

PERPETUATION



EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH
Boy Scouts



Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1909

PERPETUATION: Citizens have a responsibility to honor those who have sacrificed to preserve our freedoms, to join those who seek to protect them in the present, and to **PERPETUATE** them for future generations.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER: “[T]he soldier who becomes an educator or the teacher who becomes a soldier enters no foreign field but finds himself instead engaged in a new phase of his fundamental life purpose—the protection and **PERPETUATION** of basic human freedom.”

CITIZENSHIP IS ABOUT PERPETUATION: As Supreme Allied Commander in Europe in World War II, General Dwight D. Eisenhower often referred to the mission to defeat of the Nazis as “The Great Crusade.” Americans, and others around the world, viewed the spread of fascism as a threat to their freedoms and way of life. To **PERPETUATE** these ideals, the war had to be fought and won. In the course of his leadership role in World War II, the name, “Eisenhower,” was casually linked to the presidency for the first time. As one of the most admired and respected figures of his time, the cry “Eisenhower for President” intensified significantly by 1948. In fact, President Truman offered to step down and serve as Eisenhower’s vice presidential running mate on a Democratic ticket. From that time forward, public pressure for an Eisenhower candidacy gained momentum.

In February 1951, before leaving for Paris as the first military commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), General Eisenhower met secretly with Senator Robert Taft, the presumed Republican nominee for the 1952 presidential contest. Eisenhower sought Taft’s support for NATO—an organization dedicated to the collective security of the United States and Western Europe.* Taft and his supporters advocated a return to pre-war isolationism for the United States; the Senator held firm to this position. An eyewitness to the death, devastation, and horrors of World War II, Eisenhower firmly believed that the United States and the nations

*Due to its ruthless aggression in Eastern Europe following World War II, the Soviet Union—committed to the spread of Communism—was now the greatest threat to the freedom of the Western Democracies. This conflict was called the “Cold War.”

Of Western Europe must unite to ensure their “collective security” through NATO. Eisenhower felt that he had a duty to enter the presidential race. In his estimation, he had a responsibility to ensure that the freedoms **PERPETUATED** through the sacrifice of so many during World War II were protected and preserved for future generations.

VISIT THE EISENHOWER MUSEUM: Continue through the museum until you have reached the Presidential Gallery. As you enter, on your left, you will soon see an exhibit representing Eisenhower’s campaign train, “Look Ahead, Neighbor.” Examine the contents of each display case. Read the information in the textbox labeled “1952: Deciding to Run.” Who delivered a film of the Madison Square Garden Rally to General Eisenhower in Paris? What effect did the film have on Eisenhower? Read about “The Reluctant Candidate.” What did Eisenhower write in his diary in January 1948 about his possible candidacy for the presidency? Turn to the Plaza Theater marquis and to the touch screen located there. Explore the policy debate—“Campaign ’52.” To the left of the touch-screen kiosk, read excerpts of letters between Ike and Swede, a boyhood friend from Abilene. To the right of the movie poster, read about the concept of isolationism, which Eisenhower thoroughly rejected.

PERPETUATION AND CITIZENSHIP: What are the three most important lessons you have learned about the citizen’s role in the **PERPETUATION** of our freedoms from your study of Dwight D. Eisenhower?

SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED: With whom will you share what you have learned about **PERPETUATION** of our Constitutional freedoms? 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 **PERPETUATION** 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.