“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”
Requirements

1. What is the Constitution of the United States? What does the Constitution do? What principles does it reflect? Why is it important to have a Constitution?

2. List the six purposes for creating the United States Constitution set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution. How do these purposes affect your family and community?

3. List the three branches of the United States government. Explain:
   a. The function of each branch of government
   b. Why it is important to divide powers among different branches
   c. How each branch "checks" and "balances" the others
   d. How citizens can be involved in each branch of government.

4. Discuss the importance of:
   a. Declaration of Independence
   b. The Bill of Rights (the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution) and the 14th Amendment
   c. The traditional United States motto “E Pluribus Unum.”

5. Watch the national evening news for five days in a row or read the main stories in a national media organization (e.g., a newspaper or news website) for five days in a row. Discuss the national issues that you learned about with your counselor. Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and community.
6. With your counselor’s approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Explain:
   a. Who the author was
   b. What the historical context was
   c. What difficulties the nation faced that the author wished to discuss
   d. What the author said
   e. Why the speech is important to the nation’s history.

Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.

7. Do TWO of the following:
   a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.
   b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.
   c. Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.
   d. Choose a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the internet (with your parent’s permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned, and explain why the monument is important to this country’s citizens.

8. Name your representatives in the United States Congress. Write a letter to your representative in Congress explaining your views on a national issue. Show your letter, along with any response you receive, to your counselor your letter and any response you might receive to your counselor.
Resources

Scouting Literature

With your parent’s permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America’s official retail website, www.scoutshop.org, for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books
Organizations and Websites

American Civil Liberties Union
125 Broad St., 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Telephone: 212-549-2500
Website: www.aclu.org

Congress.gov
Website: www.congress.gov

Democratic National Committee
Telephone: 202-863-8000
Website: www.democrats.org

GovSpot
Website: www.govspot.com

League of Women Voters
Telephone: 202-429-1965
Website: www.lwv.org

National Constitution Center
Independence Mall
525 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Telephone: 215-409-6600
Website: www.constitutioncenter.org

National Park Service
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240
Telephone: 202-208-6843
Website: www.nps.gov

Republican National Committee
Telephone: 202-863-8500
Website: www.gop.com

U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233
Telephone: 301-763-4636
Website: www.census.gov

The U.S. Constitution Online
Website: www.usconstitution.net

U.S. Government Publishing Office
Telephone: 202-512-1800
Website: www.gpo.gov

U.S. House of Representatives
Telephone: 202-224-3121
Website: www.house.gov

U.S. Senate
Telephone: 202-224-3121
Website: www.senate.gov

U.S. Supreme Court
Telephone: 202-479-3000
Website: www.supremecourt.gov

USA.gov
Website: www.usa.gov

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500
Telephone: 202-456-1414
Website: www.whitehouse.gov

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