



# Citizenship in the Nation

## 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

**Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.**

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.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found on Scouting.org.

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2022 • This workbook was updated in November 2023.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Date Started \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this workbook to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
Comments or suggestions for changes to the requirements for the merit badge should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

1. What is the Constitution of the United States?


What does the Constitution do?


What principles does it reflect?


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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

1.	
2.	
3.	

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.


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

1<sup>st</sup> Amendment


2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment


3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment


4<sup>th</sup> Amendment


5<sup>th</sup> Amendment


6<sup>th</sup> Amendment


7<sup>th</sup> Amendment


8<sup>th</sup> Amendment


9<sup>th</sup> Amendment


10<sup>th</sup> Amendment


14<sup>th</sup> Amendment


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


- 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 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 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.

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>.