

## Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Pre-Work

- The Citizenship in the Nation merit badge is a four-hour session.
- Scouts are required to wear masks and follow social distancing recommendations both in the classroom and outside.
- Scouts must submit prework to their counselor by email ahead of the merit badge session. Counselors will not collect physical copies of prework during the class. Please note that we are unable to open Google Docs on Fairfax County Government computers. Prework requirements must be sent as an attachment.
- Counselors will provide Blue Cards that have been signed and completed before the merit badge session.
- Water fountains will not be available
- Scouts should bring a snack and plenty of water. Please no red liquids.

### Pre-work

2. Do TWO of the following:

- a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark and 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 its 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.

3. Watch the national evening news five days in a row OR read the front page of a major daily newspaper five days in a row. Discuss the national issues you learned about with your counselor. Choose one of the issues and explain how it affects you and your family.

6. With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Learn about the author, and tell your counselor about the person who gave the speech. Explain the importance of the speech at the time it was given, and tell how it applies to American citizens today. Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.

8. Name two of your senators and the members of Congress from your congressional district. Write a letter about a national issue and send it to one of these elected officials, sharing your view with him or her. Show your letter and any response you receive to your counselor.

For help or questions, contact Emily Cole at [Emily.cole@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Emily.cole@fairfaxcounty.gov), or at (703) 941-1065.