



Citizenship in the Community

Merit Badge Workbook

Requirements current as of 2026

Unofficial study aid • Not affiliated with or endorsed by Scouting America



This workbook can help you, but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet. It 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. Use the space provided for each requirement to keep track of what you have completed and to make notes for discussing it with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers. Where a requirement says to discuss, explain, describe, or tell, that is what you must do.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Scouts BSA Requirements (Pub. 33216) and on [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org).

The requirements were last revised January 1, 2026 • This workbook was updated in October 2026.

Scout's Name: Unit: Date Started:

Counselor's Name: Phone No.: Email:

Made by Cole at [ScoutSmarts.com](https://scoutsmarts.com), an Eagle Scout who loves helping Scouts. Spot an error? Tell me at scoutsmarts.com/contact.

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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.

Scouting America resources: [What is Citizenship? \(video\)](#) • [Rights and Responsibilities \(video\)](#) • [Responsibilities of the Charter Commission \(video\)](#)

What citizenship in the community means, and what makes a good citizen:

Rights, duties, and obligations of citizenship:

How I can show good citizenship in my community, unit, place of worship, or school:

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2. Do the following:

Tip: Google Maps' Directions button shows driving, walking, and biking times. Write them in the tables before you meet your counselor, and save or print your map to show them.

- ☐ a. Using an electronic mapping tool or paper map, locate and pinpoint the following services and landmarks in your community. Determine and record the distances from your home including driving time AND either walking or biking time.

Scouting America resources: [National Map \(app\)](#) • [Google Maps \(app\)](#) • [Apple Map \(app\)](#) • [How To Create a Table in a Word Document Online \(video\)](#)

Map I used: ☐ Electronic mapping tool ☐ Paper map

Pinpoint each place on your map, then fill in the tables below. Record the driving time AND either the walking or biking time.

- ☐ (1) Chief government buildings such as your city hall, county courthouse, and public works/services facilities

Place	Name and address	Distance from home	Drive time	Walk or bike time
City hall				
County courthouse				
Public works or services facility				
Other government building				

- ☐ (2) Fire station, police station, and hospital nearest your home

Place	Name and address	Distance from home	Drive time	Walk or bike time
Fire station				
Police station				
Hospital				

- ☐ (3) Parks, playgrounds, recreation areas, and trails

Place	Name and address	Distance from home	Drive time	Walk or bike time
Park				
Playground				
Recreation area				
Trail				

- ☐ (4) Historical or other interesting points of interest

Place	Name and address	Distance from home	Drive time	Walk or bike time
Historical site				
Point of interest				
Point of interest				

- ☐ b. Chart the organization of your local or state government. Show the top offices and tell whether they are elected or appointed.

Scouting America resources: [Three Branches of Government at the State Level \(video\)](#) • [The Role and Functions of Local Government \(video\)](#)

I charted my: ☐ Local government ☐ State government

Draw your chart on paper or a slide if your counselor wants a diagram. Put the top office at the top and mark each office (E) for elected or (A) for appointed.

	Top office	Branch	Who holds it now	Elected or appointed?
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

3. Do the following:

Tip: School board meetings are often the easiest to attend. Look up the agenda ahead of time so you know which issues will come up, and take notes on each speaker's side.

- ☐ a. Attend an in-person meeting of your city, town, or county council or school board, local court session; OR another state or local governmental meeting approved in advance by your counselor.

Scouting America resources: [How Does the US Court System Work? \(video\)](#) • [What Do School Boards Do? \(website\)](#) • [What Does My Local School Board Do? \(video\)](#) • [How a City Council Meeting Works \(video\)](#) • [Community Court \(website\)](#)

Meeting type: ☐ City, town, or county council ☐ School board ☐ Local court session

☐ Other state or local meeting my counselor approved in advance:

Meeting I attended in person:

Date:

Notes from the meeting:

- ☐ 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.

Scouting America resources: [Note Taking Assignment Tips \(website\)](#) • [Note Taking Methods \(video\)](#)

The issue, and the different opinions about it:

Why I agree with one opinion more than another:

4. Choose an issue that is important to the citizens of your community; then do the following:

- ☐ a. Find out which branch of local government is responsible for this issue.

Issue I chose:

Branch of local government responsible:

- ☐ b. With your counselor's and a parent or guardian's approval, interview one person from the branch of government you identified in requirement 4(a). Ask what is being done about this issue and how young people can help.

Scouting America resources: [Tips and Tricks on Preparing and Conducting an Interview \(video\)](#)

☐ Counselor approved ☐ Parent or guardian approved

Person I interviewed:

Title or office:

Date of interview:

What is being done about this issue:

How young people can help:

- ☐ c. Share what you have learned with your counselor.

What I learned:

5. With the approval of your counselor and a parent or guardian, 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.

Scouting America resources: [Remember the Titans Trailer \(video\)](#)

Tip: Right after the movie, take five minutes to write a short summary of the main character, their message, and what they gave up to help their community.

☐ Counselor approved ☐ Parent or guardian approved

Movie title: Date watched:

What I learned about being a valuable and concerned member of the community:

6. List some of the services (such as the library, recreation center, public transportation, and public safety) your community provides that are funded by taxpayers. Tell your counselor why these services are important to your community.

Scouting America resources: [Taxes: What Do They Pay For \(video\)](#) • [Check Out Your State's Funding Today! \(website\)](#)

	Taxpayer-funded service	Why it's important to my community
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

7. Do the following:

- ☐ a. Identify three charitable organizations outside of Scouting that interest you and bring people in your community together to work for the good of your community.

Scouting America resources: [How to Find the Best Charities \(video\)](#) • [Charity Navigator \(website\)](#) • [The Tax Exempt Organization Search Tool \(website\)](#) • [Better Business Bureau \(website\)](#) • [American Red Cross \(website\)](#) • [Habitat for Humanity \(website\)](#) • [The YMCA \(website\)](#)

	Charitable organization	What it does	How it brings people together
1			
2			
3			

- ☐ b. Pick ONE of the organizations you chose for requirement 7(a). Using a variety of resources (including newspapers, flyers and other literature, the internet, volunteers, and employees of the organization), find out more about this organization.

Scouting America resources: [Finding a Good Charity \(video\)](#) • [Volunteer Opportunities \(website\)](#) • [Charity Navigator \(website\)](#) • [Charity Ratings \(website\)](#) • [Mobile Food Pantry Eagle Project \(video\)](#)

Organization I picked:

Resources I used:

What I found out about this organization:

- ☐ c. With your counselor's and your parent or guardian's approval, contact the organization you chose for requirement 7(b), 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.

Scouting America resources: [Benefits of Community Service \(video\)](#)

☐ Counselor approved ☐ Parent or guardian approved

Contact person:

Date contacted:

What young people can do to help:

Tip: Schedule your eight volunteer hours early. Log each visit as you go and note which tasks you liked, so you're ready to talk it through with your counselor.

Volunteer Hours Log

	Date	What I did	Hours	Supervisor initials
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

Total volunteer hours (at least 8):

What I learned:

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 counselor or a group, such as your patrol or a class at school.

Scouting America resources: [How To Organize and Deliver a Great Presentation \(video\)](#)

Tip: Don't just list facts. Tell a story: start with what makes your community special, show the challenges it faces, and end with how people are making a difference.

☐ Video ☐ Slide show ☐ Speech ☐ Digital presentation ☐ Photo exhibit ☐ Other:

Presentation Planner

Topic	My notes
History	
Cultures and ethnic groups	
Best features	
Popular places where people gather	
Challenges it faces	

Presented to:

Date:

Counselor Sign-Off

Your counselor signs your blue card or approves the badge in Scoutbook, and your unit records it. This sign-off is for your own records.

Counselor's Signature:

Date Completed:

Official Scouting America Resources

- [Citizenship in the Community merit badge pamphlet \(free PDF\)](#)
- [Citizenship in the Community requirements and resources \(Scouting.org\)](#)
- [All merit badges \(Scouting.org\)](#)

More help: [Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge Guide](#) (ScoutSmarts.com)