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What Citizenship Means to Me

Citizenship is a gift. It means you are a part of something bigger than yourself; a community. Thousands of people each year try to achieve what we have so graciously been given.

I believe the title of citizenship comes with duties for each person to carry out, these are important for the community to run smoothly. It can be as simple as cleaning up after yourself. It could be offering assistance to a neighbor in need. Maybe even taking the time to tithe or give to local charities, but each person has an important role to play. We all need to pitch in together to make the place we live, our dream world.

The Molalla community has been an immense part of my life. The people that are a part of my family and friends community have all made me into the person I am today. My mother's side of the family mostly lives in New York and my father's side lives in California. We have had to make our own family through amazing friendships. This community that we have built has encouraged me in everything I try to achieve in life. I always know they have my back and I thank God for that because it gives me the ability to go out and try new things knowing that if I fail I will always have them to fall back on. Having a community like this around someone, is important for them to thrive in life.

My favorite way I support and give to my community is as a Police Cadet. The Cadet program in Milwaukie, Oregon has offered me many opportunities to become more confident, grow my servant's heart and relationship with God, and make new friendships. I am thankful I

have been given the chance to be a part of a program like this where I can live out my role as a helper in the community. Sadly, some people ignore their role or do not search for it. They have lost sight of the beautiful thing about citizenship and that is we are all going through life together. No person should go through life alone.

Overall, Citizenship is an honor. No matter what country you claim to be a citizen of, you should be able to be proud of where you live. If you are not proud of the place you live, do something to change that. Impacting the lives of the people around you is what citizenship is all about. I wish people would realize how much of a blessing citizenship is. Being a part of a community and serving them is a huge piece of my heart so I plan to never stop. I pray people see my example and follow it.