



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Civic Engagement Ideas

Below are just a few suggestions for ways you can be civically engaged and encourage others to become involved too!

- join local organizations
- obey the law
- conduct a service project
- attend town meetings
- learn about another culture
- honor public servants (police, fire, etc.)
- stay aware of public issues
- read the newspaper
- work on a political campaign
- organize a voter registration drive
- contact your elected officials
- participate in patriotic events
- serve on a board or committee
- investigate your town's history
- lobby for legislation
- write letters to the editor of the newspaper
- speak to community groups
- volunteer
- join a Youth Leadership program with the Chamber of Commerce

Here is a different way to look ways to be civically engaged. This list of indicators was developed by [CIRCLE](#) (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement) through a series of focus groups with young people across the country. The indicators identify different dimensions of civic engagement.

Civic Indicators

- Community problem solving
 - Working together informally with someone or some group to solve a community problem
- Regular volunteering for a non-electoral organization
 - Working in some way to help others for no pay (includes volunteering for an environmental organization; a civic/community organization, a social services organization to help the poor, elderly, or homeless; a hospital; or an organization involved with youth, children, or education)
- Active membership in a group or association
 - belonging to and actively participating in (not just donating money) groups or associations, either locally or nationally

Kentucky YMCA Youth Association, P.O.Box 4285, Frankfort, KY 40604-4285
www.kyymca.org Phone (502)227-7028 Fax (502)227-7030



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- Participation in fund raising run/walk/ride
 - o Personally walking, running, or bicycling for a charitable cause (does not include sponsoring or giving money for this type of event)
- Other fund raising for charity
 - o Helping raise money for a charitable cause

Electoral Indicators

- Regular voting
 - o Voting regularly in both local and national elections
- Persuading others
 - o Talking to others when there is an election taking place to try to show them why they should vote for or against one of the parties or candidates
- Displaying buttons, signs, stickers
 - o For a candidate, political party, or political organization
- Campaign contributions
 - o Contributing money to a candidate, a political party, or any organization that supported candidates
- Volunteering for candidates or political organizations

Indicators of Political Voice

- Contacting officials
 - o Contacting or visiting a public official, at any level of government, to ask for assistance or to express an opinion
- Contacting the print media
 - o Contacting a newspaper or magazine to express an opinion on an issue
- Contacting the broadcast media
 - o Calling in to a radio or television talk show to express an opinion on a political issue, even if it is not aired
- Protesting
 - o Taking part in a protest, march, or demonstration
- E-mail petitions
 - o Signing an e-mail petition
- Written petitions
 - o Signing a written petition about a political or social issue
- Boycotting
 - o Not buying something because of conditions under which the product is made, or because of disapproval of the company that produces it
- Buycotting
 - o Buying a certain product or service because of approval of the social or political values of the company that produces or provides it
- Canvassing
 - o Having done some work as a canvasser going door to door for a political or social group or candidate

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Indicators of Attentiveness

- Following government and public affairs most of the time
- Talking about current events
- Talking about politics or government
- Regularly reading the newspaper
- Reading a news magazine with regularity
- Watching the news on television
- Listening to news on the radio
- Regularly reading news on the Internet

Kentucky Organizations:

- Civic Literacy Initiative of Kentucky
 - o <http://civics.ky.gov/>
- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
 - o <http://www.kychamber.com/>
- Chambers of Commerce in Kentucky (check for your local Chamber here)
<http://www.2chambers.com/kentucky2.htm>
- Kentucky League of Women Voters
 - o <http://lwvky.org/>
- Northern Kentucky University Center
 - o <http://civicengagement.nku.edu/>
- University of Louisville Center
 - o <http://louisville.edu/education/civics>
- University of Kentucky
 - o <http://www.uky.edu/Aq/CLD/eng.htm>
- Frankfort Arts & Community Engagement
 - o [http://www.frankfortarts.org/2007-2008 Season of Events.html](http://www.frankfortarts.org/2007-2008%20Season%20of%20Events.html)

Other Links:

- American Experiment
 - o <http://www.americanexperiment.org/>
- Civic Youth- Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement
 - o <http://www.civicyouth.org/>
 - o [Young Voters Mobilization Guide](#)
 - o [Youth Voters Best Practices Guide](#)
- Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth
 - o <http://www.cfleads.org/ccfy/toolbox/index.htm>
 - o [Best Practices in Youth Philanthropy](#)
- Tools for measuring community engagement
 - o [http://www.aascu.org/programs/adp/toolkit0104/Assessment/Campus Assessment Tools.pdf](http://www.aascu.org/programs/adp/toolkit0104/Assessment/Campus%20Assessment%20Tools.pdf)

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