

Citizenship & Society

Eagle Required

Common at Merit Badge Colleges

Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge

U.S. government structure, the Constitution, and national landmarks — often paired with a civic site visit.

Typical time to complete: **4–6 weeks**

GOOD FIT IF YOU LIKE

Leadership

Tips for Earning This Badge

- 1 The national historic landmark visit is the sticking point for many scouts — a state capitol building qualifies, and so do many local historic sites listed on the National Register.
- 2 Schedule the visit early so it does not hold up completion.
- 3 The news-following requirement runs for three months — start tracking a current event right away.
- 4 Pair this with Citizenship in the Community for efficiency since the discussion topics overlap.
- 5 Counselors are listening for whether you can explain why a topic matters, not just recite what happened — have an opinion ready, not just a summary.
- 6 A common pitfall: waiting until the last month to start the current-events tracking, which is obvious to a counselor when every entry has the same date.

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 Nation on [scouting.org](https://www.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.