



CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATION

Merit Badge 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 have 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
 - E) Amendments to the Constitution
- 5) List the six function 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 the system of checks and 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.

Requirement 1

Explain what citizenship in the nation means: _____

Explain what it means to be a good citizen of this country: _____

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

Requirement 2

You have been given four options for this requirement. Select and complete TWO of them.

If you selected *Option A*:

Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Which place did you visit: _____

Tell what you learned about the landmark or site: _____

Tell what you found interesting about it: _____

Requirement 4

For this requirement you have been asked to discuss with your counselor the following documents. As part of your discussion you will need to tell how you feel life in the United States might be different without each one. Use the space below to write your feelings before your discussion with your counselor so that you are prepared for your meeting. Check off each one as you discuss them with your counselor

___ Declaration of Independence – How do you feel life in the United States might be different without it? _____

___ Preamble to the Constitution - How do you feel life in the United States might be different without it? _____

___ The Constitution - How do you feel life in the United States might be different without it? _____

___ Bill of Rights - How do you feel life in the United States might be different without it? _____

___ Amendments to the Constitution - How do you feel life in the United States might be different without them? _____

Requirement 5

List the six functions of government as noted in the preamble to the Constitution. Explain how these functions affect your family and local community.

FUNCTION: _____

AFFECT ON FAMILY: _____

AFFECT ON COMMUNITY: _____

FUNCTION: _____

AFFECT ON FAMILY: _____

AFFECT ON COMMUNITY: _____

FUNCTION: _____

AFFECT ON FAMILY: _____

AFFECT ON COMMUNITY: _____

FUNCTION: _____

AFFECT ON FAMILY: _____

AFFECT ON COMMUNITY: _____

FUNCTION: _____

AFFECT ON FAMILY: _____

AFFECT ON COMMUNITY: _____

FUNCTION: _____

AFFECT ON FAMILY: _____

AFFECT ON COMMUNITY: _____

Requirement 6

With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance.

What speech did you choose? _____

Who is the Author? _____

Tell a little about the Author: _____

Explain the importance of the speech at the time it was given: _____

Tell how the speech applies to American citizens today: _____

Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you: _____

Tell why the above sentences have significant meaning to you: _____

Requirement 7

Name three branches of our federal government and explain their functions. Also, explain how citizens are involved in each branch. And explain the importance of the system of checks and balances for each branch.

Branch: _____

Function: _____

How are citizens involved in this branch? _____

Explain the importance of the system of checks and balances in this branch: _____

Branch: _____

Function: _____

How are citizens involved in this branch? _____

Explain the importance of the system of checks and balances in this branch: _____

Branch: _____

Function: _____

How are citizens involved in this branch? _____

Explain the importance of the system of checks and balances in this branch: _____

Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

Requirement 8

List two senators from your congressional district: _____ and _____.

Name the member of Congress from your congressional district: _____.

Write a letter to one of these elected officials on a national issue, sharing your view with him or her.

I wrote a letter to _____, sharing my view on the national issue of _____.
(Keep a copy of the letter you wrote and show it to your merit badge counselor)

I did get a response from them saying: _____

_____ I did not get a response to my letter.