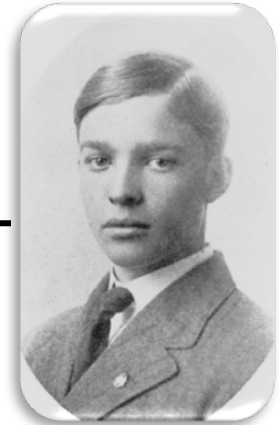


PREPARATION



EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH
Boy Scouts – Citizenship



Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1909

DEFINITION: In order to become a responsible and effective citizen, it is important to seek out, and embrace, experiences which **PREPARE** one for engaged citizenship.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER: “This—we must remember—is the full sweep and meaning of our purpose. It is nothing less than the **PREPARATION** of the youth of America for their greatest labors . . . to be alert and informed citizens, in an age when ignorance or misinformation could bring political catastrophe . . .”

CITIZENSHIP IS ABOUT PREPARATION: At nearly 50 years of age, Dwight D. Eisenhower had experienced periods of overwhelming frustration throughout his professional life. His career was not advancing as quickly as he had hoped. Over the decades, he had embraced professional opportunities and new experiences. His primary objective had been to become the best officer in the United States Army; he had worked very hard for more than 25 years to achieve it. What Eisenhower would not realize until mid-December 1941, was that his professional experiences **had PREPARED** him very well for positions of great responsibility and power. Not only had he become a first-rate soldier, he had gained exceptional leadership traits and skills, among them, exemplary character, interpersonal abilities, and flexibility. Aware of the need for good leadership in the army, he had encouraged it in others. Eisenhower’s decision-making style was a rather formal process that brought forward the best information and ideas from his staff, encouraged unfettered debate by everyone, and facilitated the molding of a true consensus. Eisenhower explained his philosophy of **PREPARATION** this way:

“ . . . [A]lways try to associate yourself closely with and learn as much as you can from those who know more than you, who do better than you, who see more clearly than you. Don’t be afraid to reach upward. Apart from the rewards of friendship, the association might pay off at some unforeseen time—that is only an accidental by-product. The important thing is that the learning will make you a better person.”

VISIT THE EISENHOWER MUSEUM: Proceed through the museum to the D-Day planning table. Look for a small display case labeled “Transcontinental Motor Convoy.” As you read the information and study the artifacts there, consider that this assignment was one for which Eisenhower volunteered. Take note of what you discover about the nature of America’s roads and highways in 1919. Next, locate the “Duckwall’s” storefront in the Presidential Gallery. Immediate ahead is an exhibit that showcases the story of the Interstate Highway Act, championed by President Eisenhower. His efforts on its behalf stemmed largely from his experiences traversing the country in 1919 and his observations of the German “autobahn,” in World War II. How did these two experiences help to **PREPARE** him for his role as President years later? From 1927 – 1929, Eisenhower served in France, revising a guidebook of World War I battle sites for the American Battle Monuments Commission. As a result, he became quite familiar with the French countryside and made an extended road trip with Mamie and friends to nearby European countries. If you have time, return to the “1927 – 1929 American Battle Monuments Commission” display (located next to the “Transcontinental Motor Convoy”). Study the maps you find here. Now, make your way to the “MAJOR BATTLES” of World War II exhibit area. View maps and photographs from D-Day through the VE-Day. How did Eisenhower’s years in France help to **PREPARE** him for his military leadership in Europe during World War II?

PREPARATION AND CITIZENSHIP: What are the three most important lessons you have learned about **PREPARATION** and citizenship from your study of Dwight D. Eisenhower?

SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED: With whom will you share what you have learned about **PREPARATION** and citizenship responsibilities? 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 **PREPARATION** 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.