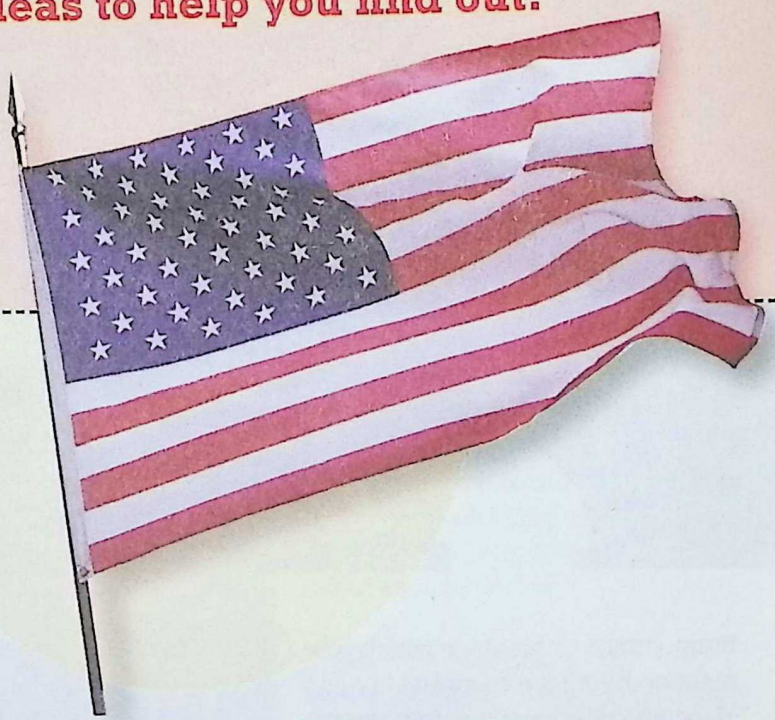
Model Citizen

As part of the Girl Scout Law, you promise to "make the world a better place." You can help do this by being a good citizen. But what exactly does it mean to be a model citizen? Here are some ideas to help you find out.





1. A Good Neighbor

Citizenship begins at home and in your community. What is a good neighbor? Make a list of ten things that you think make being a good neighbor. Pick one and take action on it.

2. Rights and Responsibilities

Rights, as well as responsibilities, are associated with being a citizen of a country. What do you think are some of the rights and responsibilities that come with being a citizen of the United States? Ask different members of the community what they think and compare and discuss the answers that you get.

3. Global Citizen

Talk with someone who has been a citizen of another country or who has lived or worked in another country. Ask the person what it was like to live in that country as compared to living in the United States.

4. Lawmaker

Design rules, regulations, or laws that might be needed for two of these situations:

- You are the mayor of the first town on the moon.
- An amusement park is being built next to a school.
- A toxic waste dump is being built next to a farm.
- There is a town where everyone owns boats and no one has a car.
- There is a five-story building with no elevators. It has only one inside staircase and one outside staircase.
- A busy highway is built near an elementary school.

5. Create a Government

Many board and computer games involve creating a country or city from scratch. They often ask you to make rules for governing the city or country. Try one of these games.

6. In Person

Visit a branch of the city, town, or county government that makes policies or laws for your community, or visit a branch of government that enforces the laws of your community. While you are there, find out the names of your state representatives and how they voted on an issue that is of concern to you.



10. Paperwork

Help your family keep their identification documents organized and up-to-date. These documents could be residency records, Social Security cards, passports, copies of driver's licenses, birth and marriage certificates, school records, or others. Offer to file or photocopy these important documents. Store them in a color-coded or alphabetized set of folders. You may want to transfer some information to a computer file. Make sure the documents are stored securely—in a fire-proof safe, perhaps—and are ready when needed.

7. News Flash

News flash: The town board approved building a mega-shopping center instead of a park on the last bit of open green space in town. *News flash:* The city is cutting your favorite after-school program to save money. *News flash:* Your county has approved a new chemical treatment plant. As a model citizen, how do you voice your support or your disapproval of such types of news? Ask adults to tell you three ways that people can legally and peacefully protest in the United States.

8. Red, White, and Blue

The American flag is one of the symbols that represents our nation. Read about ceremonies in the "Girl Scout Basics" chapter of your *Junior Girl Scout Handbook* and participate in a flag ceremony.

9. Help Out

Design and carry out a small project to show that you are a model citizen in your community. You can do the project on your own or with others.

