volume 2
issue 12

Get Involved in Your Community

©2006 by Patrick Kwan. Some rights reserved http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/

Look around your class. What do you see? People! Almost everyone in the world lives with others. This is called living in a society. The word *civics* describes the rights and responsibilities of people who live in a society. These people are called its *citizens*. In fact, the word *citizen* means "someone who lives in a city."

What does it mean to be a good citizen? In the United States, we usually think that voting is the most important civic responsibility. People don't have to vote, but responsible citizens vote to help make decisions and voice their opinions.

People have to be 18 to vote in the United States, so you might wonder what you can do to be a responsible citizen now. You can do community service! *Community service* means donating your time and energy to help your community.

Responsible citizens learn what problems people face and how these problems might be solved. They learn how different people think and feel. They even learn that working hard feels good because it makes a difference in others' lives. Then they volunteer their time to help in any way they can.

Being a good citizen doesn't just include volunteering to help people, though. It also includes volunteering to help endangered animals and to reduce pollution. There are many things people of all ages can do to help the Earth. They can work to protect animals' habitat, or their homes. They can also start recycling programs.

The first thing to do is to think about what interests you. You should also ask a parent or other adult who will be volunteering with you what they might like to do. You might want to donate your time working for the environment, animals, or older people. Talk to your teacher about ways to volunteer in your community, too. There are lots of ways you can make a difference in the world!

©2013 Heal the Bay in Flicker. Some rights reserved http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/

For more information about TextProject and *FYI for Kids*, visit textproject.org
v.1.0 © 2014 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/).