

Station 4: Being an Active Citizen

Directions: For each station, read the handout with your partner and then complete each of the steps below:

- DISCUSS: Is your station about something you SHOULD do or something you HAVE to do?
- DISCUSS: What *level of community* does your station involve? Are there several levels?
- WRITE: Summarize the most important parts of your station with a few sentences or a political cartoon/drawing.
- WRITE: Briefly describe how the sources after the reading connect to the information you read. What is the message of these sources?

For some people, community service is something to do for a scholarship, or at Milwee, a requirement of our students in the Pre-IB program. As an adult, community service is NOT REQUIRED unless that is the punishment given by a judge or jury for a crime. So why would people WANT to do anything they don't have to? Jackie Robinson, the first African American player in Major League Baseball once said "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." We all have a part in making the communities we live in better for everyone.

The most important part about civics is identifying what you are passionate about in life and how you can use your rights to make that passion a reality. Everyone has different goals and can use different methods to achieve them. **Voting**, pursuing education, staying up to date on current events, doing **community service with your time or with your donations**, **serving your community as a government worker of any kind**, **using your rights to protest, assemble, and express your ideas** freely, and even **running for a political office** yourself, are all different parts of being an active citizen.

Later in the year, you'll learn about the **Bill of Rights**, which are the **first 10 amendments in the U.S. Constitution**. How active you are as a citizen depends on how much you appreciate and use these rights. You'll also learn about **the requirements in the U.S. Constitution for holding a political office** like in the **House of Representatives, the Senate**, or even the **U.S. Presidency**.

"My fellow Americans: **ask not** what your country can do for you, **ask** what you can do for your country."

- John F. Kennedy, U.S President from 1961-1963.



"Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected. A primary [goal] should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing... than ... communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?"

- George Washington, one of the Founding Fathers, Revolutionary War General, 1st President of the U.S.