

Family Civic Action Activity: Use the Census to Make Community Progress

You will receive the 2010 census form in the middle of March.

- ✓ Turn it into a learning lesson with your family.
- ✓ You will be demonstrating civic commitment.
- ✓ You will help your child understand how important each person is.

Be sure that your children know that this census is an opportunity to determine the future of your community. Explain that completing the census is a special responsibility of everyone in the country. If every person sends in the census form, that will help bring programs to our community. In 2000, only 72% of the people in the United States sent in their census form. That meant that many communities lost services.

Each form completed brings more resources to your community. Completing your form is one important step to build a better future. Think what a difference it would make if everyone completes the census form this year.

You can help make that happen. Your family can talk with other families and encourage to complete the census. Explain how completing the form will mean your children have greater opportunities.

Explain that their personal information is private. This is how the government protects the information.

Step 1: You complete the form and mail it.

Step 2: The envelope is delivered to a processing center.

Step 3: The information sheet is read by a scanner.

Step 4: The information goes into a computer.

Step 5: The original form is shredded so that no one can ever read it.

Step 6: Your individual information is combined with information from everyone else who completes the census.

Step 7: The Census workers use computers to profile your community.

Step 8: Government uses the information to figure out important kinds of progress:

How many representatives should be elected from your area

How much funding your area will get for programs

How much support to provide to schools in your community

Envision the Future

To help your child realize just how important your one census form is, ask your child to draw a picture or make a map of your community with the programs your family wants to add or expand. For example, your child might want to have a new high school built. Or you might want the government to open a small-business development center in your community.

For more information about the census, go to <http://2010.census.gov/2010census>