

Civic Duties & Responsibilities

What is Civics?

- The study of the rights, duties & responsibilities of citizens.
- A **citizen** is an individual whose allegiance belongs to a nation.
- **Citizenship** is based on a combination of rights, duties & responsibilities
- Concept of citizenship is more than 2,500 years old
 - originated in ancient Greece
 - Only men w/property could vote & participate in gov't
- Concept of who could be a citizen has evolved since 1787 when the U.S. Constitution was ratified

Rights of Citizens

- **Security** –protection by the gov't
- **Equality** –equal treatment under the law
- **Liberty** –rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution

Duties of Citizens

- These MUST be followed
 - Obey laws
 - Pay taxes
 - Participate in **jury duty**
 - Attend school
 - Defend the nation
 - **Selective service** –men must sign up for military service at age 18, if there may be need for a **draft**

Responsibilities

- Be informed about your local, state & national gov't
- Vote in elections

- Participate in your community & gov't
- Contact representatives in gov't; try to make change for the better

- **Volunteerism**

Civic Values in America

Principles or beliefs you use to make judgments about what is good or bad in a society

- Freedom
- Equality
- Democracy
- **Popular Sovereignty**
 - Gov't by consent of the governed
- Unity through a single language
- **Tolerance**
 - Respect for the expression of differences in culture, religion, language, family, race
- Justice
- Opportunity