

# RESPECT



Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1902



EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH  
Cub Scouts – Character

**DEFINITION:** A **RESPECTFUL** person treats both people and property with courtesy and honor; obeys rules and laws, is considerate of other people, and responds properly to people in positions of authority.

**DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER:** “A foundation of our American way of life is our national **RESPECT** for law.”

**A LESSON IN RESPECT:** In 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a landmark decision, ruling that it was unconstitutional to separate students in schools by race. In the next few years, school districts developed plans to “integrate” their schools, so that black and white students would go to school together. The federal courts had the authority to approve the plans. In Little Rock, Arkansas, the school board prepared to integrate Central High School in 1957. Nine students would be the first African-Americans to attend this all-white high school. They would be remembered in history as the “Little Rock Nine.” Those who objected to black and white students going to school together decided to try to stop racial integration. Even the governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, used state troops to keep the African-American students out of the school. When it became clear that the mob of people gathered at the school would not **RESPECT** the law, President Eisenhower made a televised speech to the American people. He said that the United States is a nation based on **RESPECT** for the “rule of law,” and if Americans do not **RESPECT** the law by obeying it, then society will fall into disorder and no one will be safe. President Eisenhower made the decision to order federal troops, the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, to Little Rock to enforce the law.

“This morning the mob again gathered in front of the Central High School of Little Rock, obviously for the purpose of again preventing the carrying out of the Court’s order relating to the admission of Negro children to that school. . . The very basis of our individual rights and freedoms rests upon the certainty

that the President and the Executive Branch of Government will support and insure the carrying out of the decisions of the Federal Courts, even, when necessary with all the means at the President's command."

**VISIT THE EISENHOWER MUSEUM:** Enter the Presidential Gallery, the last one in the museum. Walk past the train and the 1950s living room, on your left. The next exhibit area is called, "Civil Rights." There are a number of textboxes and photographs in this area. By reading and studying them, you will learn more about racial segregation and the emerging civil rights movement of the 1950s. Take a few minutes to examine the four documents housed in the display case. You will learn important details about the Little Rock Crisis. Overhead is a television monitor with a video about civil rights. Finally, there is a touch-screen kiosk in this exhibit area. One of the programs is a "Policy Debate" on civil rights where you can vote. If you have time, there are a number of other touch-screen kiosks in this gallery, beginning at the Plaza Theater movie marquee, located opposite the campaign train. Follow the story of an African-American man from post-World War II through the Eisenhower Presidency by visiting each of the touch-screen kiosks, located throughout the Presidential Gallery.

**LESSONS ON RESPECT:** What are the three most important lessons you have learned about **RESPECT** from your study of Dwight D. Eisenhower and the Little Rock Crisis?

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**SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED:** With whom will you share what you have learned about **RESPECT**? 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 **RESPECT** 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 Cub Scout level. Cub Scouts may earn up to two rockers per museum visit.