

Historic Huntley | Huntley Meadows Park

Citizenship in the Nation

- This program lasts 4 hours.
- In class covers requirements 1, 3, 4, 7a
- Pework covers requirements 2, 5, 6, 7 b or c or d, & 8
- Please bring your **authorized blue card**, snack, drink, and merit badge workbook.

Important information about how to prepare for a merit badge program at Huntley Meadows Park.

Parents, please review the content of a merit badge prior to registering your scout: some badges may be challenging for younger scouts. The chances of your scout completing all the work for the badge increases dramatically when he is properly motivated, and the badge content is age-appropriate. Also, the class discussions are more interesting if scouts review all the requirements for the badge before the program.

Merit badges are not designed to be completed in a day and require independent work on the part of the scout outside of the workshop. We call this PREWORK. We suggest this is done prior to the badge program date, but we realize this is not always practical or possible, in these cases we will sign partial cards and accept the assignments after the program.

Merit badge programs can be from 3 to 5 hours long, so be sure to pack a snack and water for your scout and that he is dressed appropriately for being outdoors. (No food is sold on site.)

Though not required, Scout workbooks are very useful, and we prefer that scouts use the workbook during the program. Workbooks can be found at: http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badge_Worksheets .

About blue cards: WE DO NOT HAVE BLUE CARDS. Please bring a blue card signed by your scout master with you to the program. Your troop scout master should be consulted prior to attending any merit badge program and he or she should sign the front of the card.

The following is what we will be doing during the Citizenship in the Nation badge, if it is in **RED** it is prework!

Requirements

1. What is the Constitution of the United States? What does the Constitution do? What principles does it reflect? Why is it important to have a Constitution?
2. List the six purposes for creating the United States Constitution set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution. How do these purposes affect your family and community?
3. List the three branches of the United States government. Explain:
 - a. The function of each branch of government
 - b. Why it is important to divide powers among different branches
 - c. How each branch "checks" and "balances" the others
 - d. How citizens can be involved in each branch of government.
4. Discuss the importance of:
 - a. Declaration of Independence
 - b. The Bill of Rights (the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution) and the 14th Amendment
 - c. The traditional United States motto "E Pluribus Unum".
5. Watch the national evening news for five days in a row or read the main stories in a national media organization (e.g., a newspaper or news website) for five days in a row. Discuss the

national issues that you learned about with your counselor. Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and community.

6. With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Explain:

- a. Who the author was
- b. What the historical context was
- c. What difficulties the nation faced that the author wished to discuss
- d. What the author said
- e. Why speech is important to the nation's history.

Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.

7. Do **TWO** of the following: (Note we will cover 7a in class, so you only have to choose one other option to meet this requirement.)
- a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.
 - b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.
 - c. Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.
 - d. Choose a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the internet (with your parent's permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned, and explain why the monument is important to this country's citizens.
8. Name your representatives in the United States Congress. Write a letter to your representative in Congress explaining your views on a national issue. Show your letter, along with any response you might receive, to your counselor.

Huntley Meadows Park

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