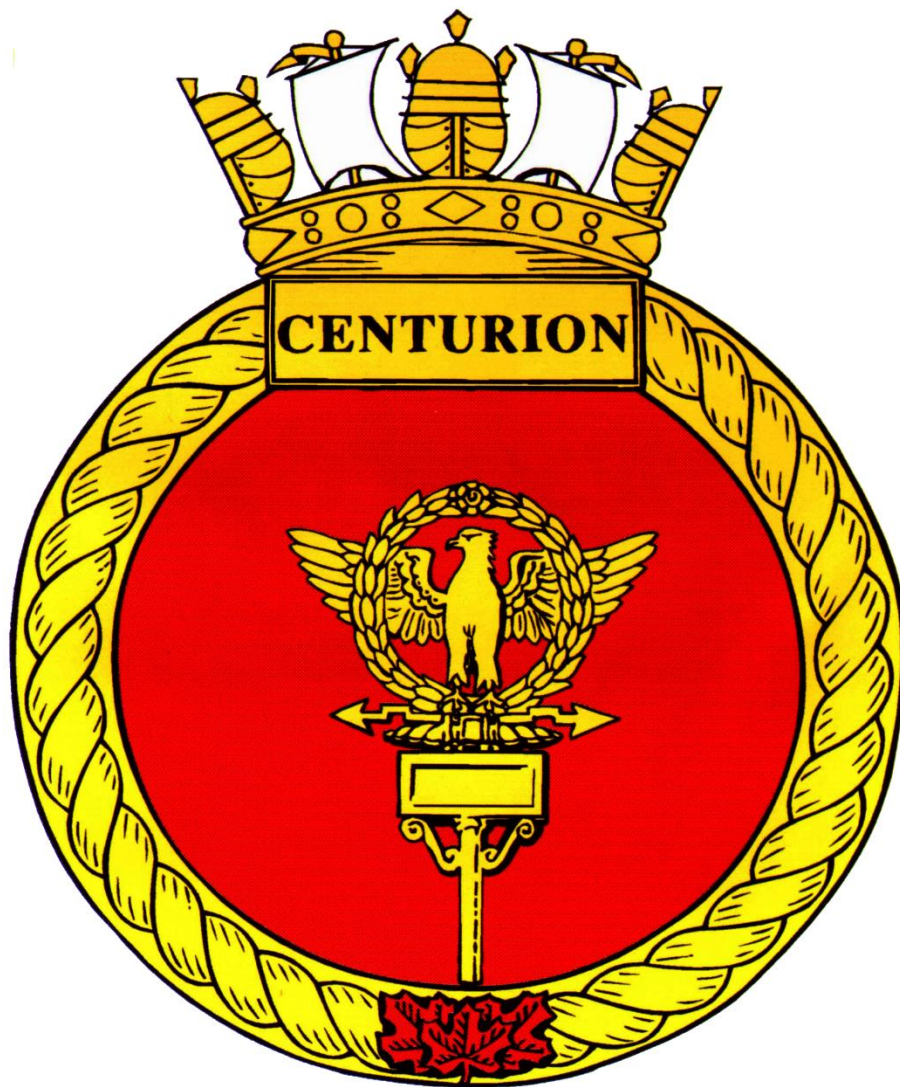


# Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Centurion Canadian Citizenship



# Canadian Citizenship

One of the aims of the Sea Cadet program is developing citizenship. What exactly does this mean? Being a good citizen is being an active member of your town or city by volunteering in activities that benefit the community. There are always community projects to be completed, which rely on the help of volunteers. Your corps will ask you to help with many different activities. As a Sea Cadet you are expected to participate enthusiastically. It can be lots of fun!

## Community Service

Maybe a service group needs your help to provide assistance to less privileged members of the community. Service groups are dedicated to providing help to the less fortunate, raising funds for research, and providing medical treatment. Volunteer work is rewarding and will leave you feeling good about helping out.

Here are some volunteer ideas:

- Canvas for the HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION.
- Volunteer at your local food bank for an afternoon.
- Collect non-perishable food to donate to your food bank.
- Teach someone to read.

*“Did you know that the Order of Canada was established on July 1, 1967, Canada's 100th birthday? It honours Canadians who have made outstanding contributions at the international, national, or local level.”*

In addition to be a good citizen, what does it mean to be a Canadian citizen? We live in one of the best countries in the world. Canadians enjoy a high standard of living with many rights and privileges. We have excellent health care, education, and employment opportunities.

