



Citizenship in the Nation

Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet and any course information document

A free copy of the merit badge pamphlet can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-the-nation/>

This workbook was updated in July 2025.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit _____ Date Started _____

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

1. What is the Constitution of the United States?

What does the Constitution do?

What principles does it reflect?

Why is it important to have a constitution?

2. List the six purposes for creating the United States Constitution set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution.

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

How do these purposes affect your family and community?

3. List the three branches of the United States government.

1.	
2.	
3.	

Explain:

a. The function of each branch of government

Legislative.	
Executive.	
Judicial.	

- b. Why it is important to divide powers among each branch?

- c. How each branch "checks" and "balances" the other two

- d. How citizens can be involved in each branch of government.

Legislative.	
Executive.	
Judicial.	

4. Discuss the importance of:

- a. Declaration of Independence

- b. The Bill of Rights (the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution) and the 14th Amendment

Bill of Rights

c. The United States motto "E Pluribus Unum" (What does it mean? Why is it important?)

5. Watch the national evening news for five days in a row or read the main stories in a national media organization (e.g., a newspaper or news website) for five days in a row.

Start date:		End Date:	
News Source:			

Discuss the national issues that you learned about with your counselor

Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and your community.

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

Explain:

a. Who the author was

b. What the historical context was

c. What difficulties the nation faced that the author wished to discuss

d. What the author said

e. Why the speech is important to the nation's history.

Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.

Sentence(s) You chose:

Why it has significant meaning to you:

7. 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.

What did you visit: _____

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. What did you visit? _____

Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.

- ☐ c. Tour a federal facility. What did you tour? _____

- ☐ Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.

- ☐ d. Choose a United States national monument that interests you.

Monument chosen: _____

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.

8. Name your representatives in the United States Congress.

Senator	
Senator	
Representative	

Write a letter to your representative in Congress explaining your views on a national issue

- ☐ Show your letter, along with any response you might receive, to your counselor.

***** ATTACH A COPY OF THE LETTER YOU SENT *****