

Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge

Updated: 12/20/24

Name:

Unit - Troop:

Member ID:

Email:

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 (what you should do), and obligations (what you have to do) of citizenship, and explain how you can demonstrate good citizenship in your community, Scouting unit, place of worship, or school.

Rights:

Duties:

Obligations:

2. Do the following:
 - a. Using an electronic mapping tool or paper map, locate and pinpoint the following services and landmarks in your community. Also provide a table that shows that you have determined and recorded the distances from your home including driving time AND either walking or biking time.
 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. Parks, playgrounds, recreation areas, and trails
 4. Historical or other interesting points of interest

You need to mark the sites yourself, either electronically or using a pencil or pen. If you decide to draw the map from scratch, make sure it includes road names.

You will need to send me a pic of the marked-up map, AND a record of the distances required.

USE A SEPARATE ATTACHMENT FOR THE MAP

Also provide a table that shows that you have determined and recorded the distances from your home including driving time AND either walking or biking time.

Distance table:

(circle which one)

Location	Distance from Home - Miles	Driving Time	Walking or Biking Time
Fire Department			
Police Department			
Hospital			
Library			
Playground			
Historical Site			
Public Works			
Other:			
Other:			

A speed and distance time calculator can be found here:

<https://www.timecalculator.net/speed-distance-time-calculator>

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

Note: you need to draw your own chart, not just copy and paste one.

Use a separate attachment for this chart

An organization chart or "org chart" is a diagram that displays a reporting or relationship hierarchy. The most frequent application of an org chart is to show the structure of a business, government, or other organization. Org charts have a variety of uses, and can be structured in many different ways. The org chart shows the relationships of the people and areas within an organization or government.

3. Do the following:
- Attend an in-person meeting of your city, town, or county council or school board, local court session; OR another state or local governmental meeting approved in advance by your counselor.

Name of meeting or session attended:

- 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:

Why do you agree or disagree with one opinion more than the other, why?

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

Issue:

- Find out which branch of local government is responsible for this issue.
- 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. (Tell me who you interviewed and what you found out) You cannot satisfy this requirement by just sending them a letter. You have to interview them.

Who interviewed:

What is being done:

How can young people help:

- 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 name:

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.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 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.

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 a group, such as your patrol or a class at school OR send your merit badge counselor a video of you giving your presentation.

Show the presentation to your counselor before presenting it.