# Citizenship in the Nation

## Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor.
You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.
You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed,
and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.
If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show",
"tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

**Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.**

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Boy Scout Requirements (Pub. 33216 – SKU 637685).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2005 • This workbook was updated in May 2017.

Scout's Name:_____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Phone No.: _____

http://www.USScouts.Org • http://www.MeritBadge.Org

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: Workbooks@USScouts.Org
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org

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1. Explain what citizenship in the nation means and what it takes to be a good citizen of this country.

What citizenship in the nation means:

What it takes to be a good citizen:

Discuss the rights, duties, and obligations of a responsible and active American citizen.

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Duties,

Obligations:.

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

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e. Amendments to the Constitution

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5. List the six functions of government as noted in the preamble to the Constitution.

| Function | Discuss with your counselor how these functions affect your family and local community. |
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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.

Importance at the time:

How it applies 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.

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|---|---|
| Senator: | |
| Senator: | |
| Member of Congress: | |

☐ 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.

**When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088).Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf.**
**You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf.**