

# Guest Speaker

## Overview:

Youngsters learn that community members are responsible for certain duties, but some responsibilities are expected of everyone.

## Materials:

- Have the guest speaker fill out the *Guest Speaker* handout before visiting the class and devise a fair way of selecting one student to introduce the guest.

## Handouts:

- [Guest Speaker handout](#)

## Procedure:

1. As a group, write an invitation to a firefighter, police officer, environmental inspector, or other public official asking her/him to speak to the group about how he/she works for the good of the community. Before visiting the class, have the speaker fill out the *Guest Speaker* handout. Allow one student to introduce the speaker using background information on the form.
2. Have the speaker highlight the obligations all of us (even children) have to protect and serve others. (For instance, anyone who witnesses a crime or the start of a forest fire is morally obligated to call the proper authorities.)
3. After the visit, have the youngsters send “thank you” cards to the speaker, including an explanation of what they learned.

This lesson is from the *Good Ideas* book, available for purchase from the CHARACTER COUNTS! online store: <http://www.charactercounts.org/materials> Adapted from the *Character Education in Ohio: Sample Strategies handbook* (Ohio Department of Education, Columbus, OH), 1990. Used with permission.

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## McREL standards

### Civics

**Standard 29.** Understands the importance of political leadership, public service, and a knowledgeable citizenry in American constitutional democracy.

**Level III, Benchmark 4.** Understands the importance of public service in a constitutional democracy.

<http://www.mcrel.org/Standards-benchmarks/>