



BSA Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge

Information for Scouts & Their Families

We are looking forward to working with you on this merit badge. The information below will help you prepare for a productive class.

This is a four-hour class. Scouts should attend the entire session to complete the in-class work. We will meet in the Education Center at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site.

Scouts should bring:

- **water and a snack**
- **a pen or pencil**
- **any completed prework**
- **a blue card signed by the troop leader** **Note: Colvin Run Mill does NOT have blue cards.

Parents, to comply with BSA guidelines, this program requires that 2 adults be in attendance. Please consider attending with your Scout. You may learn more about your community and your presence helps the Scouts stay focused while the merit badge counselor teaches and works with Scouts individually.

Scouts, while not required, we recommend you use a *Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge Worksheet* to organize your work for this class. Worksheets can be found at [Merit Badge Requirements and Worksheets \(boyscoutstrail.com\)](https://www.boyscoutstrail.com) or [Merit Badge Worksheets \(usscouts.org\)](https://usscouts.org).

Badge Requirements

Merit Badges are not designed to be done in one 4-hour session, so Scouts will need to complete some requirements outside of this class. Below is a list of requirements covered in and out of class.

Requirements that will be covered during the class:

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 or using an electronic device, locate and point out the following:
 - (1) Chief government buildings such as your city hall, county courthouse, and public works/services facilities
 - (2) Fire station, police station, and hospital nearest your home
 - (3) Parks, playgrounds, recreation areas, and trails
 - (4) Historical or other points of interest
 - b. Chart the organization of your local or state government. Show the top offices and tell whether they are elected or appointed.

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.

Requirements that should be completed prior to the class and discussed with the merit badge counselor during the session. Our comments on completing this prework are in italics. * If all pre-work is not done, Scouts may attend the class to complete the in-class work, and we will sign partial cards. Once the work is completed, Scouts can make an appointment to meet with Colvin Run Mill staff to sign their blue cards.

3. Do the following:

- a. Attend a meeting of your city, town, or county council or school board; OR attend 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. *Locations and meeting times for these meetings can be found on your city or county government website.*

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. *Follow Youth Protection guidelines when meeting with officials.*

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. *Lists of movies Scouts commonly watched for this requirement can be found online. Please note that some of these movies may not be appropriate for all Scouts and get your parents' permission prior to watching any movie.*

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.
- b. Pick ONE of the organizations you chose for requirement 7a. 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 you chose for requirement 7b, 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. *Please bring a statement from the organization acknowledging your service hours.*

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. *Bring your presentation to class to show the merit badge counselor.*

If you have questions, contact Dawn Bova at (703-759-2771) or dawn.bova@fairfaxcounty.gov.