

Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge Scout Worksheet



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.
2. Do the following:
 - a. On a map of your community, locate and point out the 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. Historical or other interesting points
 - b. Chart the organization of your local or state government. Show the top offices and tell whether they are elected or appointed.
3. Do the following:
 - a. Attend a city or town council or school board meeting, or a municipal; county, or state court session.
 - 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:
 - a. Find out which branch of local government is responsible for this issue.
 - b. With your counselor's and a 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.
 - 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.
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.
7. Do the following:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.

Use this worksheet to make notes that you will use to go over this with your counselor. For requirements which require a written response, you may submit this to your counselor directly.

REQUIREMENT 1

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.

What does it mean to be a citizen in your community?

What are your rights?

What are your duties?

What are your obligations?

How can you demonstrate good citizenship in your community, Scout unit, place of worship or school?

REQUIREMENT 2

2. Do the following:
 - a. On a map of your community, locate and point out the 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. Historical or other interesting points

Mark or point out on a map of your community the following:

City Hall

County Courthouse

Public Works Facility

Fire Station

Police Station

Hospital closest to your home

Historical and other interesting points

Make a copy of your community map and attach it to this worksheet

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

Draw a chart of your local or state government in the space below:

What are the top offices? Note which are elected and which are appointed:

REQUIREMENT 3

3. Do the following:
 - a. Attend a city or town council or school board meeting, or a municipal; county, or state court session.

What kind of meeting did you attend, and when was it?

- 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.

What was the issue you chose, and why do you agree with one opinion more than another?

REQUIREMENT 4

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.
 - b. With your counselor's and a 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.
 - c. Share what you have learned with your counselor.

What issue did you choose?

Which branch of government is responsible for this?

Who did you interview and what did you learn from your interview?

REQUIREMENT 5

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.

What movie did you watch?

What did you learn from this movie about being a valuable and concerned member of the community?

REQUIREMENT 6

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.

Which services are funded by taxpayers?

Why are these important to your community?

REQUIREMENT 7

7. Do the following:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.

Which organization did you choose?

What are some things you have learned about them?

After completing your volunteer time, what did you learn from your experience?

REQUIREMENT 8

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.

What is your presentation about?