



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
MERIT BADGE SERIES

# CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATION



*"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"*

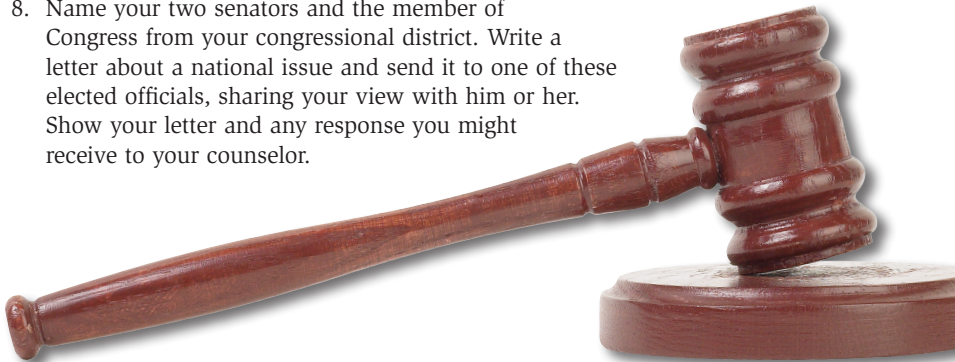


BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

# Requirements

1. Explain what citizenship in the nation means and what it takes to be a good citizen of this country. Discuss the rights, duties, and obligations of a responsible and active American citizen.
2. 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.
3. Watch the national evening news five days in a row OR read the front page of a major daily newspaper five days in a row. Discuss the national issues you learned about with your counselor. Choose one of the issues and explain how it affects you and your family.

4. Discuss each of the following documents with your counselor. Tell how you feel life in the United States might be different without each one.
  - a. Declaration of Independence
  - b. Preamble to the Constitution
  - c. The Constitution
  - d. Bill of Rights
  - e. Amendments to the Constitution
5. List the six functions of government as noted in the preamble to the Constitution. Discuss with your counselor how these functions affect your family and local community.
6. With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Find out about the author, and tell your counselor about the person who gave the speech. Explain the importance of the speech at the time it was given, and tell how it applies to American citizens today. Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.
7. Name the three branches of our federal government and explain to your counselor their functions. Explain how citizens are involved in each branch. For each branch of government, explain the importance of our checks and balances system.
8. Name your two senators and the member of Congress from your congressional district. Write a letter about a national issue and send it to one of these elected officials, sharing your view with him or her. Show your letter and any response you might receive to your counselor.



# Resources

## Scouting Literature

*The Constitution of the United States; American Business, American Cultures, American Heritage, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the World, and Law* merit badge pamphlets

With your parent's permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website, [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org), for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## Books

- Feinberg, Barbara Silberdick. *The Articles of Confederation: The First Constitution of the United States*. Twenty-First Century Books, 2002.
- Freedman, Russell. *Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence*. Holiday House, 2002.
- Jaffe, Steven H. *Who Were the Founding Fathers? Two Hundred Years of Reinventing American History*. Henry Holt and Co., 1996.
- Kassinger, Ruth. *U.S. Census: A Mirror of America*. Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 1999.
- Krull, Kathleen. *A Kid's Guide to America's Bill of Rights: Curfews, Censorship, and the 100-Pound Giant*. HarperCollins, 2015.
- Mackintosh, Barry. *The National Park Service*. Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.
- Maestro, Betty. *A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution*. HarperCollins, 2008.
- McHugh, Erin. *National Parks: A Kid's Guide to America's Parks, Monuments, and Landmarks*. Black Dog & Leventhal, 2012.
- McIntire, Suzanne, ed. *The American Heritage Book of Great American Speeches for Young People*. John Wiley & Sons, 2001.
- Panchyk, Richard. *Keys to American History: Understanding Our Most Important Historic Documents*. Chicago Review Press, 2009.
- Selzer, Adam. *The Smart Aleck's Guide to American History*. Delacorte Press, 2009.
- Zeinert, Karen. *Free Speech: From Newspapers to Music Lyrics*. Enslow Publishers, 1995.

## Organizations and Websites

### American Civil Liberties Union

125 Broad St., 18th Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
Telephone: 212-549-2500  
Website: [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)

### Congress.gov

Website: [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)

### Democratic National Committee

Telephone: 202-863-8000  
Website: [www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org)

### GovSpot

Website: [www.govspot.com](http://www.govspot.com)

### League of Women Voters

Telephone: 202-429-1965  
Website: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

### National Constitution Center

Independence Mall  
525 Arch St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Telephone: 215-409-6600  
Website: [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org)

### National Park Service

1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
Telephone: 202-208-6843  
Website: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

### Republican National Committee

Telephone: 202-863-8500  
Website: [www.gop.com](http://www.gop.com)

### U.S. Census Bureau

4600 Silver Hill Road  
Washington, DC 20233  
Telephone: 301-763-4636  
Website: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

### The U.S. Constitution Online

Website: [www.usconstitution.net](http://www.usconstitution.net)

### U.S. Government Publishing Office

Telephone: 202-512-1800  
Website: [www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov)

### U.S. House of Representatives

Telephone: 202-224-3121  
Website: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

### U.S. Senate

Telephone: 202-224-3121  
Website: [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

### U.S. Supreme Court

Telephone: 202-479-3000  
Website: [www.supremecourt.gov](http://www.supremecourt.gov)

### USA.gov

Website: [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)

### The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
Telephone: 202-456-1414  
Website: [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

## Acknowledgments

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