

# ➤ GOOD CITIZENS VOLUNTEER

Target Group: **Year 6**

Australian Curriculum Reference: **History**

- + What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian Society?
- + Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship including the status and rights of Aboriginal People and/or Torres Strait Islanders, migrants, women and children (ACHHK114).

## LESSON SUMMARY

Students will look at how individual volunteers contribute to society and how their actions are demonstrative of good citizenship.

Students will examine information about volunteers whose service has been broadly recognised and develop a set of criteria and processes for recognising volunteers who work within the school.

## LESSON CONTENT AND METHODOLOGY

- + Teacher leads discussion about what makes a good citizen, then asks students to focus in on volunteers (refer to Worksheet 1).
- + Students look at the Volunteering ACT website and read the information about volunteers who have been publicly recognised for their contributions:  
[www.volunteeringact.org.au/event/act-volunteer-of-the-year-award-winners](http://www.volunteeringact.org.au/event/act-volunteer-of-the-year-award-winners)
- + Teacher asks students: *what aspect of democracy and good citizenship can you see in these volunteers' stories?*
- + Teacher leads class in developing a list of the characteristics that the volunteers appear to have in common.
- + Students research the criteria that organisations use when determining their volunteer awards (see *Resources*).
- + Students discuss who the volunteers involved at the school are, for example canteen helpers, sports coaches, mentors, lollypop people, grandparents and reading helpers.
- + Teacher tells students they will be designing a volunteer recognition process. They will need to do the following.
  - + Determine whether there will be categories for nominations.
  - + Determine the number of awards that will be made (suggest four).
  - + Develop a set of criteria for nominations.
  - + Write a nomination for a selected volunteer of their choice.

- + Form a panel/s that will consider all the nominations received and report back to the class about their selection. The class will engage in a question and answer session about how the panel's decision was reached. If four awards are to be given, the class can be divided into four with each group forming a panel to consider the nominations in a separate category. Each panel will need to nominate a panel chair who will be the spokesperson and facilitator for the group.
- + Design and print certificates to be sent to the volunteers who have been selected by your class as Volunteers of the Year.

## ASSESSMENT

Teacher to assess each student's individual nomination and how it aligns with the agreed criteria.

## RESOURCES

- + Criteria for volunteer awards
- + Worksheet 1: What are the characteristics of a good citizen?
- + ACT Volunteer of the Year Award Winners, Volunteering ACT:  
[www.volunteeringact.org.au/event/act-volunteer-of-the-year-award-winners](http://www.volunteeringact.org.au/event/act-volunteer-of-the-year-award-winners)
- + South Australia Fire and Emergency Services Commission:  
[www.safecom.sa.gov.au/public/download.jsp?id=1669](http://www.safecom.sa.gov.au/public/download.jsp?id=1669)
- + Richmond Valley Australia Day awards nomination forms:  
[www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/icms\\_docs/165853\\_Australia\\_Day\\_Awards\\_2014\\_Nomination\\_Form.pdf](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/icms_docs/165853_Australia_Day_Awards_2014_Nomination_Form.pdf)
- + The Victorian Amateur Football Association:  
[www.vafa.com.au/latest-news/nominate-your-afl-victoria-volunteer-of-the-year](http://www.vafa.com.au/latest-news/nominate-your-afl-victoria-volunteer-of-the-year)
- + Brigham and Women's Health Hospital:  
[www.brighamandwomens.org/about\\_bwh/publicaffairs/news/publications/DisplayBulletin.aspx?articleid=553](http://www.brighamandwomens.org/about_bwh/publicaffairs/news/publications/DisplayBulletin.aspx?articleid=553)
- + Student Volunteering Week UK: [www.studentvolunteeringweek.org.uk/activities/volunteer-award](http://www.studentvolunteeringweek.org.uk/activities/volunteer-award)
- + United Way of Tri-County: [www.uwotc.org/nominate](http://www.uwotc.org/nominate)

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# WORKSHEET 1

## What are the characteristics of a good citizen?

**Teacher introduces the notion of a good citizen and shows the following list.**

Characteristics of good citizens include:

- + accepting responsibilities within a community by helping others in need
- + valuing free and fair elections and not seeking to unfairly influence others
- + participating in activities and behaviours that involve democratic decision-making
- + respecting and adhering to rules for socially responsible and desirable behaviour
- + promoting harmony and inclusiveness
- + interacting positively with adults and other children
- + resolving issues in peaceful and non-threatening ways
- + a willingness to participate actively and make a positive contribution to the community.

**Teacher leads class discussion**

- + Are these the only characteristics of a good citizen?
- + What else could we add?

**Teacher develops a class list of the characteristics of a good citizen and continues discussion.**

- + Why are these characteristics important?
- + What kind of community does it create when people have these characteristics?
- + What might happen to our community if people did not display these characteristics?
- + Do any of the characteristics apply only to adults? Only to children?
- + What is the role of volunteering in being a good citizen?
- + How do you currently display the characteristics of being a good citizen?
- + How could you apply the characteristics in the future?

*(Adapted from: [www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/what\\_makes\\_a\\_good\\_citizen\\_activity\\_two,35095.html](http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/what_makes_a_good_citizen_activity_two,35095.html))*