



Citizenship in the Nation

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215.

Requirements revised: 2005, Workbook updated: November 2008.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Ph #: _____

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 your counselor 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

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 the system of checks and balances.

Branch: _____

Function: _____

Citizen Involvement: _____

Importance of Checks & Balances: _____

Branch: _____

Function: _____

Citizen Involvement: _____

Importance of Checks & Balances: _____

Branch: _____

Function: _____

Citizen Involvement: _____

Importance of Checks & Balances: _____

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 receive to your counselor. _____

Online Resources (Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)

Boy Scouts of America: ► scouting.org ► [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) ► [Age-Appropriate Guidelines](#) ► [Safe Swim Defense](#)
 ► [Scout](#) ► [Tenderfoot](#) ► [Second Class](#) ► [First Class](#) ► [Rank Videos](#) ► [Safety Afloat](#)
 Boy Scout Merit Badge Workbooks: usscouts.org -or- meritbadge.org Merit Badge Books: www.scoutstuff.org

Requirement Resources

- 1: Citizenship: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizenship>
 Rights: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_nationality_law#Rights_of_citizens
 Duties: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duty> Jury Duty: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jury_duty
 Obligations (Responsibilities): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_nationality_law#Responsibilities_of_citizens
- 2a: Find National Historic Landmarks: <http://tps.cr.nps.gov/nhl/default.cfm>
 Find local places listed in the National Register of Historic Places: <http://www.nr.nps.gov/>
- 2c: Your local post office is a federal facility. To find their address and phone number to arrange a tour:
<http://www.usps.com/locator/welcome.htm?from=home&page=0060locatapo>
- 2d: List of National Monuments: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_National_Monuments_of_the_United_States
- 3: Links to major daily newspaper websites: <http://www.newspaperlinks.com/voyager.cfm>
- 4a: Declaration of Independence: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence
- 4b: Preamble to the Constitution: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preamble_to_the_United_States_Constitution
- 4c: The Constitution: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Constitution
 The U. S. Constitution Online: <http://www.usconstitution.net>
- 4d: Bill of Rights: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Bill_of_Rights
- 4e: Amendments to the Constitution: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_amendments_to_the_United_States_Constitution
- 5: Six functions of government from the first six articles: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Constitution
- 6: Famous speeches: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Famous_speeches
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gettysburg_Address http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_have_a_dream
 Presidential Speeches: <http://comm.tamu.edu/pres/speech.html>
- 7: Branches of Government: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Branches_of_government#United_States:_three_branches
- 8: Citizenship in the Nation MB Pamphlet, page 41: "You can write a letter online or send a letter by mail."
 Write a letter online to your Senator or Congressman: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>
 U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov> U.S. Senate: <http://www.senate.gov>

General Resources

American Civil Liberties Union: http://www.aclu.org	Democratic National Committee: http://www.democrats.org
FirstGov: http://www.firstgov.gov	GovSpot: http://www.govspot.com
League of Women Voters: http://www.lwv.org	National Constitution Center: http://www.constitutioncenter.org
National Park Service: http://www.nps.gov	Republican National Committee: http://www.rnc.org
Thomas: http://thomas.loc.gov	U.S. Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov

U.S. Government Printing Office: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>

U.S. Supreme Court: <http://www.supremecourtus.gov>

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov>