



Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Guide for Scouts and Counselors and Troops

Requirements

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-society/>

Accessed on 2023 09 18

1. Before beginning work on other requirements for this merit badge:
 - a. Research the following terms, and then explain to your merit badge counselor how you feel they relate to the Scout Oath and Scout Law:
 - Identities
 - Inclusion
 - Diversity
 - Discrimination
 - Equity
 - Ethical Leadership
 - Equality
 - Upstander
2. Document and discuss with your counselor what leadership means to you. Share what it means to make ethical decisions.
 - a. Research and share with your counselor an individual you feel has demonstrated positive leadership while having to make an ethical decision. (It could be someone in history, a family member, a teacher, a coach, a counselor, a clergy member, a Scoutmaster, etc.)
 - b. Explain what decision and/or options that leader had, why you believe they chose their final course of action, and the outcome of that action.
3. Consider ethical decision-making.
 - a. Think about a time you faced an ethical decision.
 - Discuss the situation, what you did, and how it made you feel.
 - Share if you would do anything differently in the future and if so, what that would be.
 - b. List three examples of ethical decisions you might have to make in the future at school, at home, in the workplace, or in your community, and what you would do.

- Share how your actions represent alignment with the Scout Oath and Scout Law
- c. Explain to your counselor how you plan to use what you have learned to assist you when that time comes, and what action(s) you can take to serve as an upstander and help other people at all times.

4. Repeat the Scout Oath and Scout Law for your counselor. Choose two of the three following scenarios and discuss what you could do as a Scout to demonstrate leadership and your understanding of what it means to help others who may seem different from you:

- a. Scenario 1: While at camp, a youth accidentally spills food on another camper. The camper who gets spilled on gets angry and says something that is offensive to people with disabilities; their friends laugh. What could/should you do?
- b. Scenario 2: Your friend confides in you that some students in school are making insulting comments about one of their identities, and that those same students created a fake social media account to impersonate your friend online and post messages. What could/should you do?
- c. Scenario 3: A new student in your class was born in another country (or has a parent who was born in another country). Your friends make rude comments to the student about their speech or clothes and tell the student to “go back home where you came from.” What could/should you do?

5. Document and discuss with your counselor:

- a. Ideas on what you personally can do to create a welcoming environment in your Scouting unit.
- b. An experience you had in which you went out of your way to include another Scout(s) and what you did to make them feel included and welcomed.
- c. Things you can do to help ensure all Scouts in your unit are given an opportunity to be heard and included in decision-making and planning.

6. With your parent’s or guardian’s approval, connect with another Scout or youth your own age who has an identity that’s different from yours. (This means a trait, belief, or characteristic different from you.)

- a. Share with each other what makes the different aspect of your identity meaningful/special to you.
- b. Share with each other either one of the following:
 - i. A time you felt excluded from a group.
 - What was the situation?
 - How did it make you feel?
 - What did you do?
 - Did anyone stand up for you?
 - What did you learn?
 - Would you do anything differently today?
 - ii. This imaginary situation:
 - You’re attending a new school and don’t know anyone there yet. You notice they dress very differently than you do. At lunchtime, you decide you’ll try to sit with a group to get to know other students.

People at two tables tell you there is someone sitting at the currently empty seat at their table, so you end up eating by yourself.

o How would that make you feel?

o What could the students have done?

o If that happened at your school, what would you do?

c. Discuss with your counselor what you learned from the discussion with the other Scout or youth.

7. Identify and interview an individual in your community, school, and/or Scouting who has had a significant positive impact in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. If you feel your community, school, or local Scouting group does not have such an individual, then research a historical figure who meets these criteria, and discuss that person with your counselor.

a. Discover what inspired the individual, learn about the challenges they faced, and share what you feel attributed to their success.

b. Discuss with your counselor what you learned and how you can apply it in your life.

8. With the help of your parent or guardian, study an event that had a positive outcome on how society viewed a group of people and made them feel more welcome. Describe to your counselor the event and what you learned.

9. Document and discuss with your counselor three or more areas in your life outside of Scouting where you feel you can actively provide stronger leadership in.

a. Making others feel included.

b. Practicing active listening.

c. Creating an environment where others feel comfortable to share their ideas and perspectives.

d. Helping others feel valued for their input and suggestions.

e. Standing up for others.

10. Discuss with your counselor how stereotyping people can be harmful, and how stereotypes can lead to prejudice and discrimination. Share ideas you have for challenging assumptions and celebrating individuality.

11. Scouting strives to develop young people to be future leaders in their workplaces, schools, and community environments. As you look at your current involvement in school, your family, Scouting, your job, and/or community, think about how you can have a positive impact in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

a. Describe your ideas on how you can and will support others with different identities to feel included and heard at your school, workplace, and/or social settings in your community.

b. Explain how including diverse thoughts and opinions from others with different identities can:

- Make your interactions more positive.

