



This Winter, take the At-Home Challenge!

"If the spirit of liberty should vanish in other parts of the union and support of our institutions should languish, it could all be replenished from the generous store held by the people of this brave little state of Vermont."

— PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE



Vermonters: Help revive the spirit of liberty and bolster our democratic institutions by taking part in the Good Citizen At-Home Challenge!

The next few months of the pandemic will be tough. We'll all be spending more time at home than usual this winter, so *Kids VT* and *Seven Days* have collected a wide variety of activities — many from our Good Citizen partners — to keep you occupied. This new Challenge will help you learn more about your state and your country, and give you a chance to help others, as well.

How it works:

1

Pass the Citizenship Test: Get 12 answers correct on the sample U.S. Citizenship test on the back page of this scorecard. If you don't pass on the first try, take it until you make it!

2

Do at least one activity and you'll be eligible for monthly prize drawings. Submit your evidence at goodcitizenvt.com — the more activities you submit, the more chances you have to win! We'll keep track of entries on the website's public leaderboard and hold prize drawings on **December 30, January 27** and **February 3** to recognize outstanding work and to give away gift cards and other prizes.

3

Finish four activities (one in each category) before March 5, 2021 and you (or your team) will be eligible for the grand prize drawing on March 17. The winning person or team will receive a **\$500 gift card** to a local business of the winner's choice!

Extra credit: The person or team that completes the most activities during the Challenge will be able to **make a \$500 donation to a Vermont charity of their choice.** In the event of a tie, a winner will be chosen at random from among those tied for the top spot.

More prizes! We'll give away other prizes along the way, including **gift cards** to locally owned independent bookstores, **publication subscriptions** and copies of the **comic book** *This Is What Democracy Looks Like: A Graphic Guide to Governance*. Everyone who completes an activity will receive a **Good Citizen Challenge sticker**.

Questions?

Contact us at 802-865-1020, ext. 14
or goodcitizen@kidsvt.com.

Find this scorecard and get email updates at GoodCitizenVT.com.

Eligibility & Guidelines

- Individuals or teams may enter. Participants can submit an entry for every activity done by a member of their team. Activities completed as a group count as one entry.
- Adults may participate on a team with at least one K-12 student. We encourage adult-child teams! This is a great family project.
- Participants may submit multiple activities monthly to be eligible for prizes, but they will only be entered once in the grand prize drawing.
- Only submit photos and comments that can be used online, in print or broadcast by Good Citizen media partners. We'll use this material to inspire others to be Good Citizens.
- Be sure to proofread your work — we'll highlight outstanding submissions in *Kids VT* and *Seven Days*!
- All activities must be completed and submitted online — or postmarked — by **Friday, March 5, 2021** to be entered in the grand prize drawing.
- We strongly encourage you to submit activities online at GoodCitizenVt.com. If you can't access the internet, mark your work on this scorecard, collect and physical evidence possible and mail it to:

**Good Citizen Challenge
Kids VT/Seven Days,
255 S. Champlain St., Ste 5
Burlington VT 05401.**

Powered by:

SEVEN DAYS
sevendaysvt.com



With support from:



**THE Vermont
Community Foundation**

*Empowering Vermont's youth to close
the opportunity gap.*

Partners in the Good Citizen At-Home Challenge include:

VPR

front porch forum™
HELPING NEIGHBORS CONNECT



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →



History

Learning about history can help us better understand the present and put it in perspective. And knowing how people got through hard times in the past can help us get through the difficulties we're facing today.

