

STUDENT & PARENT GUIDE

Building community takes all of us! By volunteering our time or talents with a volunteer organization, starting a new business to provide a needed service, asking the local government to take action to deal with an issue, or bringing attention to a problem in our community, it is through our actions that we can work to support one another.

This year's National Civics Bee asks you how you can make a difference in your community!

Identify a problem, challenge, or opportunity in your local community. What can you do to contribute to its improvement based on Founding principles and civic virtues?

Founding principles are an important starting point for solutions to problems. They provide us with a framework for understanding how we can best work together in a free community. We call them Founding principles because they are built into the ideas of the American Founding. These core ideas of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution help guide us today. Examples include natural/inalienable rights, consent of the governed, rule of Law, federalism, and private property.

Civic virtues go hand in hand with Founding principles. They are habits that help us ensure we are acting in the best interest of the community. They also help guide us because the more we practice civic virtue, the more we uphold individual freedom and the common good.

Examples include: humility, integrity, moderation, respect, and responsibility. More information about Founding principles and civic virtues can be [found here](#).

Is there something in your community that you would like to change? Or would you like to provide a service currently missing from your community? Or would you like to work to get more support from your community for an organization or group that you belong to?

Think about the communities you might belong to: schools, religious organizations, charity groups, towns, states, or neighborhoods. All these groups require the work of individuals to support them so that they can do their essential work. By practicing civic virtue and using your talents, you can solve a problem you feel passionate about and create something that is beautiful and necessary in making your community better. Let us know how you can make a difference!