REQUIREMENTS BY SKILL

Citizenship, Flag & Service Requirements by Rank

Flag skills, growing service hours, and learning how government works.

Citizenship develops across the ranks. Tenderfoot covers handling and folding the flag, Second Class adds leading a flag ceremony, and First Class has scouts learn about citizens' rights from someone in public life. Service hours grow at each step: one hour for Tenderfoot, two for Second Class, three for First Class, and each rank needs a different project.

> Requirements are paraphrased for planning, and numbers follow the current Scouts BSA Requirements book. Verify wording at scouting.org before signing off.

How Citizenship, Flag & Service Builds Across the Ranks

Tenderfoot

7a	Demonstrate how to display, raise, lower, and fold the U.S. flag. **Sign-off:** Practice with a real flag. The fold should end in a neat triangle with no red showing.
7b	Complete at least one hour of service on a Scoutmaster-approved project.

Second Class

8a Take part in a flag ceremony for your school, religious organization, chartered organization, community, or a Scouting event.

8b Explain the respect owed to the U.S. flag.

8e Complete two hours of service on approved projects and explain how it relates to the Scout Oath.

Sign-off: Must be a different project from the one used for Tenderfoot.

First Class

9a Meet with someone approved by your leader (an elected official, judge, attorney, teacher, or similar) to discuss the constitutional rights and obligations of U.S. citizens.

Sign-off: Ask the scout what they learned. They should be able to name a right and an obligation they discussed.

9d Complete three hours of service on approved projects, different from those used for Tenderfoot and Second Class, and explain how it relates to the Scout Law.

10 Tell someone eligible to join (or an inactive scout) about Scouting, invite them to an activity, help them join or return, and report back to a leader.

After First Class

Star and Life each require six hours of service (at Life, at least three must be conservation-related). Four Citizenship merit badges are Eagle-required: Community, Nation, World, and Society. First Class 9a is a good preview of Citizenship in the Nation.

Citizenship in the Community EAGLE — Eagle-required. The local-government counterpart to First Class 9a.

Citizenship in the Nation EAGLE — Eagle-required. Builds on the rights-and-obligations discussion.

Citizenship in the World EAGLE — Eagle-required.

Citizenship in Society EAGLE — Eagle-required.

Can rank work count toward a merit badge? Sometimes. Under the Guide to Advancement (4.2.3.6), one activity can count for both when the two requirements match exactly and have the same purpose, like camping nights for the ranks and the Camping merit badge. For safety skills such as first aid and CPR, the counselor should be satisfied the Scout still remembers what was learned. When requirements only look alike, the Scout still does each one's own work. The unit leader or merit badge counselor makes the call.

Flag & Service Planning

One troop meeting for flag skills, plus a service project calendar for the year.

1. **Flag skills (Tenderfoot)**
   With a real flag, Tenderfoot candidates practice display rules, raising and lowering, and folding (T 7a). A Second Class scout explains flag respect while they work (SC 8b).

2. **Rotate the color guard**
   Give every Second Class candidate a turn leading the opening flag ceremony at a troop meeting or community event (SC 8a). Ceremonies at a chartered organization event or court of honor also count.

3. **Service calendar**
   Plan at least three or four service projects a year so scouts can meet each rank with a different project (T 7b, SC 8e, FC 9d).

4. **Civic visit**
   Invite a city council member, judge, or attorney to a meeting for a Q&A, or arrange a small-group visit (FC 9a).

5. **Bring-a-friend outing**
   Schedule one outing a year where First Class candidates invite a friend (FC 10).

Signing It Off

Each rank's service hours need their own project(s). Track which project counted for which rank.

Flag ceremonies at troop meetings count for Second Class 8a. A big public event isn't required.

First Class 10 is about the effort. The friend doesn't have to actually join.

Common Mistakes

Counting the same service project toward multiple ranks.

Never giving newer scouts a turn in the color guard.

Treating First Class 9a as a group lecture with no conversation. The scout should actually discuss it.