1. Visit a memorial in your city or town and find out who put it there and why. Do you recognize any of the names on it?
2. Research the name of your street, your school or a local park. What can you find out about when and how it was named? Does it reference a person? If you can't find information online, try contacting your local historical society or town offices. You could also have an adult pose the question on your Front Porch Forum.
3. Draw a portrait of one of these notable Vermonters from history. Research them online first to find out about who they were and what they contributed to Vermont. Reminder: Wikipedia is a good starting place, but always verify the information you find there through other sources such as libraries, universities, historical societies, etc. Try to incorporate what you've learned into your artwork.
 - George Aiken (1892-1984)
 - Alexander Twilight (1795-1857)
 - Consuelo Northrup Bailey (1899-1976)
 - James Hartness (1861-1934)
 - Lucy Terry Prince (1730-1821)
4. Learn about the biggest natural disaster in state history by listening to "Vermont's Great Flood," an episode of the podcast "Before Your Time." Produced by the Vermont Historical Society and Vermont Humanities, it explains how the flood killed 84 people, devastated the state — and was an important turning point. It even inspired Plymouth Notch-born president Calvin Coolidge to deliver his famous speech, "Vermont Is a State I Love," in which he describes it as a "brave little state." Find it at beforeyourtime.org.
5. The Abenaki people were here in Vermont long before European colonists arrived. Find out more about their cultural heritage and the struggles they have faced by attending this free virtual event, "We Are Still Here," part of Vermont Humanities' First Wednesdays series, on February 3, 2021. Find more information at vermonthumanities.org.
6. Test your knowledge of Vermont by playing Virtual Vermont Trivia. The Vermont Historical Society hosts these free, all-ages competitions on Zoom on Wednesday nights in January. Each night focuses on a different theme: Geography and Place Names, Famous Vermonters, People and Customs, and Vermont Miscellany. A championship on February 3 requires an entry fee — and includes prizes. Find more information at vermonthistory.org/calendar. Send in a Good Citizen entry each time you play.
7. Help document the history of the coronavirus pandemic by contributing your own photographs, stories, poems and videos to the Vermont Historical Society's COVID-19 archive. On its website, VHS asks "What's different in your community — empty streets and empty shelves, signs and restrictions, people talking to each other across the street? What's different in your own home — new routines, new office setups, new hobbies?" Find more information and a form explaining how to contribute at covid-19.digitalvermont.org. Send in a Good Citizen entry for each contribution you make.

**Find More Activities at
GoodCitizenVt.com!**



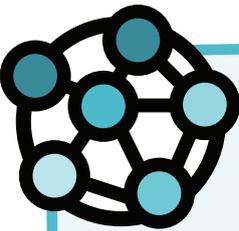
Want to win prizes? Complete activities and submit evidence online at GoodCitizenVT.com.



Government

Democracy is not a spectator sport! For it to work, you have to get off the sidelines and take action. Here are some activities that will help you understand how our government of the people, by the people and for the people actually works, and how you can participate in it.

1. Much of local and state government has moved online during the pandemic. Find out how you can watch your city council or school board meeting online and join the meeting. If you can't view the meeting while it's happening, watch one on TV or online via your local cable access channel. Don't know when these happen? Look on your city website, call the town offices, or have an adult post a question about it on your local Front Porch Forum.
2. Stream the 2020 documentary *Boys State* (rated PG-13). Winner of the U.S. Grand Jury Prize for a documentary at this year's Sundance Film Festival, the movie follows 1,000 teenage boys as they attempt to form a government during a weeklong summer camp in Austin, Texas. Available on Apple TV+.
3. Find out how you can use your local library during the pandemic. What resources are available? Check out an item or attend a remote class or event. Be sure to return any items you borrow on time.
4. In October, VPR's "But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids" released an episode answering questions about the election. Listen to this episode, called "Why Can't Kids Vote?" Find it at butwhykids.org.



Community Service

Vermont's state motto is "Freedom and Unity." In other words, while we prize our independence, we also recognize the importance of working together and looking out for one another. These activities will help you help others. That will make you feel good, too!

