Citizenship in the Nation

Merit Badge Workbook
Sully Historic Site

This workbook can help you, but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.
This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor

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Req 1. **Complete in Class**

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?

Req 2. List the six purposes for creating the United States Constitution set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution. **Complete in Class**

`1.

2.

3.

4.

5.
6.

How do these purposes affect your family and community? **Prepare to answer**

Req 3. List the three branches of the United States government. **Complete in Class**

1.
2.
3.

Explain:

a. The function of each branch of government. **Complete in Class**

1.
2.
3.

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.

Req 4. Discuss the importance of:

a. Declaration of Independence **Complete in Class**

b. Review The Bill of Rights (the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution) and the 14th Amendment **prepare to discuss in class**.

1st Amendment

2nd Amendment

3rd Amendment

4th Amendment

5th Amendment

6th Amendment

7th Amendment

8th Amendment

9th Amendment

10th Amendment

14th Amendment

c. The traditional United States motto "E Pluribus Unum". **COMPLETE IN CLASS**

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.

Complete Prior to Class

Start date::		End Date:	
News Source:			

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.

Complete Prior to Class. (See list from email)

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 the 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.

Sentence(s) You chose:

Why it has significant meaning to you:

Req 7. Do **TWO** of the following:

X a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. **Visit will be done in class.**

What did you visit? **SULLY HISTORIC SITE**

Choose a second one from the list below Complete Prior to Class

☐ b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. What did you visit?

Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.

☐ c. Tour a federal facility. What did you tour?_____

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.

Monument chosen: _____

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.

Req 8. Name your representatives in the United States Congress. **Complete PRIOR to Class**.

Senator	
Senator	
Representative	

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.

When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088).Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf.
You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf.