



Citizenship in the Community

Scouts BSA · Citizenship · Eagle-required

Name

Started

Completed

Your community is where citizenship starts: the streets you walk, the parks you play in, and the people who keep things running. This badge helps you see how local government works and how you can make a real difference. By the end, you'll know your town better than most adults.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-the-community/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

- ☐ **1** Discuss with your counselor what community citizenship means, what makes a good citizen, and citizens' rights, duties, and obligations; explain how you can show good citizenship in your community, unit, place of worship, or school

Tip: Think of people you know who make your community better. Talk about what they do that shows good citizenship.

2 Map your community and its government

Tips for this section: Draw your map by hand or with an online map, marking places like the library, fire station, and city hall. Your town's website can help with the government chart.

Example for this section: Mark your home, city hall, the county courthouse, a public works yard, the closest fire station, police station, and hospital, a park and a trail, and a historic site. Next to each, note the distance from home and about how long it takes to drive and to walk or bike. Then chart your local government: mayor or board chair, council or commission, and the departments that run water, parks, and roads, marking which offices are elected and which are appointed.

- ☐ **2a** On a paper or digital map, find and mark the places below and record each one's distance from home plus driving time and walking or biking time

- ☐ **2a1** Main government buildings, such as city hall, the county courthouse, and public works or services facilities

- ☐ **2a2** The fire station, police station, and hospital closest to your home

- ☐ **2a3** Parks, playgrounds, recreation areas, and trails

- ☐ **2a4** Historic sites or other interesting places

- ☐ **2b** Make a chart of how your local or state government is organized, showing the top offices and whether each is elected or appointed

3 Attend a local government meeting

Tips for this section: Check your city or county website for meeting dates. Go with a parent, take notes, and pick one issue to follow.

Example for this section: At a city council meeting, you might hear a debate about adding speed bumps on a street near a school. Note who spoke, what each side wanted, what the council decided, and how you would have voted and why.

- ☐ **3a** Go in person to a city, town, or county council meeting, a school board meeting, a session of a local court, or another local or state government meeting your counselor approves ahead of time

- ☐ **3b** Pick an issue from the meeting where people disagreed, and explain to your counselor why you side with one view over another

- ☐ **4** Pick an issue that matters to people in your community, then do the following

Tip: Choose an issue you care about, like a park or traffic safety. Prepare your questions before talking with the official.

Example: Research an issue like a lack of safe bike routes to school. Gather facts, then interview a city traffic engineer or council member with a parent present: How are routes chosen? What does it cost? How can residents ask for changes?

- ☐ **4a** Find out which branch of local government handles the issue

- ☐ **4b** With approval from your counselor and a parent or guardian, interview someone from that branch about what's being done and how young people can help

- ☐ **4c** Share what you learned with your counselor

- ☐ **5** Once your counselor and a parent or guardian approve, watch a movie showing how one person or group made a community better, and discuss with your counselor what it taught you about being a caring, valuable community member

Tip: Pick a movie with a parent and jot down how the characters changed their community. Think about what you could do too.

- ☐ **6** List some taxpayer-funded services in your community (such as the library, recreation center, public transit, and public safety) and tell your counselor why they matter

Tip: Walk or drive around town and list services paid for by taxes, like roads, parks, and libraries. Think about what life would be like without them.

Example: List services your family uses in a week that taxes pay for: the roads to school, streetlights, the library, the public pool, trash pickup, firefighters, and the park. Pick one and explain what would happen if it disappeared for a month.

7 Charities and volunteering

Tips for this section: Pick a charity you care about. Ask how it helps people and schedule your volunteer time with a parent.

Example for this section: Volunteer with a food bank: sort donations, pack boxes, or help at a distribution day with your family or patrol. Ask staff how many people they serve, where the food comes from, and what they need most.

- ☐ **7a** Name 3 charities outside Scouting that interest you and that bring people together to improve your community

- ☐ **7b** Choose one charity from 7a and learn more about it from several sources, such as news stories, flyers, the internet, and its volunteers and staff

- ☐ **7c** With approval from your counselor and a parent or guardian, contact your 7b charity to ask how youth can help, volunteer at least 8 hours for it while earning this badge, and afterward discuss what you learned with your counselor

- ☐ **8** Create a public presentation (like a video, slides, speech, or photo display) on your community's history, cultures, ethnic groups, best features, gathering places, and challenges, and give it to your counselor or a group

Tip: Make a slideshow, poster, or short video about what makes your community special. Practice before you present.

Example: Make a five-minute slideshow for your troop called "Five Things You Didn't Know About Our Town," with photos of places from your map, one fact from the meeting you attended, and one way Scouts can help.