

Anderson

### **What Patriotism Means to Me**

When someone utters the word patriotism, many different and varying ideas of what Patriotism means come to my mind. Being patriotic can differ from serving one's country in the armed forces, and include aiding their community in times of peace and in times of crisis. By serving in the military, one has devoted themselves to the protection of their country. Those who serve in the military sometimes risk their lives for their country and its values. Serving their community is another way to show one's respect and dedication to one's country; therefore, they are being patriotic. Whether one is helping at a homeless shelter or serving in law enforcement, there are countless ways to help in one's community.

If one is too young to participate in law enforcement or other community organizations, there are many ways to serve their country. Learning about history shows patriotism. Educating oneself in the history and sacrifices of our country shows respect for the person's country. Running for office is also being patriotic although not everyone can run for the Presidency, but running for town council or class president shows a love for one's community, which in turn, helps the country. Having respect for one's country demonstrates the qualities that one has when being patriotic.

Love and devotion to one's country is the reason someone helps their community, joins the military, or educates those who must learn about the sacrifices made to bring everyone to where they are today. Helping one's country should come as an honor rather than an inconvenient task that one is forced to do. One who possesses

the characteristics of a patriotic citizen takes pride in their country and gives back rather than just taking. Celebrating Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and other national patriotic holidays shows one's respect for their country and those who fought to protect it. Participating in the government in ways such as voting, paying taxes, and protecting what their country stands for shows Patriotism. Voting in the Presidential, town, and school elections is an excellent way to support the country. Patriotism is the act of devoting oneself to their country and protecting its values.