

Performance Objective 8: Citizenship

Enabling Objectives:

1. Describe three types of government.
 2. Read the Declaration of Independence.
 3. Read the Constitution of the United States.
 4. Describe the structure of the United States government
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Review

1) American Values.

As Young Marines you live your life with a set of values. Moral courage, self discipline, and respect for other's views are but a few of these. As Americans we have a set of values established long ago and found in the American's Creed. Freedom, Equality, Justice and Humanity are the values all Americans should strive to live by everyday of their lives. Let's read the American's Creed below to see how these values fit our lives as Americans.

The American's Creed

"I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of **freedom, equality, justice, and humanity** for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore, believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies."

- a) **Freedom - ability to act freely:** a state in which somebody is able to act and live as he or she chooses, without being subject to any, or to any undue, restraints and restrictions.(country's right to self-rule: a country's right to rule itself, without interference from or domination by another country or power.)
- b) **Equality - state of being equal:** rights, treatment, quantity, or value equal to all others in a given group.
- c) **Justice - The quality of being just:** conformity to the principles of righteousness and rectitude in all things; strict performance of moral obligations; practical conformity to human or divine law; integrity in the dealings of men with each other; rectitude; equity; uprightness.

- d) **Humanity - 1. human race:** the human race considered as a whole.
- 2. qualities of a human being:** the qualities or characteristics considered as a whole to be typical of human beings.
- e) **kindness:** kindness or compassion for others

The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States also holds a set of values that we should keep in mind when deciding on our political leadership. The government is bound by the constitution to govern our country keeping these values always in mind. The Preamble reads as follows;

The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

We, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

These are the values our forefathers felt best described America and its people, and these are the values we as a people today should continue to uphold thus ensuring generations to come a land that will be safe and free.

2) National Anthem

For a history review of the Star Spangled Banner, see the Junior Young Marine Guidebook, YMPO8, Citizenship.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

First Stanza

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

3) Flag

For a history of our flag, please review E.O. 2. Provide a short history of the U.S. Flag, in the Junior Young Marine Guidebook, YMPO8 Citizenship.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

E.O. 1. Describe Three Types of Government.

Types of Government. Governments have always existed in one form or another. The form of government reflects society and its changing needs. Governments are classified according to how people share the power:

- a. Autocracy - Awe-tock-racy - one person has absolute leadership (e.g. an absolute monarch such as the King of Jordan);
- b. Oligarchy - All-i-gar-key - a few people have power (e.g. Cuba under communism); and,
- c. Democracy - Dem-ock-racy - control is vested in the population (e.g. United States)

Democratic Government. Democracy is more than a method of government, however, as it implies several important beliefs and tradition. One of these beliefs is that open discussion by a well-informed public will result in the best policies for the country. Another belief is that the best political system is one in which as many people as possible have a share in decision-making and responsibilities. Freedom of choice in politics and other related matter, and individual value are also basic to democracy. Democracy recognizes personal freedom and the right to make your own choices as being important. Democracy means that people know what is best for them.

E.O. 2. Read the Declaration of Independence

One of our great documents is the Declaration of Independence which was adopted by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, July 4, 1776.

The Declaration of Independence charters our freedom as an independent nation among the "powers of the world."

The Declaration of Independence states that all men are created equal and that God has given them the right to live, to be free, and to work for happiness.

The Declaration of Independence proclaimed the independence of the 13 British colonies in America. The declaration recounted the grievances of the colonies against the British crown and declared the colonies to be free and independent states.

Upon organization of the national government in 1789, the Declaration of Independence was assigned for safekeeping to the Department of State. In 1841 it was deposited in the Patent Office, then a bureau of the Department of State; in 1877 it was returned to the State Department. Because of the rapid fading of the text and the deterioration of the parchment, the document was withdrawn from exhibition in 1894. It is now enshrined in the National Archives Exhibition Hall, Washington, DC., and is sealed in a glass and bronze case filled with inert helium gas.

You can obtain a copy of the Declaration of Independence to read at your local library.

E.O. 3. Read the Constitution of the United States.

The United States Constitution was drafted by the Constitutional Convention of May 25 - September 17, 1787, and, following its ratification by the conventions in two-thirds of the states, as provided in the Constitution, became effective in 1789. In 1987 the United States celebrated the bicentennial of the Constitution.

