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| **Merit Badge:** | | Citizenship in the Community |
| **Counselor Name:** | | **Helen Gesell and Ben White** |
| **Phone Number:** | | **HG 708-955-6418; BW 224.343.6402** |
| **E-mail Address:** | | **HG** [**scouter9933@yahoo.com**](mailto:scouter9933@yahoo.com)  **BW** [**benwhite4158@gmail.com**](mailto:benwhite4158@gmail.com) |
| **Preferred Method of Contact:** | | **Email both counselors, indicate your session time and date and the appropriate counselor will respond.** |
|  | **Prerequisites:**  *list all requirements which need to be completed in advance* | **2 (a)** On a map of your community, locate and point out following**:**  **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  **2 (b)** Chart the organization of your local or state government. Show the top offices and tell which are elected or appointed.  **3 (a)** Attend a city or town council or school board meeting, or a municipal; county, or state court session**. (view one online if possible)**  **3 (b)** 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.  **4)** Choose an issue that is important to the citizens of your community; then do the following:  **4 (a)** Find out which branch of local government is responsible for this issue.  **4 (b)** With your counselor’s and 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.  **4 (c)** 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. Discuss with your counselor what you learned from the movie about what it means to be a valuable and concerned member of the community.  **7 (a)** Choose a charitable organization outside of Scouting that interests you and brings people in your community together to work for the good of your community.  **7 (b)** 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.  **7 (c)** With your counselor’s and your parent’s approval, contact the organization 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. 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 your merit badge counselor or a group, such as your patrol or a class at school. |
| **Class Work:**  *list all requirements which  will be completed in class* | **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, and obligations of citizenship, and explain how you can demonstrate good citizenship in your community, Scouting unit, place of worship, or school.  **6)** List some of the services (such as the library, recreation center, public transportation, and public safety, city government, parks, national parks, shelters, police station, courts, state parks) your community provides that are funded by taxpayers. Tell your counselor why these services are important to your community.  **Everyone will get a chance to discuss their own personal experiences within requirements 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8** |
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| **Use of “Online” Workbook:** | | Helpful found at = [http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets](about:blank) |
| **Purchase of Merit Badge Booklet:** | | NOT REQUIRED |
| **Number of Sessions needed:**  *each session is 2 hours* | | **1 session might only take 90 minutes, but a full 2 hours will be scheduled.** |
| **Maximum Class Size:** | | **10** |
| **Notes and/or Comments:** | | 1. I understand that requirement 3 may not be able to be completed until current social distancing requirements are eased. However, check with your city as they are allowing you to attend virtually. 2. Same with requirement 4. Some cities are allowing a question/answer session. 3. If you email me your completed prerequisites at least one day BEFORE our session, I can review your work in advance and be ready to issue a partial/full blue card. But you can also forward me the prerequisites after the session as well. |