



BSA Citizenship in the World 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 suggest you use a *Citizenship in the World Merit Badge Worksheet* to organize your work for this class. Worksheets can be found at [Merit Badge Requirements and Worksheets \(boyscouttrail.com\)](https://www.boyscouttrail.com/merit-badge-requirements-and-worksheets) or [Merit Badge Worksheets \(usscouts.org\)](https://usscouts.org/merit-badge-worksheets).

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. Explain what citizenship in the world means to you and what you think it takes to be a good world citizen.
2. Explain how one becomes a citizen in the United States, and explain the rights, duties, and obligations of U.S. citizenship. Discuss the similarities and differences between the rights, duties, and obligations of U.S. citizens and the citizens of two other countries.
5. Do the following:
 - a. Discuss the differences between constitutional and non-constitutional governments.
 - b. Name at least five different types of governments currently in power in the world.
 - c. On a world map, show countries that use each of these five different forms of government.

6. Do the following:
 - a. Explain how a government is represented abroad and how the United States government is accredited to international organizations.
 - b. Describe the roles of the following in the conduct of foreign relations.
 - (1) Ambassador
 - (2) Consul
 - (3) Bureau of International Information Programs
 - (4) Agency for International Development
 - (5) United States and Foreign Commercial Service
 - (6) Explain the purpose of a passport and visa for international travel.

Requirements that should be completed prior to the class.

Bring this work to class so you can discuss it 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 program to complete the in-class work, and we will sign off those requirements on the completed requirements. Once the out-of-class work is completed, Scouts can make an appointment to meet with Colvin Run Mill merit badge counselor staff to review completed work and finish their blue cards.

3. Do the following:
 - a. Pick a current world event. In relation to this current event, discuss with your counselor how a country's national interest, history, and its relationship with other countries might affect areas such as its security, its economy, its values, and the health of its citizens.
 - b. Select a foreign country and discuss with your counselor how its geography, natural resources, and climate influence its economy and its global partnerships with other countries.
4. Do TWO of the following:
 - a. Explain international law and how it differs from national law. Explain the role of international law and how international law can be used as a tool for conflict resolution.
 - b. Using resources such as major daily newspapers, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and news magazines, observe a current issue that involves international trade, foreign exchange, balance of payments, tariffs, and free trade. Explain what you have learned. Include in your discussion an explanation of why countries must cooperate in order for world trade and global competition to thrive.
 - c. Select TWO of the following organizations and describe their role in the world.
 1. The United Nations and UNICEF
 2. The World Court
 3. Interpol
 4. World Organization of the Scout Movement
 5. The World Health Organization
 6. Amnesty International
 7. The International Committee of the Red Cross
 8. CARE (Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere)

9. European Union

7. Do TWO of the following (with your parent's permission) and share with your counselor what you have learned:

a. Visit the website of the U.S. State Department. Learn more about an issue you find interesting that is discussed on this website.

b. Visit the website of an international news organization or foreign government, OR examine a foreign newspaper available at your local library, bookstore, or newsstand. Find a news story about a human right realized in the United States that is not recognized in another country.

c. Visit with a student or Scout from another country and discuss the typical values, holidays, ethnic foods, and traditions practiced or enjoyed there.

d. Attend a world Scout jamboree.

e. Participate in or attend an international event in your area, such as an ethnic festival, concert, or play.

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