MERIT BADGE SERIES







CITIZENSHIP
IN THE COMMUNITY





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY



"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"

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35870.indd 1 11/12/15 2:59 PM

Requirements

1. Discuss with your counselor what citizenship in the community means and what it takes to be a good citizen in your community. Discuss the rights, duties, and obligations of citizenship, and explain how you can demonstrate good citizenship in your community, Scouting unit, place of worship, or school.

2. Do the following:

   a. On a map of your community or using an electronic device, locate and point out the following:

      (1) Chief government buildings such as your city hall, county courthouse, and public works/services facilities

      (2) Fire station, police station, and hospital nearest your home

      (3) Parks, playgrounds, recreation areas, and trails

      (4) Historical or other points of interest

   b. Chart the organization of your local or state government. Show the top offices and tell whether they are elected or appointed.

3. Do the following:

   a. Attend a meeting of your city, town, or county council or school board; OR attend a municipal, county, or state court session.

   b. Choose one of the issues discussed at the meeting where a difference of opinions was expressed, and explain to your counselor why you agree with one opinion more than you do another one.

4. Choose an issue that is important to the citizens of your community; then do the following:

   a. Find out which branch of local government is responsible for this issue.

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35870.indd 2 11/12/15 2:59 PM

b. With your counselor's and a parent's approval, interview one person from the branch of government you identified in requirement 4a. Ask what is being done about this issue and how young people can help.

c. Share what you have learned with your counselor.

5. With the approval of your counselor and a parent, watch a movie that shows how the actions of one individual or group of individuals can have a positive effect on a community. Discuss with your counselor what you learned from the movie about what it means to be a valuable and concerned member of the community.

6. List some of the services (such as the library, recreation center, public transportation, and public safety) your community provides that are funded by taxpayers. Tell your counselor why these services are important to your community.

7. Do the following:

   a. Identify three charitable organizations outside of Scouting that interest you and bring people in your community together to work for the good of your community.

   b. Pick ONE of the organizations you chose for requirement 7a. Using a variety of resources (including newspapers, fliers and other literature, the Internet, volunteers, and employees of the organization), find out more about this organization.

   c. With your counselor's and your parent's approval, contact the organization you chose for requirement 7b, and find out what young people can do to help. While working on this merit badge, volunteer at least eight hours of your time for the organization. After your volunteer experience is over, discuss what you have learned with your counselor.

8. Develop a public presentation (such as a video, slide show, speech, digital presentation, or photo exhibit) about important and unique aspects of your community. Include information about the history, cultures, and ethnic groups of your community; its best features and popular places where people gather; and the challenges it faces. Stage your pres-entation in front of your merit badge counselor or a group, such as your patrol or a class at school.

35870.indd 3 11/12/15 2:59 PM

Resources

Scouting Literature

Boy Scout Handbook; American Business, American Cultures, American Heritage, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Crime Prevention, Photography, Public Speaking, and *Scouting Heritage* merit badge pamphlets

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website at http://www.scoutstuff.org for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books

Abress, Monica Dwyer. *Quietly at Work: Township Government in America.* Specialty Press Publishers, 2000.

Bankston, John. *Careers in Community Service.* Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2001.

Bowman, Ann, and Richard C. Kearney. *State and Local Government.* Houghton Mifflin Company, College Division, 2001.

Brownlie, Alison. *Charities: Do They Work?* Raintree Publishers, 1999.

Burns, James M., and others. *State & Local Politics: Government by the People.* Prentice Hall, 2001.

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Gary, Lawrence. *How to Win a Local Election: A Complete Step-by-Step Guide.* M. Evans, 1999.

Isler, Claudia. *Volunteering to Help in Your Neighborhood.* Scholastic Library Publishing, 2000.

Jungreis, Abigail. *Know Your Hometown History: Projects and Activities.* Franklin Watts, 1992.

Lewis, Barbara A., Pamela Espeland, and Caryn Pernu. *Kids' Guide to Social Action: How to Solve the Social Problems You Choose—and Turn Creative Thinking Into Positive Action.* Free Spirit Publishing Inc., 1998.

Kielburger, Marc, and Craig Kielburger. *Take Action! A Guide to Active Citizenship.* John Wiley & Sons Inc., 2002.

Perry, Susan K. *Catch the Spirit: Teen Volunteers Tell How They Made a Difference.* Scholastic Library Publishing, 2000.

Ryan Jr., Bernard. *Community Service for Teens 8-Volume Set.* Facts on File, 1998.

Rusch, Elizabeth. *Generation Fix: Young Ideas for a Better World.* Beyond Words Publishing Inc., 2002.

35870.indd 31 11/12/15 3:00 PM

Organizations and Websites

GovSpot
Website: http://www.govspot.com

Kids Care Clubs
975 Boston Post Road
Darien, CT 06820
Website: http://www.kidscare.org

National Constitution Center
Independence Mall
525 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Website:
http://www.constitutioncenter.org

National Crime Prevention Council
2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22202
Website: http://www.ncpc.org

USA.gov
Office of Citizen Services
and Communications
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F St. NW
Washington, DC 20405
Website: http://www.usa.gov

U.S. Census Bureau
Website: http://www.census.gov

VolunteerMatch
Website: http://www.volunteermatch.org

Youth Activism Project
Website: http://www.youthactivism.com

Youth Service America
Website: http://ysa.org

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Brian Payne—pages 10, 13, and 23–24 *(both)*

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35870.indd 32 11/12/15 3:00 PM