



C: At Camporee  
O: Outside Camporee

## Citizenship in the Nation

C

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?

C

2. List the six purposes for creating the United States Constitution set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution. How do these purposes affect your family and community?

C

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

a. The function of each branch of government

b. Why it is important to divide powers among different branches

c. How each branch "checks" and "balances" the others

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

C

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

c. The traditional United States motto "*E Pluribus Unum.*"

C or O

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. Discuss the national issues that you learned about with your counselor. Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and community.

- C 6. With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Explain:
- Who the author was
  - What the historical context was
  - What difficulties the nation faced that the author wished to discuss
  - What the author said
  - 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.
- O 7. Do TWO of the following:
- 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.
  - Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.
  - Tour a federal facility. 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.
  - 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.
- C 8. Name your representatives in the United States Congress. 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.

## RESOURCES

# Resources

## Scouting Literature

*The Constitution of the United States; American Business, American Cultures, American Heritage, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the World, and Law* merit badge pamphlets

With your parent's permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website, [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org), for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## Books

- Feinberg, Barbara Silberdick. *The Articles of Confederation: The First Constitution of the United States*. Twenty-First Century Books, 2002.
- Freedman, Russell. *Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence*. Holiday House, 2002.
- Jaffe, Steven H. *Who Were the Founding Fathers? Two Hundred Years of Reinventing American History*. Henry Holt and Co., 1996.
- Kassinger, Ruth. *U.S. Census: A Mirror of America*. Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 1999.
- Krull, Kathleen. *A Kid's Guide to America's Bill of Rights: Curfews, Censorship, and the 100-Pound Giant*. HarperCollins, 2015.
- Mackintosh, Barry. *The National Park Service*. Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.
- Maestro, Betty. *A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution*. HarperCollins, 2008.
- McHugh, Erin. *National Parks: A Kid's Guide to America's Parks, Monuments, and Landmarks*. Black Dog & Leventhal, 2012.
- McIntire, Suzanne, ed. *The American Heritage Book of Great American Speeches for Young People*. John Wiley & Sons, 2001.
- Panchyk, Richard. *Keys to American History: Understanding Our Most Important Historic Documents*. Chicago Review Press, 2009.
- Selzer, Adam. *The Smart Aleck's Guide to American History*. Delacorte Press, 2009.
- Zeinert, Karen. *Free Speech: From Newspapers to Music Lyrics*. Enslow Publishers, 1995.

## **Organizations and Websites**

### **American Civil Liberties Union**

125 Broad St., 18th Floor New York, NY  
10004 Telephone: 212-549-2500 Website:  
[www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)

### **Congress.gov**

Website: [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)

### **Democratic National Committee**

Telephone: 202-863-8000 Website:  
[www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org)

### **GovSpot**

Website: [www.govspot.com](http://www.govspot.com)

### **League of Women Voters**

Telephone: 202-429-1965 Website:  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

### **National Constitution Center**

Independence Mall 525 Arch St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19106 Telephone: 215-  
409-6600 Website:

[www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org)

### **National Park Service**

1849 C St. NW Washington, DC 20240  
Telephone: 202-208-6843 Website:  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

### **Republican National Committee**

Telephone: 202-863-8500 Website:  
[www.gop.com](http://www.gop.com)

### **U.S. Census Bureau**

4600 Silver Hill Road Washington, DC  
20233 Telephone: 301-763-4636 Website:  
[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

### **The U.S. Constitution Online**

Website: [www.usconstitution.net](http://www.usconstitution.net)

### **U.S. Government Publishing Office**

Telephone: 202-512-1800 Website:  
[www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov)

### **U.S. House of Representatives**

Telephone: 202-224-3121 Website:  
[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

### **U.S. Senate**

Telephone: 202-224-3121 Website:  
[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

### **U.S. Supreme Court**

Telephone: 202-479-3000 Website:  
[www.supremecourt.gov](http://www.supremecourt.gov)

### **USA.gov**

Website: [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)

### **The White House**

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington,  
DC 20500 Telephone: 202-456-1414  
Website: [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

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