When the first U.S. Congress convened on March 4, 1789, before it were 103 amendments to the Constitution submitted by the states, 42 amendments proposed by minority groups within the states, and bills of rights submitted by Virginia and by New York. After deliberating on these proposed amendments, Congress reduced them to 12, which were submitted to the states. Two failed to be ratified; the others became the first 10 amendments. They were ratified on December 15, 1791, and are known as the **Bill of Rights**.

In general the 10 amendments are sweeping prohibitions against government abridgment or destruction of fundamental rights. The 10th Amendment, reserving to the states, or the people, those powers not delegated or prohibited to the federal government, established a basis for subsequent judicial interpretations of the Constitution, thereby limiting the power of the federal government.

Other events caused the enactment of additional amendments over the years. The 11th Amendment limits the jurisdiction of the federal judiciary. The 12th Amendment changed the method of electing the president and vice president.

Following the victory of the North in the Civil War, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were ratified. These abolished slavery, conferred citizenship on former slaves, and established principles that a state cannot "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law," and that the right of U.S. citizens to vote cannot be denied or abridged on account of race or color.

The 16th Amendment (ratified February 3, 1913) resulted from a Supreme Court decision holding unconstitutional a federal tax on income derived from property and not apportioned among the states. This amendment gave Congress the power to levy "taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States".

Popular demand, extending over many years, resulted in the enactment of the 17th Amendment (ratified April 8, 1913), providing for the election of senators by popular vote.

The 18th Amendment, the so-called Prohibition Amendment, was ratified on January 16th 1919, and was repealed when the 21st Amendment was ratified on December 5th 1933.

The long agitation for woman suffrage finally culminated in the enactment of the 19th Amendment (ratified August 18th 1920), giving women the right to vote.

The 20th, or "Lame Duck" Amendment (ratified January 23, 1933) changed the end of the

terms of the president and vice president from March 4 to January 20, and of representatives from March 4 to January 3; and fixed January 3 as the opening date of the annual meeting of Congress, which was empowered to designate another date.

The 22nd Amendment, limiting the terms a president can serve to two, was ratified on February 27, 1951. Residents of the District of Columbia gained the right to vote for president and vice-president upon enactment of the 23rd Amendment.

The 24th Amendment prohibiting a tax payment as a requirement to vote was ratified on January 23, 1964.

The 25th Amendment which was ratified on February 10, 1967, provides that in the case of the removal from office, the death, or the resignation of the president, the vice-president shall become president. It also provides for the filling of a vacancy in the office of the vice-president.

The 26th Amendment, as ratified July 1, 1971, provides for the lowering of the voting age to 18.

You can obtain a copy of the U.S. Constitution to read at your local library.

E.O. 4. Describe the structure of the United States Government.

The Federal Government is one of delegated powers only, its authority being defined and limited by the Constitution, our basic document. All powers not granted to the Federal Government by the Constitution are reserved to the State or the people.

Under the Federal System set up under the Constitution there are two kinds of government: the National Government, which is the Government of the United States, and the State governments, which govern the 50 States in the Union. Each State has a constitution of its own, which must not conflict with the Federal Constitution.

The Federal and State Governments, constituted with different powers and designed for different purposes, are but the agents and trustees of the people.

The three branches of Government.

The three branches of Government are the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and the Judiciary Branch. We know this as "Separation of Powers.

- a. Legislative Branch - Consists of the Senate, and the House of Representatives, which make the laws.
- b. Executive Branch - Consists of the President, Vice-President, executive departments and other agencies, which administer and enforce the laws.
- c. Judicial Branch - Consists of the Supreme Court and other Federal Courts, which interprets the law and applies it to cases coming before the courts.

PERFORMANCE QUALIFICATION REVIEW

Performance Objective 8: Citizenship

E.O. No.	Enabling Objective Description and Performance Requirement	Authorized Evaluators Signature
1	Describe three types of government.	
a.	Can correctly name and describe the three types of government	
b.	Can explain why we live in a democracy and how it works	
2	Read the Declaration of Independence.	
a.	Can explain what the Declaration of Independence means	
b.	Has read in its entirety, the Declaration of Independence	
3	Read the Constitution of the United States.	
a.	Knows the date the U.S. Constitution became effective	
b.	Knows the date the Bill of Rights were ratified	
c.	Has read in its entirety, the U.S. Constitution	
4	Describe the structure of the United States government.	
a.	Can explain what delegated powers are to the United States	
b.	Can name the 2 kinds of government in the U.S.	
c.	Can name the 3 branches of the government	
d.	Can give a brief correct explanation of each of the branches of the government	