

PINE CASTLE Women's Club ESSAY

In answering the question, "How will I be a good citizen in my community when I'm older?" I realized that becoming a good citizen takes work and doesn't just happen. This is important because people need to decide early on what type of people they want to be and take actions to get there.

When I am older I would like to support my community by providing services to the needy people, supporting law enforcement, informing myself about issues and voting, and serving through my church, especially through music and art. These things don't have to wait until I am older because I can start doing them now.

I helped my Dad feed the homeless in downtown Orlando, and I help my Mom prepare bags with food, water and toiletries for the homeless. I enjoyed doing these things with them, and I hope to do these things with my

kids in the future.

The police should be viewed as helpers who assist us in times of trouble, protecting and keeping us safe. People need limits on their behavior, so it is important to learn the laws and follow them. It is important to help the police have better relationships with our communities.

It is important to be represented in the community by voting. People need to be well-informed about the issues and candidates. Most people get their information from one or two sources so they don't get a variety of facts and opinions. This can make them closed-minded and disrespectful of other people's views. People need to look at different sides of every issue. This is why freedom of speech is important. We need to listen to people we don't agree with and learn to see things from a different perspective. When I'm older I want to hear different views, and I want to continue to learn from the Bible to see what God says about the

issues.

Being helpful to others and loving our neighbor is how God wants us to be. An important verse in the Bible is about sharing others' burdens and fulfilling the law of Christ. God doesn't want us to harden our hearts, but to open our hearts to the poor, because sometimes they feel forgotten, and God wants to encourage them with hope and love.

Art and music are vital for a healthy community. I've drawn posters for my school and Girl Scout troop for fundraisers and events. I sing in Chorus at school and my church as part of the kid's Praise Team, and I play the piano and violin. I would like to continue these things as I grow older because music gives hurting people hope and helps them to love others and God.

All of the things above are ways that I can help my community now and when I am older. I will continue to think about how I will be a good citizen and what I can do now to make that happen.