

# LEE'S SUMMIT CARES CHARACTER COUNCIL

## FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY IS COOPERATION

*Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the COOPERATION of many minds. I may be given credit for having blazed the trail, but when I look at the subsequent developments, I feel the credit is due to others rather than to myself.*  
Alexander Graham Bell

### I Will:

- \* Control my emotions.
- \* Respect the boundaries set by others
- \* Stay away from addictive substances.

### Character Family Steps \*

1. Model Good Character
2. Praise Good Character
3. Teach Good Character
4. Recognize Good Character
5. Correct for Good Character

\*2000 International Association of Character Cities

### Family Activities:

- Have children draw their interpretation of the character trait.
- Relate stories of family members or friends who are good examples of the monthly character trait.
- Try to find character traits in stories/books.
- Make a game of including the character trait of the month in conversations.
- Relate chores and achievements to character trait of the month.
- Emphasize trait in family discussions.



### Books about Cooperation:

- The Chocolate Train, by Joanne Kornfeld Ages 4-8.
- Getting Past No - Negotiating Your Way from Confrontation to Cooperation by William Ury
- The Evolution of Cooperation by Robert Axelrod
- Easy Activities for Building Social Skills, by Nancy Jolson Leber Ages Prek - 1.
- Ready to Use Social Skills & Activities for Grades 7-12, by Ruth Weltmann Begun

### Movies involving Cooperation:

- October Sky (1999) Director Joe Johnston - Age 10+ Rated PG
- Remember the Titans (2000) Director, Boaz Yakin - Age 11+ Rated PG
- Fat Man and Little Boy (1989) Director Roland Jaffe Age 13+ rated PG13

Tools for the Community of Character can be found at [www.lscharacter.org](http://www.lscharacter.org) the website of Lee's Summit CARES Character Council. Check the Download icon for available items. E-mail us your story.

**Cooperation defined:**  
*To work together to reach a common goal.*

### Historical Example of Cooperation

The beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States is often cited as the day Rosa Parks, an unknown seamstress, refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white person, December 1, 1955. The bus incident led to the formation of the Montgomery Improvement Association, led by the young pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The association called for a boycott of the city-owned bus company. The boycott lasted 382 days and brought Mrs. Parks, Dr. King and their cause to the attention of the world. A Supreme Court Decision struck down the Montgomery ordinance under which Mrs. Parks had been fined, and outlawed racial segregation on public transportation.

<http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/par/bio-1>

### Cooperation applied:

Can you remember a time when you demonstrated cooperation?

- Worked with your family members to clean the house.
- Resolved a controversial issue through cooperation rather than conflict
- Served on a committee to solve a problem at school or in the community.