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Age 10  
5th grade

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## Citizenship Makes a Difference

Charles Handy, an author and philosopher once said, "Citizenship is the chance to make a difference to the place where you belong." But what do amazing citizens do? They care. They serve. Superior citizens serve their country, state, town, and neighbors. They serve to love, to help, and to sacrifice. They give time, effort, and sometimes strength in remembrance of those who died for us on September 11, 2001. For America. For you.

Citizenship is service and responsibility. To serve and fulfill our responsibility, we can be warm-hearted, follow rules and laws, and be considerate. We can help others and take care of our earth. We can show love and remember those brave, amazing heroes. We have a responsibility to the earth, our fellow citizens and human beings, and a responsibility to care and love. There are many simple ways to serve. For example, doing a service project from [JustServe.org](http://JustServe.org) or participating in the F.I.S.H. (Friends In Service Helping) project for the 9/11 National Day of Service. Many service options at F.I.S.H. include miscellaneous duties, like sorting clothing and donations, or dusting shelves and unloading the donations.

Another example of serving in simple ways is by just helping each other. We can help someone who has fallen or take an elderly person's groceries to their house for them. You may donate money to the homeless or give food to the poor people in a homeless shelter. Service is not getting paid for your deeds or expecting something in return. It is showing you care. Showing the world you care.

Citizenship is important because it shows love and spreads love. A world without love is a world not worth living in. Not the romantic kissing kind of love, but the kind of love that makes someone cheery and content with life. This kind of love inspires for no logical reason but is the best reason of all. Without love, we would all be depressed. No one would feel joyful, and the world would be a miserable place of violence. There would be crime, trashed streets, and bad people overall.

If we are responsible citizens, the world will become a better place with no acts of terrorism, and nobody wants another 9/11. That starts with each one of us. That starts by remembering to honor those who died, who fought, who never imagined 9/11, but helped no matter the cost. By being outstanding, loving, serving, gracious citizens of our amazing and free country, we will all enjoy our time on the beautiful planet.

We can serve as the heroic soldiers served, but in simpler ways as mentioned earlier. We, as fifth graders, cannot go into the army as many brave men and women, or rescue people from the Twin Towers, but we can still find ways to lend a helping hand in our world today. One of the local amazing acts of service include a Tahoe beach cleaning project where, according to Tahoe Daily Tribune, eight scuba divers, one beach cleaning robot, and five hundred volunteers picked up three thousand four hundred forty pounds of trash after a Fourth of July event. The team is called "Keep Tahoe Red, White and Blue Beach Cleanup". Another local service was given by two retired doctors who donated a large sum of money to help regional nurses get a quality education. These big acts of fondness made a difference in our community today.

Not only retired doctors and robots can help, however. Everyone in this community can help! My family and I have enjoyed doing various services. For example, we brought cold Gatorade to workers laboring in the hot sun. We sang to the Korean War Veterans, one of whom is our grandpa. Later, our family called Korean War Veterans and just to wish them a Happy Veterans Day and to thank them for their service to our country. It was fun to listen to their stories. My family and I have also helped people who are moving by loading or unloading, or welcoming them into town with cookies.

To help our earth, we could pick up trash. Whether it is a big project that hundreds of people join or if you stumble on an empty chip bag. To save the air from harmful pollution, you could ride your bike or walk instead of using your car. We can plant trees or vegetation to clean and beautify the earth. If we do not help our planet, we will not have a clean environment to live in, or clean air to breathe. As good citizens, we can take care of our earth.

Once you realize how fun and how satisfactory it feels to serve, it is easy. I love to put complimentary notes on peoples cars (where they won't damage the cars) to brighten that person's day. I loved, not so long ago, sewing pillowcases for kids with cancer. We can make a difference in this world as citizens. We can make the world a better place as responsible citizens of a free country. I, Hunter Budd, will do service for our community, giving some of my time, effort, and affection to the best causes. I will be a better citizen by remembering those who died for us and whose lives were swept from them. I pledge to do these things under the importance of citizenship and with the watch of God and the memory of those courageous souls on my side.