- Shovel snow for a neighbor. Don't know who needs help? Have an adult pose a question to your Front Porch Forum to find out.
- Make a card or mail a care package to an elderly person you know — or, with an adult's help, find elderly Vermonters you don't know who might appreciate a card. COVID-19 is particularly dangerous for people over 65, so many of them have been isolating themselves over the past few months. This winter is a great time to remind them that they haven't been forgotten.
- Conduct a socially distanced donation drive for your local food shelf. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to contribute. If you want to broaden your reach, have an adult promote it on your Front Porch Forum.
- Learn to make cloth face masks and donate masks to people who need them. Send in a Good Citizen entry each time you donate masks. Masks must be made by students or by a student-adult pair. Find a mask-making tutorial at kidsvt.com/make-masks.
- Listen to or read Willem Lange's *Favor Johnson: A Christmas Story*. This tale, about a Vermont farmer, his dog and a flatlander doctor, shows the ripple effects of a good deed. Find a recording of the story, which is broadcast every December on VPR, at [VPR.org](https://vpr.org).
- Green Up Day is a Vermont tradition. On the first Saturday in May, thousands of volunteers help pick up trash along the state's roadways. Green Up Day 2021 will take place on Saturday, May 1. Help inspire people to participate by entering the Green Up Day Poster Art and Writing Contests. Art submissions must be received by February 1. Poem and essay submissions are due on March 1. This year, Green Up Day added a contest for a 60-second video and a jingle. Those are due on April 1. Contests are open to all K-12 students, and you can enter them all if you'd like. Winners receive prizes. Find details at kidsvt.com/green-up-day-contests. Send in a Good Citizen submission for each contest you enter.
- Write a thank-you note to an essential worker who has helped you or your family during the pandemic. Send in a Good Citizen submission for each note you send.
- Make a brightly colored sign to put in your yard or your window to cheer up passersby.
- Paint a rock with a message of hope and leave it outside for someone else to find.
- Organize a fundraiser or donation drive with someone who disagrees with you politically, or bring two opposing sides together to do something positive that benefits the community. Be creative! Show that Vermonters can work together for the public good.

- Read *This Is What Democracy Looks Like: A Graphic Guide to Governance*, a comic book about democracy produced by the Center for Cartoon Studies, based in White River Junction. Download it at cartoonstudies.org/cartooningprojects/democracy.
- "Gerrymandering" is the practice of drawing congressional districts in a way that favors one political party over another. Learn how this practice affects elections by playing *Gerry Mander: A Voting District Puzzle Game* by Vermont-based GameTheory. Find the game at gametheorytest.com/gerry.
- Vermont is one of several states that has a part-time legislature. In a typical year, the Vermont House of Representatives and the Vermont Senate meet at the Statehouse in Montpelier from January until May or early June. How does this schedule affect who is able to serve in the Vermont legislature? Find out by listening to "Low Pay, Weird Schedule: Who Exactly Can Pull Off the Legislator Lifestyle?" an episode of VPR's podcast "Brave Little State," available at bravelittlestate.org.



News Literacy

Being a Good Citizen means keeping up with current events and seeking out responsible, fact-based local journalism. As our lives increasingly move online, being a Good Citizen also means understanding how the technology platforms we use every day influence the information we see and our reactions to it — and the information that others have about us.

- Tune in to one of the governor's twice-weekly press conferences about COVID-19 on VPR. Pay attention to how the governor and other state officials explain what's going on, and how the reporters ask them to clarify and expand on the topics. Send in an entry every time you listen. Find more information about how to listen at vpr.org/term/coronavirus. You can find all of the press conferences archived at the ORCA Media YouTube channel.
- Journalism isn't just about reporting facts; it's also about telling a compelling story. After an outbreak of the virus killed 21 residents at Birchwood Terrace, *Seven Days* reporters Derek Brouwer and Colin Flanders reconstructed how it happened. Read their story, "It's in the Building: How COVID-19 Overwhelmed a Burlington Nursing Home," from the June 3, 2020 issue. Find it at sevendaysvt.com. Did it give you a better understanding of the pandemic and its effect on nursing home residents and staff? If so, how?
- How do journalists interview and draw out their subjects? How are they doing their jobs in this difficult time? Erica Heilman, host and producer of the podcast "Rumble Strip," which airs on VPR, will tackle these questions and more during her free virtual talk, "Making Rumble Strip in My Closet," on Wednesday, January 6. Attend this free, virtual event, which is part of Vermont Humanities' First Wednesdays series. Find more information at vermonthumanities.org. Find out more about the podcast at rumblestripvermont.com.

