Citizenship is the opportunity, right and responsibility to contribute to shaping the world around you and provide service to others.

- Explore your relationships with others: family, peers, state, nation and world.
- Get involved! Be an active, responsible citizen.
- Take action to help others.
- Show social responsibility and respect, and respond to the needs, rights and responsibilities of others.

### Here’s what you can do all year!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Starting Out Basic/Level 1</th>
<th>Learning More Intermediate/Level 2</th>
<th>Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Get to know the other people in your club and what they like to do for fun.</td>
<td>Find out the names of your local or state representatives and the committees on which they serve.</td>
<td>Volunteer to be a tutor or mentor in your school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construct a family tree of relatives, identifying places lived and vocations.</td>
<td>Interview your principal and find out what you and your 4-H club can do to improve the school grounds.</td>
<td>Investigate the departments in your county government and find out what they do.</td>
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<td>Interview a neighbor and identify the similarities and differences between you.</td>
<td>Collect samples of club bylaws and constitutions; compare and contrast them.</td>
<td>Interview someone from your local Chamber of Commerce or economic development agency to learn about the goals for your community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create and carry out a plan to help someone outside your family.</td>
<td>Observe a community board meeting</td>
<td>Identify a cause important to you and determine how to make a difference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discover the history of your school or community.</td>
<td>Create and carry out a plan to help someone in your community</td>
<td>Map out area resources available to youth and families.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Tour your city courthouse or the state capitol. | Help pick up trash at a park. | Pass it on!

Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

#### Communication
- Give a presentation about the history of your school or town
- Make an appointment with a state legislator and share your thoughts on an issue.
- Read newspapers or news magazines on a regular basis.
- Research a community issue and share your ideas with the appropriate board or governing body.

#### Leadership
- Organize friends to clean up a neighborhood park.
- Ask your local nursing home residents how they would like to celebrate the next holiday and involve others to carry out the plan.
- Get approval and then create and conduct a survey for students on a school issue; then share the results with the administration.
- Serve as a youth delegate to your state Democratic or Republican convention.

#### Entrepreneurship
- Run for a school or 4-H club office.
- Create a nonprofit business plan for a cause that is important to you.

Learn more at [www.ndsu.edu/4h/](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/) or contact your county NDSU Extension office.
Here are other opportunities to explore citizenship:

- Participate in county or regional Legislative Day activities.
- Apply to be a page in the state Legislature.
- Apply to attend the National 4-H Conference or National 4-H Congress.
- Attend Citizenship Washington Focus.
- Contact your county Extension office to participate in your county's 4-H Council.
- Volunteer for a local, county or state political campaign for a candidate you support.
- Create a team to raise funds and participate in a benefit for a national cause you support.
- Attend the Extension Youth Conference and participate in workshops, motivational speakers and a community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Interested in a college education in the area of political science, sociology, public service administration, community development or public health? Schedule a visit with North Dakota State University at www.ndsu.edu.

### 4-H Resources

- 4-H Citizenship Curriculum
- 4-H Service Learning

### Events

- Citizenship In Action
- National 4-H Congress
- National 4-H Conference
- Citizenship Washington Focus

### Other Resources

- Ellis Island: www.eEllisland.org/
- Congress for Kids: www.congressforkids.net/citizenship_intro.htm
- Education World: www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr008.shtml
- PBS Kids
- White House
- Character Counts
- Kids.gov: www.kids.gov/

### Recordkeeping


Learn more at www.ndsu.edu/4h/ or contact your county NDSU Extension office.

### Exhibit Ideas

- Create a poster about the best things in your community.
- Create a video about your community and what visitors should know about it.
- Create a “Welcome to our School” kit for new families.
- Map the resources for youth and families in your community.
- Create a notebook explaining the Bill of Rights and examples in your everyday life.
- Give a presentation about the checks and balances of the three branches of government and how they’re important to you.
- Report your exploration of an issue and define how each branch of government plays a role in its creation, interpretation and implementation.
- Video your group at a service project and interview members about what they did and what it meant to them.
- Research governor candidates for the next election and put a notebook together sharing their stance on different issues.
- Create a notebook about the things you learned at Citizenship in Action, National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Congress or Citizenship Washington Focus and how them impacted you.
- Create a display on the process of how a bill becomes a law.
- Create a visual representation about the different branches of government and how they work together.