

CITIZENSHIP

Parent Resource

What is citizenship?

Citizenship means helping my neighbor, community and nation.

As your child gets older, he or she will have opportunities to make choices that impact the school, community and nation.

In grades nine through twelve, children begin or continue:

- ✓ Demonstrating effective and respectful communication skills and strategies.
- ✓ Understanding the importance of civic participation.
- ✓ Refining plans for career paths or areas of study.

Below are ways you can help your child learn, practice and demonstrate citizenship:

TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING



Volunteering is a great way to exemplify being a good citizen. Discuss ways that volunteering provides benefits for the organization and the volunteers! Examples include exploring potential civic interests or career paths and meeting new people while helping others.

DISCUSS THE BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Volunteerism and leadership positions not only help build citizenship skills but can lead to scholarship opportunities for after high school! Did you know that the Bright Futures Scholarship Program has helped more than 950,000 Florida students achieve academic goals? Check out floridabrightfutures.gov for the volunteer hours (or paid work hours) needed for each level of scholarship.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF CITIZENSHIP WILL PREPARE HIM OR HER TO CONTRIBUTE TO AND TAKE PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND NATION.

SKILLS TO CONSIDER PRACTICING WITH YOUR CHILD:



Identifying benefits of voting, volunteering, mentoring and seeking leadership positions.



Analyzing ways a leader can inspire and motivate others to be active in their community.



ACTIVITY TO DO WITH YOUR CHILD

Visit the Volunteer Florida website (volunteerflorida.org) together and explore the various resources and information about volunteerism. Click on "Volunteer Services," then "Find Volunteer Opportunities" to check out different opportunities in your local community. Make sure to check in with your student's school counselor to find out how to keep track of service hours for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program!