

## What Makes A Hero and How I Help My Local Community

By: August Edwards, 8 years old

Heroes are nice, brave, helpful, and caring. Heroes are nice because they care about other people, animals, and the environment. Heroes are brave when they are scared, but still do hard things. They are helpful when they use their super powers or talents to protect others. They are caring when they see problems and try to help.

All heroes must also complete the hero's journey. There are 12 steps in a hero's journey. Those steps begin with starting at the status quo. Then there is a call to adventure, assistance, departure, trials, approach, crisis, treasure, result, return, new life, resolution, and a new status quo. Military children go through similar steps when we move with our families.

As a military child, my status quo began when I was born in South Carolina. I lived there for 3 years and made lots of friends and had a favorite park I went to everyday. My call to adventure started when we had to move to Washington for my dad's job. We got assistance from the movers. They helped us get all of our things from our old house to our new house. We also stopped to visit friends along the way, while driving across the country. My departure was leaving everything I knew, to begin a new adventure in a different state. I felt unsure of what my new life would be like. I felt sad to leave my old friends and family. I was also excited to meet new friends. One trial of moving to a new home is making new friends. Going to new places and meeting all new people is hard, when I missed my old friends and things I used to do. Moving into a new house is also hard because we had to unpack all our things and figure out where they would go. Soon though, I felt happy because I met new friends and found new things to do. However, we only had 4 years at our new home. We approached a new move. My crisis was when I found out we were moving somewhere else. I had to begin a new life again. However, I learned my treasure from living in different places is that I got to experience a lot of things. In Washington, I got to visit new parks. I made a lot of good friends. I saw the Pacific Ocean. I did lots of hiking, and saw sea lions at the beach. At my new home, I've made new friends, went camping, and played new sports. I have also been able to keep in touch with my old friends and talk to them almost everyday. We play Roblox together too. I have returned to a new normal. I have new friends I play with everyday. I have new favorite places I like to go. I do school work and attend a co-op every week. I still talk to my old friends everyday. My new life is different, but in a lot of ways, it's the same. I go to parks a lot, I play videos, I play with my friends, and my family and I still play Jenga. My resolution is that I can keep in touch with old friends by calling them, playing video games together, and looking at pictures. My new status quo is cool because I get more outside time and I'm glad I can still talk to my friends, even though I wish I could still see them in person.

How have I been a hero in my community?

I have been a hero in my community by helping in a lot of ways. I care a lot about my environment, so I collected Spartina seeds with my mom and dad. Those seeds were grown

and then planted by the Marsh Keepers to regrow the marshlands in our area. I care about others, so I also volunteer with a food bank once a month. At the food bank's free farmers market, I restock tables and pass out food to people in need. I care about animals, so I made homemade dog treats for the local animal shelter to give to their dogs. I also read a dog waiting to be adopted. Heroes don't always help in big ways, little ways add up too! For example, I helped a person get a straw when I noticed he could not reach it at the store. Helping others when you notice people need help, makes the world a kinder place.