

Historic Huntley | Huntley Meadows Park

Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge

- This program lasts 4 hours.
- In class covers requirements 1, 2, and 6.
- Pework covers requirements 3, 4, 5, 7, 8.
- Please bring your **authorized blue card**, snack, drink, and merit badge workbook.

Important information about how to prepare for a merit badge program at Huntley Meadows Park.

Parents, please review the content of a merit badge prior to registering your scout: some badges may be challenging for younger scouts. Also, the class discussions are more interesting if scouts review *all* the requirements for the badge before the program. The chances of your scout completing all the work for the badge increases dramatically when he is properly motivated and the badge content is age-appropriate.

Merit badges are not designed to be completed in a day and require independent work on the part of the scout outside of the workshop. We call this PREWORK. We suggest this is done prior to the badge program date, but we realize this is not always practical or possible, in these cases we will sign partial cards and accept the assignments after the program.

Merit badge programs can be from 3 to 5 hours long, so be sure to pack a snack and water for your scout and that he is dressed appropriately for being outdoors for some or all of the program.

Though not required, Scout workbooks are very useful and we prefer that scouts use the workbook during the program. Workbooks can be found at:

http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badge_Worksheets .

About blue cards: WE DO NOT HAVE BLUE CARDS. Please bring a blue card signed by your troop master with you to the program. Your troop scout master should be consulted prior to attending any merit badge program and he or she will sign the front of the card before attending the program.

The following is what we will be doing during the Citizenship in the Community badge, if it is in **RED** it is prework!

Requirements

1. **IN CLASS** Discuss with your counselor what citizenship in the community means and what it takes to be a good citizen in your community. Discuss the rights, duties, and obligations of citizenship, and explain how you can demonstrate good citizenship in your community, Scouting unit, place of worship, or school.
2. **IN CLASS** Do the following:
 - a. On a map of your community or using an electronic device, locate and point out the following:
 1. Chief government buildings such as your city hall, county courthouse, and public works/services facility
 2. Fire station, police station, and hospital nearest your home

3. Parks, playgrounds, recreation areas, and trails
 4. Historical or other interesting points
 - b. Chart the organization of your local or state government. Show the top offices and tell whether they are elected or appointed.
3. **PREWORK** Do the following:
 - a. Attend a meeting of your city, town, or county council or school board; OR attend a municipal, county, or state court session.** [See below for list of meetings.]
 - b. Choose one of the issues discussed at the meeting where a difference of opinions was expressed, and explain to your counselor why you agree with one opinion more than you do another one.
 4. **PREWORK** Choose an issue that is important to the citizens of your community; then do the following:
 - a. Find out which branch of local government is responsible for this issue.
 - b. With your counselor's and a parent's approval, interview one person from the branch of government you identified in requirement 4a. Ask what is being done about this issue and how young people can help.
 - c. Share what you have learned with your counselor.
 5. **PREWORK** With the approval of your counselor and a parent, watch a movie that shows how the actions of one individual or group of individuals can have a positive effect on a community. Discuss with your counselor what you learned from the movie about what it means to be a valuable and concerned member of the community. [Parent approval is sufficient.]
 6. **IN CLASS** List some of the services (such as the library, recreation center, public transportation, and public safety) your community provides that are funded by taxpayers. Tell your counselor why these services are important to your community.
 7. **PREWORK** Do the following:
 - a. Identify **three** charitable organizations outside of Scouting that interest you and bring people in your community together to work for the good of your community.
 - b. Pick ONE of the organizations you chose for requirement 7a. Using a variety of resources (including newspapers, fliers and other literature, the Internet, volunteers, and employees of the organization), find out more about this organization.
 - c. With your counselor's and your parent's approval, contact the organization you chose for requirement 7b, and find out what young people can do to help. While working on this merit badge, volunteer at least eight hours of your time for the organization. After your volunteer experience is over, discuss what you have learned with your counselor.
 8. **PREWORK & In CLASS** Develop a public presentation (such as a video, slide show, speech, digital presentation, or photo exhibit) about important and unique aspects of your community. Include information about the history, cultures, and ethnic groups of your community; its best features and popular places where people gather; and the challenges it faces. Stage your presentation in front of your merit badge counselor or a group, such as your patrol or a class at school. [Develop the presentation at home and be prepared to present in class.]

**Search the following websites for public meeting options. Yes, attending a meeting virtually is acceptable. If you do not reside in any of these four municipalities, please choose one of the government boards in your city, town, or county:

Fairfax County:

Board of Supervisors

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/meetings/>

School Board

<http://commweb.fcps.edu/schoolboardapps/meetings.cfm>

County Courts

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/>

Other County Boards that may be of interest:

Arlington County:

Board of Supervisors

http://arlington.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

School Board

<http://www.apsva.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=3067>

County Courts

http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/courts/general_district/page73688.aspx

City of Alexandria:

City Council

<http://www.alexandriava.gov/Council>

School Board

<http://www.acps.k12.va.us/board/meetings/>

City Courts

<http://alexandriava.gov/courts/>

Prince William County:

Board of Supervisors

<http://www.pwcgov.org/government/bocs/Pages/BOCS-Landing-Page.aspx>

School Board

<http://pwcs.schoolfusion.us/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=183198&sessionid=7740898ec23786054d7250a99b4d23a5>

County Courts

<http://www.pwcgov.org/government/courts/Pages/default.aspx>