What are our expectations of you as a good Canadian citizen?

- Be loyal to Canada.
- Obey Canada's laws.
- Respect the rights of others.
- Respect private and public property.
- Care for Canada's heritage.
- Support Canada's ideals.

## CANADIAN SYMBOLS



Canadian Coat of Arms

His Majesty King George V appointed the Canadian Coat of Arms to Canada in the court of Buckingham Palace on 21 November 1921.

Canadian Heritage Website, [www.canadianheritage.gc.ca](http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca)

Test your knowledge of Canadian symbols

What Am I?



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Notes about me:

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NAME **SIX COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUPS** OFTEN FOUND IN CANADIAN COMMUNITIES:

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3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

### REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVANCES

Every 11th of November Remembrance Day is held to commemorate Canadians who died in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. The first Remembrance Day, originally called Armistice Day, was conducted throughout the Commonwealth in 1919. The day commemorated the end of the First World War, on Monday, November 11, 1918 at 11 a.m., the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The symbol of Remembrance Day is the poppy, popularized by LCol John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields*.

### BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC (NAVY)

The greatest battle the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) fought during WWII was the Battle of the Atlantic. Winning this battle was of vital importance to the war effort in order to resupply the battlefields. The freedom of the oceans was also vital to the survival of Britain. If the allies ever hoped to invade mainland Europe and defeat Hitler's armies, they needed Britain as a staging ground, and would require more men, food and equipment. The supply lines across the Atlantic from North America to the United Kingdom became increasingly more important. It was a fight to the death against a highly trained enemy for supremacy of the Atlantic Ocean. It involved tens of thousands of ships and hundreds of thousands of sailors.

The Battle of the Atlantic was the longest battle of WWII, and was fought from September 1939 to May 1945. Canada's navy began WWII with 13 vessels and 1819 personnel, and ended it with the third largest navy in the world.

At war's end, the RCN had over 600 ships and over 90 000 members, including 6 500 women who served in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Services ("WRENS"). The RCN lost over 2000 sailors and 32 ships, and more than 300 sailors were wounded.

The contribution of the merchant navy was also significant. When the war began, Canada had 38 oceangoing merchant vessels of 1000 tons or more and 1450 merchant crewmen. Over 400 merchant ships were built in Canada during the war, and Canada finished the war with the fourth largest merchant navy in the world. Approximately 1600 Canadian merchant seamen died. Escort of merchant ship convoys was the RCN's chief responsibility during the Battle of the Atlantic. By mid-1942, the RCN, with support from the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), was providing nearly half the convoy escorts, and eventually carried out the lion's share of escort duty. In the raging ocean storms, bitter cold and ice packs of the North Atlantic more than 25 000 merchant ship voyages were made over the duration of the war. During the 2060 days of war the convoys provided 90 000 tons of war supplies a day to the battlefields of Europe. Success came at a great cost in human lives, lost ships and cargo, and as a result of tremendous courage and determination.

The most intense phase of the Battle of the Atlantic occurred during 1941-1943.

The Battle of the Atlantic is honoured on the first Sunday in May, at locations across Canada.

## Wreaths Across Canada

Wreaths Across Canada is a non-profit organization dedicated to honouring and remembering all the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces for their service to preserving freedom and democracy in Canada and worldwide.

With over 225,000 deceased members of the Canadian Armed Forces buried in cemeteries coast-to-coast, WREATHS ACROSS CANADA encourages Canadians to make a personal connection with veterans, interred at burial sites, by placing balsam wreaths at their headstones. This ceremony is carried out on the first Sunday of December, at a time of year when families typically begin to gather.

WREATHS ACROSS CANADA was both inspired and modelled after Wreaths Across America , where their laying of wreaths ceremonies take place at over 300 military cemeteries in the United States of America before the Christmas holidays. In this way, WREATHS ACROSS CANADA encourages all communities to take similar steps to personally recognize and reflect upon the sacrifices and contributions of Canada's greatest heroes.

Indisputably, we must never forget the words of a great soldier:

"...To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields."

## Conclusion

To be a good citizen you have to make an effort. You must care not only for yourself, but also for your family and for society. Good citizenship demands participation, involvement and contribution. A good citizen will strive to make a worthwhile contribution that benefits the country as a whole and not just themselves.