Teen Leadership 20

Citizenship Basics

BACKGROUND
The dictionary defines citizenship as the quality of an individual's response to membership in a community. Citizenship is actively participating in your community. This can be on a small scale of a school or neighborhood or on larger scale of the state or nation. On any scale, understanding and following the rules or laws, and participating in a community’s guiding bodies is all part of citizenship (Witmer, n.d.).

WHAT TO DO
Activity: Where am I a Citizen?
Using a giant sticky note or white board, brainstorm with group about different communities they belong to. Some examples might be: church, school, club, city, county, state, nation, world.

Divide the group into teams of 3-4 people. Assign each team one of the identified communities. Give each group a giant sticky note and marker.

Have the teams brainstorm what a citizen in that community would be expected to do. Give the teams 5 minutes to brainstorm.

Have each group share what they determined a citizen in that community would or should do.

Intended Audience:
• Teens

Lesson Objectives:
Teens will:
• Understand the concept of citizenship.
• Understand their role as a citizen in at least one community.
• Identify the communities they are part of.

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies:
• Giant sticky notes
• Markers

Do Ahead:
• Review lesson
• Gather supplies
TALK IT OVER

Reflect:
What commonalities does a citizen have from the different examples?

Why is citizenship important to you and your community?

Apply:
What communities are you a citizen of?
How can you get involved?

Please take time to complete the Participant and Facilitator evaluations, found online at go.osu.edu/TeenLeadership20.

Considerations for Conducting Virtually:
- Utilize screenshare/whiteboard and annotate feature to help brainstorm with the group about the different communities they belong to.
- Divide participants into breakout rooms of 3-4 people.
  - Have one member of the group screenshare the "whiteboard" or an open document
  - Use the annotate feature to brainstorm as assigned.
- Utilize breakout rooms if further discussion is sought, or for “Talk It Over” reflection.

Sources: