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Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge

Local government, community service, and how scouts can be active, informed members of their community.

Typical time to complete: **4–8 weeks**

GOOD FIT IF YOU LIKE

Leadership

Tips for Earning This Badge

1. The civic visit requirement (attending a local government meeting) takes planning — school board meetings count and are often easier to attend than city council sessions.
2. Take notes during the meeting; you will reference them in your written summary.
3. Service hours can sometimes count for both this badge and a rank, but only if they meet this badge's rules: at least 8 hours, for the charitable organization outside of Scouting that you picked in requirement 7, done while working on the badge. They also have to meet the rank's rules (a Scoutmaster-approved project, done after earning First Class for Star or Star for Life, with 3 conservation hours for Life). Your counselor and Scoutmaster both decide (Guide to Advancement 4.2.3.6).
4. Start the interview with an elected official early — scheduling takes longer than scouts expect.
5. Counselors want specifics, not generalities — "the council discussed a road repaving budget" lands better than "they talked about town stuff."
6. A common pitfall: picking a meeting that gets cancelled or rescheduled with no backup date. Have a second meeting on your calendar before you need it.

Available at Merit Badge Colleges

This badge is commonly offered at merit badge college events hosted by councils and universities. A great way to knock it out in a weekend with an experienced counselor. Learn how to find one near you.

Official Requirements

We keep this page focused on tips and what to expect, not a copy of the requirement text — requirements get revised periodically, and scouts are generally held to whichever version was current when they started the badge (the same reason Scoutbook lets you filter by pamphlet version). For the exact, current wording, check your Scoutbook record for this badge or the official page below.

Citizenship in the Community on scouting.org ⧉

Finding a Counselor

Ask your Scoutmaster for the council's merit badge counselor list. For popular badges, a parent in your troop may already be registered as a counselor. If your troop doesn't have one, your council's advancement chair can help connect you.