

Performance Objective 9: Citizenship

Enabling Objectives:

1. **The levels of Government**
 2. **Responsibilities of citizens**
 3. **Community Service**
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Introduction - In this chapter you will be expected to learn about your local government, your responsibilities as a citizen of your city, town, and state, and your role in community service.

We will also explore numerous areas of community service programs that you should, as a citizen, get involved in.

Review

The three branches of Government. The three branches of Government are the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and the Judiciary Branch.

Legislative Branch - Consists of the Senate, and the House of Representatives, which make the laws.

Executive Branch - Consists of the President, Vice-President, executive departments and other agencies, which administer and enforce the laws.

Judicial Branch - Consists of the Supreme Court and other Federal Courts, which interprets the law and applies it to cases coming before the courts.

E.O. 1 The levels of Government.

1. How many levels of government do you think there are? You know that your town or city has a government. Your state also has a government, and our nation has a government known as the federal government. Did you know that there are other levels of government, and even entities of government that you have heard of but never thought of them as a government? Lets explore these areas a little. We will begin on a very small scale of government... .home.
 - a. In your home, many decisions are made on how best to govern the family. Decisions are made concerning purchases, cleaning, and shopping. These are things that more often require a discussion followed by mutual understanding. This is how government works.
 - b. In your school, not only is there a school board, but a student body made up of classmates that are elected to the position. This group meets and discusses such things as the class yearbook or the class trip. It works the same way as any other form of government. An item is discussed, then it is voted on.
 - c. Within your town, there are other forms of government at work. Your library has a

board that decides things like which books to carry. Even some of the local merchants may have a board or association that meets to discuss things like sidewalk sales, or nights to stay open a little later.

- d. Your city or town has a government that decides where the tax money is best spent. Should it be on road upkeep, schools, senior citizens, or a park? The City Counsel makes up this form of government.
 - e. From your town or city there are districts or counties, then there is the state government followed by the federal government. In all of the above cases, there is one thing they have in common. They all elect people to serve in the interest of all concerned.
2. Members of governments are elected by votes of others. For example, in your school, you and your classmates elect your class president. You vote for the individual you feel will best serve the needs of the class. The person with the most votes wins the election.
 3. There are titles that people hold in governments. They can be any of the following titles, or something different. Some of them are:
 - a. School class president
 - b. Library board chairman
 - c. City alderman
 - d. Mayor
 - e. Selectman
 - f. State Representative
 - g. Governor

In all cases, they are elected to govern a group of people.

4. You do not need to hold a degree or have any special education to be involved in many forms of government. Anyone can run for an office or a seat on a governing board. Visit your local library for more information on governments. You can also visit your local town or city hall for information on their governing structure. As a citizen, it is everyone's duty to know their form of government and to support it by voting regularly or getting involved in the decision processes.

E.O. 2 Responsibilities of Citizens

1. Have you ever walked down the street in your town and seen things like litter in the gutter, or a fence around a house falling down? Maybe you know of a corner in your town where there are accidents that happen too frequently, or you know of an area that

is unsafe yet children play there daily. As a citizen, we all have responsibilities for each other. Trash breeds rodents and disease and makes your neighborhood look dirty. People will not want to visit there or live there, and the property values of the homes in your neighborhood will drop. Homes will fall into disrepair, and eventually crime will spring up. Let's take those areas again and put them into a little scenario. They were the street gutter, a broken down fence around a house. A corner where accidents happen, and an unsafe area for children to play. Here's how an area can get like that.

- a. Trash builds up in the street gutters from litter, and from citizens who live on the street not properly bagging their household trash. As this gets worse, a homeowner up the street from you has a fence that got damaged during that big windstorm, and decides not to fix it right now but maybe in the spring. A local gang looking for a place to hang out sees your neighborhood as the perfect place. It's dirty and people don't care about their property. A perfect place for criminals to hang out. After awhile, things start to happen like burglaries, fires, and other types of vandalism. One day a passing motorist crosses into the adjoining street and is hit by an on-coming vehicle because the stop sign had been stolen. Your neighbor's child ends up in the hospital after getting stuck with a syringe while playing in the vacant lot where a home that had been burned down once stood. This is only one scenario of how your neighborhood could go from a nice quiet, clean, and friendly place to a dirty, devalued, gang ridden area. As a citizen in your community, it is your duty to act upon these things before they get out of hand.
 - b. In the case of the trash situation, you can call your local health department, or you could organize a neighborhood clean up. You could talk to your neighbor with the broken fence.
 - c. You could call the local police and report the missing stop sign.
 - d. You and a handful of concerned citizens can make things happen. Whole neighborhoods have been refurbished and raised from the ashes of blight and despair through the hard work and perseverance of a few people. Remember, your elected officials work for you and everyone else in your community. You may not win every issue you bring to your local government, but you will have tried your best. Don't give up on good government.
2. Attend town or city meetings. Read the local paper and keep up on current affairs in your community. Many times communities will get something they didn't want in their town because the people did not show up to vote. Examples of these have been power plants, incinerators, or strip malls. Not everyone likes them, but if they don't exercise their right to vote, then they should not complain about the decisions of their government.
 3. Voting – Not only is this every persons right, it is your duty as a citizen to vote. Vote in elections. Vote on issues that you feel are important to the welfare of your neighborhood, town, state, and country.

E.O. 3 Community Service

In the Young Marines organization, you can earn ribbons and awards for providing community service. Did you know that community service goes much farther than that? Community service comes in many forms from neighborhood clean-ups to government service. Here are a few examples.

- a. Your adult volunteers provide a valuable service to the community by instilling in you a sense of pride and leadership.
- b. Your local veteran's organization provides a service to the community in the form of community donations to hospitals, libraries, and enforcement organizations.
- c. If you have a volunteer fire department in your town or city, they provide a life saving community service to your town.

Everyone should be involved in some form of community service in his or her towns or cities. It is a way to help your neighbors, provide a safe community for all, and a way to ensure future generations will enjoy the same safe, friendly, and clean environment you have helped create through your community service.

PERFORMANCE QUALIFICATION REVIEW
Performance Objective 9: Citizenship

E.O. No.	Enabling Objective Description and Performance Requirement	Authorized Evaluators Signature
1	The levels of Government	
a.	Successfully explains the local levels of government from town or city to State.	
b.	Explains the duties of a Mayor, State Representative, and a Governor.	
c.	Knows where to go to get information on their local government.	
2	Responsibilities of Citizens	
a.	Researched and knows the process for voting on community issues.	
b.	Organized a community service effort in their neighborhood.	
c.	Attended at least two town or city meetings and provided a report on the issues that were discussed.	
3	Community Service	
a.	Interviewed a community service provider such as a volunteer fireman or other individual or group that provides service at no cost, and submits this interview to National Headquarters for printing in the Young Marine newsletter.	
b.	Reports to the local government (town or city hall) on a community service project planned by the Young Marine. Get feedback from the governing officials as to this project.	