



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## HAWK MOUNTAIN COUNCIL

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter is being shared with you to explain the new BSA requirement for all Scouts to complete the Citizenship in Society Merit Badge as part of their Trail to Eagle starting July 1, 2022. First and foremost, I would like to emphasize that the Citizenship in Society Merit Badge's focus is on incorporating the Scout Oath and the Scout Law further into a Scout's daily life. Scouts will consider an expanded definition of diversity and will discuss ways in which they can serve as upstanders (someone who intervenes on behalf of a person being bullied) in their schools, troops, and communities.

The BSA's Chief Diversity Officer, Elizabeth Ramirez-Washka, explains the change this way "this merit badge will help Scouts learn about the diverse, unique identities and characteristics we each possess, understand different perspectives and experiences, and learn how to encourage an inclusive and welcoming culture in Scouting." She continues "I think we can all agree that raising our children to be more empathetic, kind, respectful and inclusive is one of the best things we can do as parents. I believe these expansions to our organization and programming will ultimately open the door to enable more youth to benefit from Scouting, and to make our Scouts even more effective leaders and members of society, while positioning BSA as an essential, relevant experience that upholds the trusted values of Scouting, such as "to do a good turn daily," as we should all aspire to do."

Citizenship in Society will not have a merit badge book and there is no "correct" answer for any of the requirements. Counselors will serve as discussion facilitators and Scouts will be encouraged to participate fully in conversation. Each Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Counselor from our Council will have training specific to facilitating the merit badge. This is a new method for working on a merit badge and, at first, it will be an adjustment for all of us. Keeping the Scout Oath and Scout Law at the forefront will help us to create a positive experience for all.

This merit badge will become Eagle Scout required for all youth who have not completed all the requirements for the Eagle Scout rank by June 30, 2022, including for youth that have received an extension.

If you have questions or would like to discuss Citizenship in Society further, please give me a call at the Council Office or contact me at [jim.milham@scouting.org](mailto:jim.milham@scouting.org). Thank you for your support of Scouting and the youth of the Hawk Mountain Council.

Sincerely,

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