



# Citizenship in the Community

## Merit Badge Workbook

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

The work space provided for each requirement should be used by the Scout to make notes for discussing the item with his counselor, not for providing the full and complete answers. Each Scout must do each requirement.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in **Boy Scout Requirements** (Pub. 33216 – SKU 616334).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2013 • This workbook was updated in January 2013.

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](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

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.

Rights: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Duties: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Obligations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

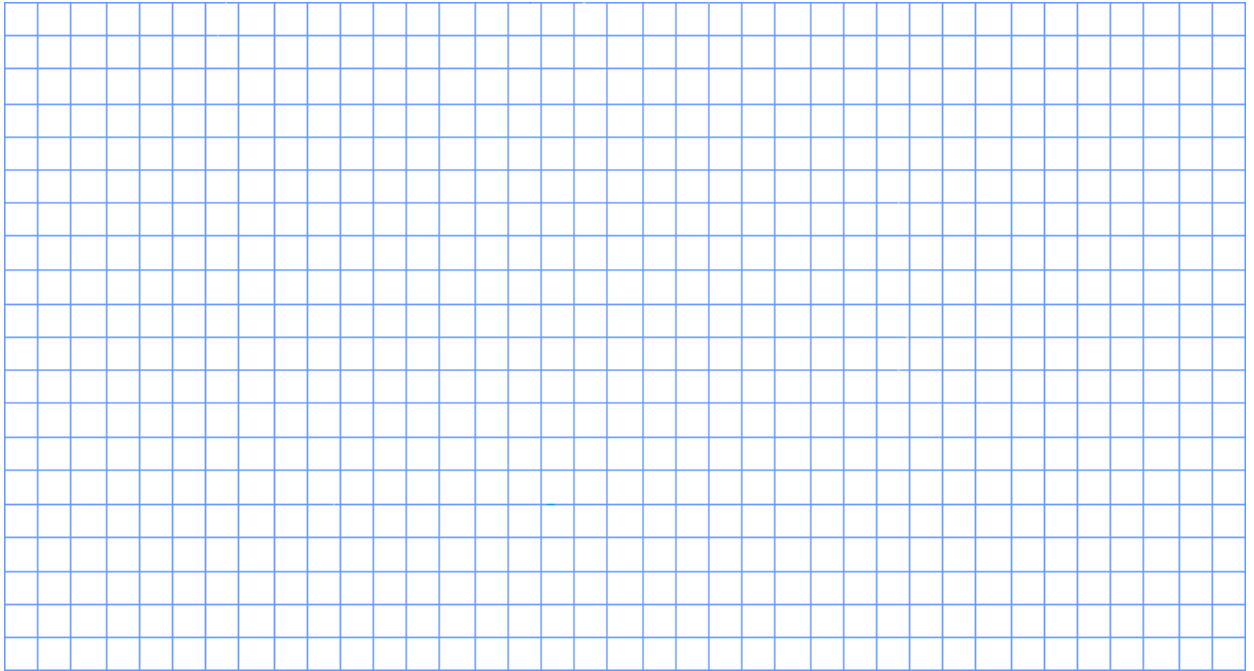
Explain how you can demonstrate good citizenship in your community, Scouting unit, place of worship, or school.: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do the following:

a. On a map of your community, locate and point out the following:

- 1. Chief government buildings such as your city hall, county courthouse, and public works/services facility
- 2. Fire station, police station, and hospital nearest your home
- 3. Historical or other interesting points

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 a municipal, county, or state court session. (Identify the meeting or session attended): \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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. \_\_\_\_\_

What is being done: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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.

Movie: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Service                      Tell your counselor why these services are important to your community.

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7. Do the following:

- a. Choose a charitable organization outside of Scouting that interests you and brings people in your community together to work for the good of your community.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Using a variety of resources (including newspapers, fliers and literature, the Internet, volunteers, and employees of the organization), find out more about this organization. \_\_\_\_\_

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- c. With your counselor's and your parent's approval, contact the organization and find out what young people can do to help. \_\_\_\_\_

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- 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. \_\_\_\_\_

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- 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 presentation in front of your merit badge counselor or a group, such as your patrol or a class at school.

**Requirement resources can be found here:**  
[http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Citizenship\\_in\\_the\\_Community#Requirement\\_resources](http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Citizenship_in_the_Community#Requirement_resources)

## Important excerpts from the [‘Guide To Advancement’](#), No. 33088:

Effective January 1, 2012, the ‘Guide to Advancement’ (which replaced the publication ‘Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures’) is now the *official* Boy Scouts of America source on advancement policies and procedures.

- **[ Inside front cover, and 5.0.1.4 ] — Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program**  
***No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements.***  
(There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with disabilities. For details see section 10, “Advancement for Members With Special Needs”.)
- **[ Inside front cover, and 7.0.1.1 ] — The [‘Guide to Safe Scouting’](#) Applies**  
Policies and procedures outlined in the ‘Guide to Safe Scouting’, No. 34416, apply to all BSA activities, including those related to advancement and Eagle Scout service projects. [Note: Always reference the online version, which is updated quarterly.]
- **[ 7.0.3.1 ] — The Buddy System and Certifying Completion**  
Youth members must not meet one-on-one with adults. Sessions with counselors must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, guardian, brother, sister, or other relative—or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge— along with him attending the session. When the Scout meets with the counselor, he should bring any required projects. If these cannot be transported, he should present evidence, such as photographs or adult certification. His unit leader, for example, might state that a satisfactory bridge or tower has been built for the Pioneering merit badge, or that meals were prepared for Cooking. If there are questions that requirements were met, a counselor may confirm with adults involved. Once satisfied, the counselor signs the blue card using the date upon which the Scout completed the requirements, or in the case of partials, initials the individual requirements passed.
- **[ 7.0.3.2 ] — Group Instruction**  
It is acceptable—and sometimes desirable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings. This often occurs at camp and merit badge midways or similar events. Interactive group discussions can support learning. The method can also be attractive to “guest experts” assisting registered and approved counselors. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material.

There must be attention to each individual’s projects and his fulfillment of *all* requirements. We must know that every Scout—actually and *personally*— completed them. If, for example, a requirement uses words like “show,” “demonstrate,” or “discuss,” then every Scout must do that. It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of sitting in classrooms *watching* demonstrations, or remaining silent during discussions. Because of the importance of individual attention in the merit badge plan, group instruction should be limited to those scenarios where the benefits are compelling.

- **[ 7.0.3.3 ] — Partial Completions**  
Scouts need not pass all requirements with one counselor. The Application for Merit Badge has a place to record what has been finished—a “partial.” In the center section on the reverse of the blue card, the counselor initials for each requirement passed. In the case of a partial completion, he or she does not retain the counselor’s portion of the card. A subsequent counselor may choose not to accept partial work, but this should be rare. A Scout, if he believes he is being treated unfairly, may work with his Scoutmaster to find another counselor. An example for the use of a signed partial would be to take it to camp as proof of prerequisites. Partials have no expiration except the 18th birthday.