

## Maggie's Civics Corner

### Lesson #33 – Community & Citizenship



#### Maggie says ...

*In these difficult times, as our nation and the world pull together, it is more important than ever to understand our role as a citizen.*

*A citizen is someone who is legally recognized as a member of a country. In the United States, being a citizen grants you certain rights and responsibilities. For example, in the U.S., every citizen has the right to freedom of expression – you can speak openly*

*about your religion, politics, and personal opinions. At the same time, every U.S. citizen has the responsibility to respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of other people.*

*As a pup, I feel like a citizen in my community. I want to do whatever I can to help the people (and pups) I see every day. But even if I am not a citizen, that's okay! I still feel proud and protected by the people around me. Everyone who lives in my community, and the United States, should get a chance to contribute to their community. Let's do it together!*

**Today's lesson asks us to think about our COMMUNITY & CITIZENSHIP.** Being a citizen of the U.S. is a privilege – it is a gift. Not everyone gets to experience that gift. Even if someone is not a citizen, she or he still belongs and should be able to enjoy the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness.

**Sticky Situation:** In the United States, citizens have rights but they also have responsibilities. Here is a list of a few of the rights and responsibilities that we U.S. citizens have:

RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES
Freedom to express yourself	Support and defend the Constitution
Freedom to worship as you wish	Stay informed of the issues affecting your community
Right to vote in elections for public officials	Participate in the democratic process
Right to run for elected office	Respect and obey federal, state, and local laws
Freedom to pursue "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"	Respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others
	Participate in your local community

**Activity:** Think of yourself as a citizen of your home. What rights and responsibilities do you have as a citizen there? Fill in the chart below. If you need more information, view the video in the Civics Resources section guidance.

RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES

**Civics Resources:** To learn more about teaching laws, rights, and responsibilities to kids, check out this video from [Kids Academy](#).