CARDINAL COMPASS - CIVICS NO. 10 - HANDS-ON LEARNING - WITH CARL THE CARDINAL

# Being a Citizen with Carl

## VOL. 10

**Civics - Volume 10 - Version 7**

Rights, Duties, and Taking Part. What does a citizen do?



Cover illustration: a community at sunset in front of a columned brick building, neighbors gardening and cleaning up, a large scroll on a stone wall, and a small ballot box.

**Read together** | **Do together** | **Grown-up with you**



### Meet Carl - Citizen Carl

Carl the Cardinal is your guide. For this last book, Carl stands with his neighbors in the evening light. He has carried a scroll, a ballot, a gavel, a bill, and a map. Now Carl puts it all together: what a citizen knows, and what a citizen does. His green neckerchief and gold compass medallion stay on. Color your own Carl on the last page.

### How to use this book

Read pages 2 to 6 together first. Then plan and do a small service project with your family, and finish with the completion certificate on page 10.

**You will need:** the family's earlier books if handy, pencils, plain paper, and crayons or markers for a thank-you note you make yourselves, with no need to buy a card, plus the service project supplies listed on page 7.

PART 1 - WHAT AND WHY

# What is a citizen?

**What you already know: nine books of it.** The Constitution's rules (Book 1), the promises that protect every person (Book 2), voting (Book 3), your town and county (Book 4), how laws are made (Book 5) and kept fair (Book 6), the symbols (Book 7), how the rulebook grew (Book 8), and your state among the fifty (Book 9). This book asks what a citizen does with all of it.

**Citizen:** a person who belongs to a country, with the rights and duties that belong to it. Citizenship can be acquired at birth or later under the law. For example, a child born in the United States and subject to its jurisdiction is a citizen at birth, and a child born abroad may be a citizen at birth through a parent who is a U.S. citizen and meets the rules in the law. Some children become citizens automatically through their parents under the law. A person may also become a citizen later through naturalization. Naturalization is the process by which a person who was not born a citizen becomes one under the law, and naturalized citizens are fully citizens, just as citizens by birth are.

**Duty:** something the law requires. In this book, we call this a legal duty.

**Responsibility:** in this book, a voluntary civic action a good citizen chooses to do because it is right and helpful.

**Participate:** to take part.

**In this book, we use these two labels:** legal duty for what the law requires, and responsibility for a voluntary civic action. In everyday talk, people sometimes use the word responsibility for things the law requires too. Here, the two labels keep the two lists on the next page apart.

**Rights, with care:** Many constitutional protections, including due process (fair procedures under the law), protect noncitizens as well as citizens. Some political rights, such as voting in federal elections, are reserved to eligible citizens. Being a citizen does not by itself guarantee that a person may vote in every election; the voter must also meet that election's other legal rules.

A citizen is not just a person who lives in a place. A citizen belongs to the country, and the country counts on its citizens to know the rules, keep the duties, and take part.