



CHARACTER COUNTS COALITION of OSWEGO / MONTGOMERY

The Character Counts Coalition embraces the **CHARACTER COUNTS!** Program and the “Six Pillars of Character”– *trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship*. The Coalition would now like to introduce a program that will recognize members of our communities that have displayed exceptional **CHARACTER COUNTS!** characteristics.

1. Program Objectives:

- To recognize good character and reinforce socially desirable behavior.
- To demonstrate that good people are newsworthy.
- To foster positive relations between the police departments and the communities.
- To promote **CHARACTER COUNTS!** in our communities.
- To reinforce the educational focus of developing people of good character.

2. Program Goals:

- To mirror the Josephson Institute of Ethics’ national program **CHARACTER COUNTS!** by having police officers publicly acknowledge and reinforce what is right from wrong with a specifically designed program that promotes award-winning character utilizing the Six Pillars of Character. The police officers in the Oswego and Montgomery Police Departments share in the core values of **CHARACTER COUNTS!** and its educational benefits for our youth.

3. How the program will work:

- Program will be administered through the Character Counts Coalition.
- Nomination forms will be available at the Oswego and Montgomery village halls, Oswego and Montgomery police departments, all the schools, prominent businesses, the Oswego and Montgomery libraries, Oswego and Montgomery Park Districts and the Chambers of Commerce, and on the Character Counts! Coalition website which is accessible through the Community Resources link on the www.oswego308.org homepage.
- When a person is recognized for demonstrating good character, that person can be nominated for an “AWARD-WINNING CHARACTER” award. The person who witnessed the award-winning character must complete and submit a nomination form. The nomination forms can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Julie VanCamp or Mary Dwyer (contact information is on the nomination form).
- The CCC Board will accept nominations year round but select winners a minimum of three times per year.
- The CCC Board will review the submitted nomination forms at their meeting in the month prior to the Village Board meeting at which the awards will be presented.
- The CCC Board will select the most deserving of the nominations submitted in each age group and each Pillar (*Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship*). The Decision of the committee is final.



- All other nominees will be sent a letter from the police departments letting them know that they were observed displaying “Award-Winning Character” and thanked for making our communities a better place to live.

4. Criteria of the Award-Winning Character Program

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| • Be honest | • Be reliable |
| • Don't steal | • Have courage to do the right thing |
| • Build a good reputation | • Be loyal |
| • Treat others with respect (Golden Rule) | • Be tolerant of differences |
| • Use good manners, no bad language | • Be considerate of others feelings |
| • Don't threaten, hit, or hurt others | • Deal peacefully with disagreements |
| • Persevere | • Use self-control |
| • Always do your best | • Be considerate |
| • Be accountable | • Play by the rules |
| • Take Turns | • Be open-minded |
| • Listen to others | • Don't blame others carelessly |
| • Be kind | • Be compassionate |
| • Express gratitude | • Forgive others |
| • Help others in need | • Make your community a better place |
| • Cooperate | • Vote |
| • Be a good neighbor | • Obey the laws and rule |
| • Respect authority | |
| • Protect the environment | |

5. Awards

- Award winners will each receive a specially-designed **CHARACTER COUNTS!** T-shirt. The colors on the T-shirt will represent the colors associated with each of the Six Pillars.
- A certificate will be presented at the Village Board meeting by the Character Counts! Coalition President and the Chief of Police assignee on the first Monday of November, March, and May at the meeting in Oswego and Montgomery respectively.
- The names of the award winners will be posted in the local news paper and they will be invited to participate with the Oswego and Montgomery Police Departments in the annual Prairie Fest parade.

Now more than ever, the Oswego and Montgomery Police Departments feel that we need to identify and recognize individuals in our communities who represent good character. By creating these prestigious awards, others in our communities will have the opportunity to celebrate our true heroes and the future leaders. In addition, the program will enhance the relationship between the Police Departments and the citizens of the communities, and foster positive interaction so the word can get out that **CHARACTER COUNTS!** in everyone.

CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Six Pillars of Character are service marks of the **CHARACTER COUNTS!** Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics