Citizenship in the Community

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: Online Resources. Workbook developer: craig@craiglincoln.com. Requirements revised: 2005. Workbook updated: November 2008.

Scout’s Name: _______________________________ Unit: _______________________________
Counselor’s Name: _______________________________ Counselor’s Ph #: _______________________________
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. ______________
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________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

(b) Choose one of the issues discussed at the meeting ________________________________
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________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

where a difference of opinions was expressed, ________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
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and explain to your counselor why you agree with one opinion more than you do another one. ________________________________
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________________________________________
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.

Service              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 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.

Online Resources  (Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent’s or guardian’s permission.)


Requirement Resources

See: http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Citizenship_in_the_Community for these links and much more

1: Citizenship Rights Duties Jury Duty Obligations (Responsibilities)
2a: Google Maps - Make and save a map of your community Sample Google Map Made By A Scout
3a: Find Information about your county’s government: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_(United_States)
4: Major daily newspaper websites: http://www.newspaperlinks.com/voyager.cfm
5: Movies With A Meaning: http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Citizenship_in_the_Community#Movies_With_a_Meaning
7a: IRS definition of a Charitable Organization - Qualified organizations include nonprofit groups that are religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or literary in purpose, or that work to prevent cruelty to children or animals. Charitable Organizations (outside of Scouting) in general may include: Churches, religious organizations, federal, state, and local governments, Salvation Army, Red Cross, CARE, Goodwill Industries, United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, war veteran’s groups, fraternal lodges, and nonprofit schools, hospitals, museums, etc. IRS definition of a Charitable Organization: Qualified organizations include nonprofit groups that are religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or literary in purpose, or that work to prevent cruelty to children or animals. Charitable Organizations (outside of Scouting) in general include: Churches, religious organizations, federal, state, and local governments, Salvation Army, Red Cross, CARE, Goodwill Industries, United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, war veteran’s groups, fraternal lodges, and nonprofit schools, hospitals, museums, etc. IRS online search for charities by name or city GuideStar Directory of Non-profit Organizations - find charitable organizations in your area. BBB Wise Giving Alliance - list of charities

8: Photography #4 overlaps this requirement and gives tips.

General Resources

BBB Wise Giving Alliance: http://www.give.org
GovSpot: http://www.govspot.com
VolunteerMatch: http://www.volunteermatch.org
Youth as Resources: http://www.yar.org

National Constitution Center: http://www.constitutioncenter.org
U.S. Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov
Youth Activism Project: http://www.youthactivism.com
Youth Service America: http://www.ysa.org