



GSWNY Citizenship Counts

What does it mean to be a Citizen of the United States?

This patch program will help you to learn more about U.S. citizenship, your rights & responsibilities as citizens, and how you can be a good and active citizen.

To earn this patch complete the required number of activities for your level:

Daisies – Complete 3

Brownies – Complete 4

Juniors – Complete 5

Cadettes/Seniors/Ambassadors – Complete 6

Rights of U.S. Citizens

All Citizens are granted certain rights by the United States government. These rights are made possible by the highest law in America, the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution contains our Bill of Rights and guarantees that these rights will be preserved and protected.

These are some of our basic rights as a U.S. Citizen:

- Freedom to express yourself.
- Freedom to worship as you wish.
- Right to a prompt, fair trial by jury.
- Right to vote in elections for public officials.
- Freedom to pursue “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

The duties of citizenship:

- Volunteer to be active in your community.
- Be honest and trustworthy.
- Follow rules and laws.
- Respect the rights of others.
- Be informed about the world around you.
- Respect the property of others.
- Be compassionate.
- Take responsibility for your actions

Patch Activities:

- Make a poster, write a song, or write/perform a skit including these rights and duties to help you remember them and to educate others.

- Learn about the process of becoming a naturalized United States Citizen.
 - Find out about your local government and attend a meeting of your town/city council or school board.
 - Citizens contribute to the welfare of their communities by paying taxes. Make a list of some of your favorite taxpayer funded services (libraries, playgrounds, schools, parks, etc.).
 - Keep our communities clean! Don't litter and educate others about littering too! Organize or participate in a local clean-up.
 - Learn about the importance of voting to keep our Democracy strong. Find out how old a U.S. Citizen must be to vote and where your local polling place is located.
 - Appreciate the history of our country. Visit a local history museum or historic site.
 - Learn about flag etiquette. Display your flag proudly and respectfully.
 - Attend a patriotic event such as the Memorial Day or Fourth of July parades to celebrate being a U.S. Citizen.
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Basic Flag Etiquette

These are some of the core "rules" of [American flag](#) etiquette:

- The flag should usually be displayed from sunrise to sunset.
- The flag should never touch the ground.
- The flag should not be flown in inclement weather unless it is an all-weather flag.
- When the flag is raised or lowered as part of a ceremony as it passes by in parade or review, everyone, except those in uniform, should face the flag with the right hand over the heart.
- The flag can be flown at home 24 hours a day, as long as it is "appropriately illuminated" during hours of darkness.

In particular, these are some rules of the American flag that apply during holidays:

- On Memorial Day, it is customary to place small American flags at gravesites of fallen soldiers.
- Flags should not be used in any kinds of advertisements.
- The flag is not to be worn as apparel, including imprints on shirts, ties, bandannas, shorts, etc.
- The flag should not be "printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discarded.