CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATION

“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA MERIT BADGE SERIES
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

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


**Resources**

**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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