



COMMUNITY **CITIZENSHIP** AWARD



PROJECT: MY NEIGHBORHOOD

GOALS

- A. NEIGHBORHOOD MAP:** Create a map of your neighborhood.
 - B. NEIGHBORHOOD CULTURE:** Research the people and culture of your area.
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A. NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

When living in a neighborhood, knowing the area is key to being a good citizen. If you are an avid biker, walker, or explorer, you likely know your neighborhood very well and can identify key landmarks. Take the next step and become an expert of your neighborhood.

Step 1—Examine an Official Map

Obtain a local city map from your local gas station, AAA, or grocery store. You can also print up a map of your city off a map website. Make sure it is zoomed in enough to see landmarks and street names. Take a look at the map and identify and highlight the items below.

- major buildings
- parks
- major roads or highways
- a downtown area
- your local school
- your home
- the map's symbol key

Step 2—Make a Neighborhood Map

Grab markers, pens, or coloring pencils and a piece of paper. Create a map of your neighborhood. Use the largest sheet of paper you can. (You can tape several sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper together to create a larger map.)

Map Making

- Place your house in the middle of the map.
- Walk two blocks in each direction before you start drawing your map to familiarize yourself with the area.
- Observe major landmarks such as parks or schools.
- Now create a map of your neighborhood. If you need to refer to your city map, you may.
- Create a map key to show your streets and landmarks.



B. NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGE

Now that you have a map in hand, learn about the people and the culture of your neighborhood.

Step 1—Observe Your Neighbors

Just as a detective gathers facts, either observe or interview a neighbor or family member for information. Write notes so you can share the information below when you give your walking tour in Step 2.

- What kinds of people live in my neighborhood?
(Examples: Age of people, race/ethnicity, jobs)
- What kinds of activities happen in my neighborhood?
(Examples: Local sports, fairs, events)
- Are there safe and unsafe areas in my neighborhood?
(Examples: Stores, streets or alleyways to avoid, parks, schools and streets that are safe)
- Has my neighborhood changed a lot in the last few years?
(Examples: People changing, crime, new buildings, events, etc)

Step 2—Share Your Findings

Share your findings with your family. Take at least one family member on a walking tour using your drawn neighborhood map to point out key areas. Use notes from Step 1 to point out the people, activities, safe areas, and the history of the neighborhood.

RESEARCH MORE

- *Maps and Globes (Reading Rainbow)* by Jack Knowlton
- Look up local maps on Mapquest or Google Maps by typing in either your home address, intersection, or just the city and state.
- If you are an AAA member, you can obtain maps for free.

My child has successfully completed the Project Goals for the topic—My Neighborhood.

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Complete SIX projects to earn your CITIZENSHIP award)