

What is Patriotism?

When we think of a patriot, we think of people like George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Jefferson, patriots who make a huge impact on our country's future. We also think of soldiers who volunteered to fight for our country, and political activists like Martin Luther King Jr. But what can *you* do to be a patriot?

Being a patriot does not have to mean being a famous politician or someone who made a drastic change to our country. Being a patriot starts very basic, doing the things that help our country, such as paying your taxes, following laws, serving as a jury, and voting. Another form of patriotism is serving in the military, both actively and in the reserves. If you do not qualify to serve in the military, or have another occupation preventing you from doing so, you can still support the military by helping make care packages, or donating to military funds.

Another way to be a patriot is to help out in your community. One way to show support for America is to participate in parades and activities that celebrate our country. Just going out to the parade is showing you care enough to go out there and walk around. Some ways you can help out in your community by volunteering time and money to help good causes, such as the elderly, the disabled, and veterans who have served our country for many years. You can also volunteer towards passing new laws that better our community, such as building new structures and improving old ones.

When it comes to laws, just because you are a patriot does not mean you have to blindly follow your country. Being a patriot means wanting the best for your country, so you can start gathering support to change poor laws and get new ones signed instead. For example, Martin Luther King saw a huge issue in our country, and gathered support to get it changed without violence and causing disruptions. He is to this day one of the greatest patriots that ever lived, since he decided to have the country change for the better, not just ignore what he was experiencing. I think this is the most meaningful part of being a patriot - being able to recognize that your country is wrong, and more importantly, having the strength to do something about it.