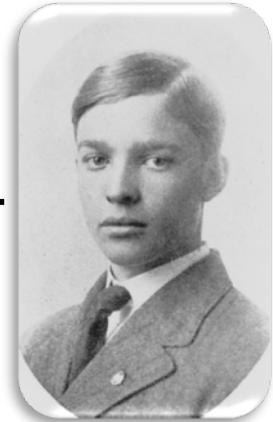


PARTICIPATION



EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH
Boy Scouts



Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1909

PARTICIPATION: For our system of self-government to work, Americans must be committed to **PARTICIPATORY** citizenship.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER: “A democracy means government of the people, by the people themselves, and without their support and active **PARTICIPATION** it cannot survive.”

CITIZENSHIP IS ABOUT PARTICIPATION: Civic engagement—**PARTICIPATION** in the political process—in adulthood often has its roots in active **PARTICIPATION** in organizations, clubs, and activities during one’s school years. Dwight D. Eisenhower was no exception. A popular and fun-loving high school student, Eisenhower generally had little spare time because he had to work after school and in the summer. Nonetheless, he did have opportunities to learn the skills and benefits of **PARTICIPATING** in group endeavors and in associating with others for the purpose of furthering a common goal. For example, he and a number of his friends organized summer camping trips to nearby rivers and streams like Lyons Creek and the Smoky Hill River. Working together they planned the excursions, raised money, and gathered provisions and supplies for their outdoor adventures.

“Fine trees and beautiful campsites made the whole prospect attractive—if we could get together the right kind of money. We planned to be gone two weeks and each boy was suppose to find five dollars to into the pot to take care of food and incidental expenses.”*

Similarly, Eisenhower was an enthusiastic athlete an instrumental in the resurrection of the Abilene High School Athletic Association. He was elected president of the organization his senior year. The purpose of the association was to raise money to support the students’ sports activities because, in those years, school districts generally did not. His proudest accomplishment, however, was writing a constitution to ensure that the Athletic Association continued to exist for future for AHS athletes.

*The equivalent is \$98.00 in today’s dollars.

One local newspaper editor observed that young Dwight Eisenhower was often in the middle of student activities, revealing a natural flare for organizing and leading. Another Abilene newspaper editor recalled Eisenhower’s penchant for engaging in spirited political discussions and debates, effortlessly disarming his opponents with his quick wit and big smile. In fact, in November 1909, following his high school graduation, he was one of several young men invited to speak at a local Democratic Club. His topic—“The Student in Politics.” These activities, and others, aided in the development of valuable **PARTICIPATORY** skills, abilities, and habits, which would prove invaluable in Eisenhower’s adult life.

VISIT THE EISENHOWER MUSEUM: The first gallery of the museum, the Introductory Gallery, tells the story of Dwight D. Eisenhower’s boyhood years here in Abilene, Kansas. Locate the artifacts, photographs, and documents that explore his life as a student at Abilene High School (AHS). Note the school activities in which he **PARTICIPATED** with classmates and friends. Find the “Athletics” pages he wrote, which appeared in the 1909 AHS yearbook, the *Helianthus*. The program for the Senior Class Play in which he acted is on display as well as the photographs of the high school baseball and football teams in which he was a **PARTICIPANT**.

PARTICIPATION AND CITIZENSHIP: What are the three most important lessons you have learned about the role of citizen **PARTICIPATION** from your study of Dwight D. Eisenhower?

SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED: With whom will you share what you have learned about the role of **PARTICIPATION** in the development of good citizenship? List them below.

- 1.
- 2.

YOUR EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH AND ROCKERS: When you have completed this handout, you have earned the **EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH** and the **PARTICIPATION** rocker. If you have already earned the patch, completion of this activity signifies that you have earned the rocker. These items are available at the Visitors Center and Presidential Gift Shop. There are six rockers for the Boy Scout level. Boy Scouts may earn up to two rockers per museum visit.