- Help everyone benefit by considering different opinions.

c. Give three examples of how limiting diverse input can be harmful.

d. Give three examples of how considering diverse opinions can lead to innovation and success.

Homework for All Merit Badges before class:

Scouts and parents should read the **Blue Card Guide** included in the appendix to this Guide.

Scouts should read the **Merit Badge Homework Guide** included in the appendix to this Guide.

BSA has intentionally not published an official merit badge pamphlet (book) for this merit badge.

Merit badge notes:

Scouts BSA opened access to Citizenship in Society Merit Badge on November 1, 2021.

Scouts completing Eagle requirements on or after July 1, 2022, must earn Citizenship in Society Merit Badge.

Scouts registering for Citizenship in Society Merit Badge at a Winter Camp or at a Winter Merit Badge Day event may be required to participate in one or more virtual classes by Zoom 2 or 3 weeks before the classroom session. The counselor will coordinate scheduling and communications about the Zoom classes with Scouts and parents.

Instructions for Scouts:

Review additional instructions that BSA has published with the requirements as posted on the page at

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-society/>

Please ask your parent(s) to review the references in the section **Information for Scouts and Counselors** included below.

4. For **requirements # 1 and # 2**, begin research and record your notes.
5. For **requirement # 6**, with parent approval, undertake this interaction and discussion and record your notes.
6. For **requirements # 7, # 8, and # 9**, record notes that will help you with your group discussions with the counselor.

Information for Scouts and Counselors

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/11/01/introducing-citizenship-in-society-the-bsas-newest-merit-badge/>

Overview, Instructions for Scouts, Requirements

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/merit_badge_reqandres/CitizenshipSociety_Scout_Reqs.pdf

Information on resources, workbook, and checklist

<http://usscouts.org/mb/mb160.asp>

Read about Eagle Scout Ernest Green Jr.

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2022/09/24/from-the-scouting-magazine-archives-an-interview-with-ernest-green-jr-eagle-scout-and-member-of-the-little-rock-nine/>

Information for Counselors

Counselor Guidelines, Overview for Scouts, Instructions for Scouts, Requirements

This

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/merit_badge_reqandres/CitizenshipSociety_Counselors.pdf

Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Counselor Guide (updated October 2022)

This document is a PowerPoint presentation converted to pdf format.

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/diversity_equity_and_inclusion/Citizenship-in-Society-Merit-Badge-Counselor-Guide-2021.pdf

How to register with BSA as a merit badge counselor

Please open the page at

<https://www.mccscouting.org/MBs-Counselors-Info>

and click on the tab menu labeled “Become a Merit Badge Counselor” for detailed information.

To process registration as a Merit Badge Counselor specifically for Citizenship in the Society Merit Badge, Mecklenburg County Council requires completion of in-person or on-line training on the topic of diversity.

On-line Training is available at my.scouting.org

Log in at <https://my.scouting.org/>

Click on BSA Learn Center

Click on Course Catalog, search for: “Diversity”

Please complete this module:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Scouting, Total time: 30 minutes

This module is optional and is available for youth training:
YE Diversity and Culture [Youth Exploring Leadership Experience module], Total time:
11 minutes

BSA Diversity Equity & Inclusion web site

<https://www.scouting.org/about/diversity-equity-inclusion/>

Information for Troops

Courses conducted in group settings by individual troops are encouraged.

Here is a sequence of planning steps that some troops have used to offer Citizenship in Society Merit Badge courses “in-house”:

1. Scouts could discuss their interest in participating in a course with their SPL (Senior Patrol Leader), Advancement Chair, and Scoutmaster.

2. The PLC (Patrol Leaders Council) might set dates for the course on the troop schedule, 2 meetings 1 or 2 weeks apart, at troop meetings or on camping trips, each meeting up to 1.5 to 2 hours long.

3. The PLC could approach parents about registering and training as merit badge counselors.

For the Council to accept a blue card for any merit badge as completed, each adult signing a blue card as Counselor must be registered with the Council as a Merit Badge Counselor for that merit badge.

4. Scouts could work with their troop counselors to set up pre-course research and homework assignments for Scouts.

5. The Scouts and counselors may or may not want to consider watching a movie such as "Remember the Titans" as part of the course.

6. Scouts participating in the course might appropriately separate into discussion groups by their school grades (reflecting ages), such as, grades 6 and 7, grades 8 and 9, grades 10, 11, and 12.

6. If a Scout needs a leadership project approved by their Scoutmaster for Star or Life requirements, the Scout might consider discussing the possibility of developing this merit badge course as part of a leadership project with their PLC and Scoutmaster.