

Citizenship in the Nation

Merit Badge Workbook

Merit badges are earned by doing: reading the pamphlet, practicing the skills, and showing your counselor what you have learned.
This workbook gives you a place to organize your notes and track your progress along the way.
Merit badge counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbook.
You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.
Use the space under each requirement to note what you have done and what you want to talk about, not to write out full answers.
When a requirement says discuss, show, tell, explain, or demonstrate, that is what you must do.
No one may add to or subtract from the official requirements found on scouting.org (Guide to Advancement 7.0.4.8).
Scouting America last updated this badge's requirements page on March 27, 2026.
Requirements change from time to time. Double-check scouting.org before you start.

Scout's name: _____ Unit: _____ Date started: _____

Counselor's name: _____ Phone no.: _____ Email: _____

Links marked "Scouting America resources" are the ones Scouting America shares on its official badge page.
Links marked "ScoutSmarts" open the matching part of Cole's guide. This workbook is unofficial and not endorsed by Scouting America.

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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?

Scouting America resources: Creating the Constitution (video) · What Is Federalism? | Things Explained (video) Walkthrough of the Constitution | Constitution 101 (video) · The Bill of Rights (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 1 explained

What the Constitution is

What the Constitution does

The principles it reflects

Why it is important to have a Constitution

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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?

Scouting America resources: What Does the Preamble Actually Mean? (video) · What Is Ratification? (video)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 2 explained

The six purposes in the Preamble

Purpose	How it affects my family and community

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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

(a) The function of each branch of government

Scouting America resources: What Is the Legislative Branch of the U.S. Government? (video) · US Senate (website)
US House of Representatives (website) · What Is the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government? (video) · What Is Veto Power? (video)
What Is the Judicial Branch of the U.S. Government? (video) · Supreme Court of the United States (website)
The US Court System Explained (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 3a explained

The three branches and what each does

Branch	Its function

(b) Why it is important to divide powers among different branches

Scouting America resources: The Separation of Powers (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 3b explained

Why dividing powers matters

(c) How each branch checks and balances the others

Scouting America resources: Checks and Balances/Separation of Powers Explained (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 3c explained

Checks and balances

Branch	How it checks and balances the others

(d) How citizens can be involved in each branch of government

Scouting America resources: Political Participation and Elections (video) · The Duties and Responsibilities of Citizens (video) YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs (website) · NextGen America (website) · National Youth Rights Association (website)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 3d explained

How citizens can be involved

Branch	Ways citizens can be involved

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Discuss the importance of:

(a) Declaration of Independence

Scouting America resources: The Declaration of Independence (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 4a explained

Why it is important

(b) Bill of Rights (the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution) and the 14th Amendment

Scouting America resources: A 3-Minute Guide to the Bill of Rights (video) · The 14th Amendment (video)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 4b explained

Why the Bill of Rights is important

Why the 14th Amendment is important

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(c) E Pluribus Unum, the traditional United States motto

Scouting America resources: What Does E Pluribus Unum Actually Mean? (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 4c explained

What it means, and why it is important

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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.

Scouting America resources: Tracking Planner (PDF) · Factbot (website) · FactCheck (website) · AP News (website) Politifact (website) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 5 explained

My five-day news log

Day	Date	News source	National issues I learned about
Day 1			
Day 2			
Day 3			
Day 4			
Day 5			

The issue I chose _____

How this issue affects...

Who	How it affects them
Me	
My family	
My community	

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Explain:

Scouting America resources: I Have a Dream Speech by Martin Luther King Jr. (video) President Franklin D. Roosevelt Declares War on Japan Speech (video) · "Tear Down This Wall" Reagan Speech June 12 1987 (video) Explore the World's Knowledge, Cultures, and Ideas (video) · American Rhetoric (website) · Top 100 Speeches (website)

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 6 explained

Speech I chose _____ Date my counselor approved it _____

(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

The main points of the speech

(e) Why the speech is important to the nation's history

(f) Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.

The sentence or two I chose

Why it has meaning to me

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. Do TWO of the following:

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 7 explained

☐ **(a)** 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.

Scouting America resources: America's National Parks National Passport Program (website) · National Park Service (website) National Archives (website) · Does Historical Preservation Even Matter? (video) Museum of the American Revolution - Virtual Museum Tour (website)

Landmark or site I visited _____ Where _____ Date _____

What I learned about it

What I found interesting

☐ **(b)** Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.

Scouting America resources: Capital Curiosities: Exploring Why State Capitals Aren't Always the Biggest Cities (video)
Live, Virtual US Capital Tour (website)

Capitol I toured _____ Date _____

What I learned about the capitol, its function, and its history

☐ **(c)** Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.

Federal facility I toured _____ Where _____ Date _____

What I saw

Its function in the local community, and how it serves the nation

☐ **(d)** Choose a United States national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the internet (with your parent or guardian'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.

Scouting America resources: US Senate (website) · GovTrack (website) · USA.gov (website) · Common Cause (website)
US House of Representatives (website)

Monument I chose _____

Resources I used (books, brochures, websites...)

What I learned

Why the monument is important to this country's citizens

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

8. Name your representatives in the United States Congress. Write to your representative in Congress explaining your views on a national issue. Show your correspondence, along with any response you receive, to your counselor.

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 8 explained

My representatives in Congress

Name	Senate or House	State or district

Who I wrote to _____ The national issue _____

The main points of my views

Date I sent it _____ Response received (date) _____

- ☐ Showed my correspondence to my counselor
- ☐ Showed any response I received

Requirement 8 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

Counselor sign-off

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

Counselor's signature _____ Date completed _____

Official Scouting America resources

Scouting America resources: Citizenship in the Nation merit badge page (requirements and resources) Citizenship in the Nation merit badge pamphlet (free PDF) · All merit badges · **ScoutSmarts:** Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Guide, Part 1 · Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Guide, Part 2

Made by Cole at ScoutSmarts.com, an Eagle Scout who loves helping Scouts.
Spot an error or a requirement change? Tell me at scoutsmarts.com/contact.
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