started trying to learn about citizenship and how to be a good citizen so that I can go on and help others to do the same. I have even given speeches in 4H about the importance of citizenship and how to be a good citizen. I am determined to be a good citizen and encourage others to be good citizens.