

**Citizenship Theme**  
**2010-2011**  
**“What Being Free Means to Me”**

**DATE:** July 2010

**TO:** PTA/PTSA PRESIDENTS  
CITIZENSHIP CHAIRMEN

**FROM:** Deb Fox, Citizenship Coordinator  
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**RE: 2010-2011 STUDENT CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST  
2010-2011 PTA/PTSA UNIT CITIZENSHIP AWARD  
2011-2012 THEME SEARCH CONTEST**

Many PTA units throughout Indiana include the promotion of patriotism and good citizenship in their goals and plans. Their activities vary from being as simple as including the Pledge of Allegiance and a flag ceremony in their meetings to being *THE* program at the meeting. There are citizenship bulletin boards, Red/White/Blue Days, and door decorating contests. Some PTAs celebrate Veteran’s Day in a special, memorable way. Several PTSA’s provide voter registration opportunities or arrange for students to serve as Pages at the State House. Many creative programs have been created to support our troops deployed in other countries. You do many things, almost automatically, related to citizenship and patriotism. Just stop and think about it!

To promote good citizenship, the Indiana PTA is again sponsoring the Student Citizenship Essay Contest for students in grades 4-12. The 2010-2011 theme is “What Being Free Means to Me...” It was submitted by Aaron Rose from Robert C. Harris Elementary in Fort Wayne. I hope you will inform your students and your teachers of the contest early in the year and encourage them to participate. It offers a great opportunity for your students to think about our country, what it means to them, and what they can do for it and others. They will also be recognized for their work.

PTAs/PTSAs are invited to apply for the PTA Unit Citizenship Award. A plaque will be presented to one unit at State Convention in the spring of 2011 in recognition of their work in this year.

Students will have an opportunity again this year to have input into the selection of next year’s theme as they participate in the Citizenship Theme Search Contest. Use the official “Theme Search” form that is included in this packet. Please forward their entries to me.

**The DEADLINE (postmarked/hand delivered) for ALL Citizenship entries is January 15, 2011.**