

Civic Engagement

The term "civic engagement" refers to, "Individual and collective actions designed to address issues of public concern."

The goal of civic education is informed, responsible participation in public life by competent citizens committed to the values and principles of American democracy.

To be an effective citizen, a student must learn more than just facts about history and government. A student must also learn civic virtue. These are traits of character such as: integrity, empathy, industry, respect & responsibility.

Only then will students be prepared to contribute to the improvement of society..

*"A community is like a ship;
everyone ought to be
prepared to take the helm."
--Henrik Ibsen*

How to make a community service contact:

1. Call the agency of interest and say,

"Hello, my name is _____. I am an 8th grader at Goshen Middle School and I need to complete _____ hours of community service as a requirement for my U.S. History class. I was wondering if it would be possible to complete my community service with you.

2. If the answer is yes, ask the following questions:

When would it work out for me to come in?

Is there a dress code that I need to take into consideration?

Thank you for your help. I will see you on _____ (date) at _____ (time).

3. If the answer is no, say, "Thank you for your time."

For information contact:

Goshen Middle School (574) 533-0391

Mrs. Fought jfought@goshenschools.org
Mrs. Downing ddowning@goshenschools.org
Mr. Ulfig mulfig@goshenschools.org

I have read and understand the information provided in this brochure.

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____



GMS 8th Grade
U. S. History Class
Introduces

CIVIC

ENGAGEMENT

Students are required to
complete 3 hours of Civic
Engagement each trimester
as 10% of their grade.

*"Never doubt that a small group of
thoughtful, committed citizens can change
the world; indeed, it's the only thing that
ever has."
--Margaret Mead*

Civic Engagement

"Where do we think citizens come from? You can't enter full-blown into public life at 35. You need to practice. Practice should start early - at age 12 or 14."
--Denny Schillings

Community Service:

Community service is doing something that fills a need within the community without expecting anything in return.

You must complete a service log to document your hours. An adult's signature is required. Pick up and turn in your service logs in your history classroom.

Volunteer at:

GMS Builder's Club—Contact Mr. Ulfig

Boys & Girls Club (533-4793)

Goshen Public Library (533-9531)

Humane Society (848-4225)

The Window (533-9680)

Greencroft (537-4000)

The Maples at Waterford Crossing (537-0300)

Courtyard Healthcare (533-0351)

Habitat for Humanity (533-6109)

La Casa (533-4450)

Goodwill (534-6553)

Love Way (825-5666)

Elkhart County Parks (535-6458)

Camp Fire USA (533-4590)

One of the local churches

Community Service Continued . . .

Help someone who is elderly or ill with:

Yard work

Cleaning

Grocery shopping

Clean up your neighborhood:

Pick up trash

Plant flowers or trees

Political Involvement:

Write a letter that discusses an issue that is important to you. Be sure to ask questions. Turn in your letter to your history teacher for credit before you send it. Earn one hour for each well-written letter.

Write a letter to one of your representatives:

President Barack Obama <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

U.S. Senator Evan Bayh <http://bayh.senate.gov>

U.S. Senator Richard Lugar senator_lugar@lugar.senate.gov

U.S. Representative Mark Souder <http://souder.house.gov>

Governor Mitch Daniels <http://www.in.gov/gov/2310.htm>

Find you Indiana Legislators

<http://www.in.gov/apps/sos/legislator/search/map.jsp>

"A good discussion increases the dimensions of everyone who takes part."
--Randolph Bourne

Attending a Meeting?

Attend a public meeting:

Earn all 3 hours of your Civic Engagement requirement.

School Board

City Council

Park Board

Contact your history teacher for dates and requirements to attend a public meeting. Before attending the public meeting you must attend a lunch-time training session to learn about meeting etiquette.



Staying Informed:

Choose an article about a substantial topic related to a current event in the United States. Get the Current Event form from your history teacher. Read the article, summarize it in your own words, answer the questions, staple the article to the form and turn it in.

Earn 30 minutes of civic engagement credit for each article.