NEWS LITERACY
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →

News Literacy

(CONTINUED)



4. Watch the 1999 documentary *The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords* (not rated), which recalls the pioneering — and largely forgotten — efforts of Black journalists who chronicled Black lives prior to the civil rights movement. Available for rent on Vimeo.
5. Watch the 2020 documentary *Coded Bias* (not rated), which reveals widespread discrimination in artificial intelligence. A free virtual screening is available to all Vermonters during Computer Science Week, December 7-13. The Vermont International Film Foundation is also screening the movie until December 17. Find information on both at sevendaysvt.com/coded-bias. Common Sense Media labels it as appropriate for ages 11 and up.
6. Watch the documentary-drama hybrid *The Social Dilemma* (PG-13). This 2020 film explores how social media platforms manipulate users' emotions. It includes numerous interviews with some of the people who created these tools who are now alarmed by the effect their creations are having on society. Available on Netflix.
7. Get a copy of your community newspaper in print, or visit its website. Read five stories. Do you recognize any people you know? Find a list of Vermont's 10 daily and three dozen non-daily newspapers at the Vermont Press Association website, vtpress.org.
8. Make your own newsletter for your family, neighborhood or school. What stories would be important to tell? How would you document this pandemic winter? What kinds of information do you and your readers need today? Interview people you see every day about what they're doing differently this winter. Be sure to check your facts before you publish them.



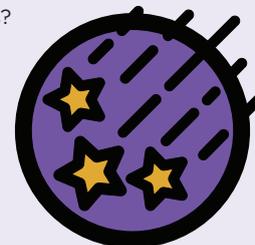
Find this scorecard and sign up for email updates at GoodCitizenVT.com.

U.S. Citizenship Civics Test

An adult who wasn't born a U.S. citizen and wants to become one must first get 12 correct answers on a 20-question civics test. Applicants study the answers to 128 possible test questions, not knowing which of those will appear on the test. Find all of the questions at uscis.gov/citizenship/2020test.

Get 12 correct answers to be eligible for Challenge prizes!

1. ___ What is the supreme law of the land?
2. ___ What amendment gives citizenship to all persons born in the United States?
3. ___ What U.S. war ended slavery?
4. ___ What is the name of the national anthem?
5. ___ Name the three branches of government.
6. ___ What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?
7. ___ How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?
8. ___ What does the president's Cabinet do?
9. ___ The president is in charge of which branch of government?
10. ___ How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have?
11. ___ Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
12. ___ What founding document was written in 1787?
13. ___ What territory did the U.S. buy from France in 1803?
14. ___ Why does the U.S. flag have 13 stripes?
15. ___ What is Memorial Day?
16. ___ Who was president during the Great Depression and World War II?
17. ___ Why did the U.S. enter the Persian Gulf War?
18. ___ James Madison is famous for many things. Name one.
19. ___ The president of the United States is elected for how many years?
20. ___ What is the capital of the United States?



Answers: 1. U.S. Constitution; 2. 14th; 3. the Civil War; 4. the Star-Spangled Banner; 5. legislative, executive and judicial or Congress, president and the courts; 6. The Senate and the House of Representatives; 7. 435; 8. advises the president; 9. executive; 10. 27; 11. Thomas Jefferson; 12. the U.S. Constitution; 13. the Louisiana territory/Louisiana; 14. to represent the 13 original colonies; 15. a holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service; 16. Franklin D. Roosevelt; 17. to force the Iraq military from Kuwait; 18. "Father of the Constitution," fourth president of the United States, president during the war of 1812.

ENTRY FORM

Team Name: _____

This is how we'll keep track of your entries during the Challenge.

Team Member Names: _____

Hometown: _____

This is the Vermont city or town where you live, or where most of your team lives.

CONTACT INFO

This is how we will contact you to send you a sticker, and to let you know if you won a prize.

Address/town/zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

We strongly encourage you to submit activities at goodcitizenvt.com. If you can't access the internet, mark your work on this scorecard and mail it to: **Good Citizen Challenge, Kids VT/Seven Days, 255 S. Champlain St., #5, Burlington VT 05401.**

Local Resources

- Front Porch Forum, frontporchforum.com
- Green Up Day, greenupvermont.org
- *Seven Days*, sevendaysvt.com
- Vermont Historical Society, vermonthistory.org
- Vermont Humanities, vermonthumanities.org
- VPR, VPR.org
- Vermont Press Association, vtpress.org

Podcasts

- Before Your Time, beforeyourtime.org
- Brave Little State, bravelittlestate.org
- Buy Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids, butwhykids.org
- Rumble Strip: Good Conversation That Takes Its Time, rumblestripvermont.com

Films

- *The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords*
- *Boys State*
- *Coded Bias*
- *The Social Dilemma*