



Citizenship in the Community

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 Scouts BSA Requirements (Pub. 33216 – SKU 653801).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2016 • This workbook was updated in June 2020.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

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

<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

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:

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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:

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.

Who was interviewed?

What is being done?

How can young people 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.

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.

1.:	
2.	
3.	

- b. Pick ONE of the organizations you chose for requirement 7a. _____

Using a variety of resources (including newspapers, fliers and 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.

Date	From	To	Hours served

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

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>.