CITIZENSHIP IN THE WORLD

“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”
Requirements

1. Explain what citizenship in the world means to you and what you think it takes to be a good world citizen.

2. Explain how one becomes a citizen in the United States, and explain the rights, duties, and obligations of U.S. citizenship. Discuss the similarities and differences between the rights, duties, and obligations of U.S. citizens and the citizens of two other countries.

3. Do the following:
   a. Pick a current world event. In relation to this current event, discuss with your counselor how a country’s national interest, history, and its relationship with other countries might affect areas such as its security, its economy, its values, and the health of its citizens.
   b. Select a foreign country and discuss with your counselor how its geography, natural resources, and climate influence its economy and its global partnerships with other countries.

4. Do TWO of the following:
   a. Explain international law and how it differs from national law. Explain the role of international law and how international law can be used as a tool for conflict resolution.
b. Using resources such as major daily newspapers, the Internet (with your parent’s permission), and news magazines, observe a current issue that involves international trade, foreign exchange, balance of payments, tariffs, and free trade. Explain what you have learned. Include in your discussion an explanation of why countries must cooperate in order for world trade and global competition to thrive.

c. Select TWO of the following organizations and describe their role in the world.

(1) The United Nations and UNICEF
(2) The World Court
(3) Interpol
(4) World Organization of the Scout Movement
(5) The World Health Organization
(6) Amnesty International
(7) The International Committee of the Red Cross
(8) CARE (Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere)
(9) European Union
5. Do the following:
   a. Discuss the differences between constitutional and nonconstitutional governments.
   b. Name at least five different types of governments currently in power in the world.
   c. Show on a world map countries that use each of these five different forms of government.

6. Do the following:
   a. Explain how a government is represented abroad and how the United States government is accredited to international organizations.
   b. Describe the roles of the following in the conduct of foreign relations.
      (1) Ambassador
      (2) Consul
      (3) Bureau of International Information Programs
      (4) Agency for International Development
      (5) United States and Foreign Commercial Service
   c. Explain the purpose of a passport and visa for international travel.

7. Do TWO of the following (with your parent’s permission) and share with your counselor what you have learned:
   a. Visit the website of the U.S. State Department. Learn more about an issue you find interesting that is discussed on this website.
   b. Visit the website of an international news organization or foreign government, OR examine a foreign newspaper available at your local library, bookstore, or newsstand. Find a news story about a human right realized in the United States that is not recognized in another country.
   c. Visit with a student or Scout from another country and discuss the typical values, holidays, ethnic foods, and traditions practiced or enjoyed there.
   d. Attend a world Scout jamboree.
   e. Participate in or attend an international event in your area, such as an ethnic festival, concert, or play.
Resources

Scouting Literature


For more information about Scouting-related resources, visit the BSA’s online retail catalog (with your parent’s permission) at http://www.scoutstuff.org.

Books


Connolly, Sean. The International Red Cross (Global Organizations). The Creative Company, 2009.


**Organizations and Websites**

**The American Academy of Diplomacy**
Telephone: 202-331-3721
Website: http://www.academyofdiplomacy.org

**American Institute for Foreign Study**
Toll-free telephone: 866-906-2437
Website: http://www.aifs.org

**Amnesty International USA**
5 Penn Plaza
New York, NY 10001
Website: http://www.amnestyusa.org

**British Broadcasting Corporation**
Website: http://www.bbc.co.uk

**Cable News Network**
Website: http://www.cnn.com

**C-SPAN**
Website: http://www.c-span.org

**Embassy Worldwide**
Website: http://www.embassy-worldwide.com/country/united-states/

**Federal Reserve Bank of New York**
Website: http://www.federalreserveeducation.org/resources

**Foreign, Comparative and International Law**
Website: http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/fcil.html

**International Committee of the Red Cross**
Website: http://www.icrc.org

**International Criminal Police Organization**
Website: http://www.interpol.int

**National Constitution Center**
525 Arch St.
Independence Mall
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Toll-free telephone: 866-917-1787
Website: http://www.constitutioncenter.org

**The New York Times**
Website: http://www.nytimes.com

**Peace Corps**
Website: http://www.peacecorps.gov

**People to People International**
Telephone: 816-531-4701
Website: http://www.ptpi.org

**Presidential Classroom**
Telephone: 434-924-7236
Website: http://www.presidentialclassroom.org

**Sister Cities International**
Telephone: 202-347-8630
Website: http://www.sister-cities.org

**United Nations**
UN Headquarters
760 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Website: http://www.un.org

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**
Website: http://www.unesco.org

**U.S. Agency for International Development**
Website: http://www.usaid.gov
Resources

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Website: http://uscis.gov

U.S. Department of State
Website: http://www.state.gov

U.S. Department of State Youth Exchange Programs
Telephone: 202-632-9352
Website: http://exchanges.state.gov/us

U.S. Embassies and Consulates
Website: http://usembassy.state.gov

The Wall Street Journal
Website: http://www.wsj.com

The Washington Post
Website: http://www.washingtonpost.com

The World Factbook
Website: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook

World Health Organization
Website: http://www.who.int/en

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Website: http://www.scout.org

Acknowledgments

The Boy Scouts of America thanks Harry Kreisler for his assistance with this new edition of the Citizenship in the World merit badge pamphlet. Mr. Kreisler is the former executive director and a visiting scholar at the Institute of International Studies, University of California at Berkeley. Thanks also to Harry C. Boyte, Ph.D., codirector, Center for Democracy and Citizenship, for his assistance.

The Boy Scouts of America is grateful to the men and women serving on the Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force for the improvements made in updating this pamphlet.

The Boy Scouts of America is grateful to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for its assistance with providing many of the photos herein. This United Nations agency, which upholds education as a fundamental human right, has an initiative called Education for All. World leaders and delegates from 164 countries have joined and pledged to provide a quality “Education for All by 2015.”

Photo Credits

Bureau of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of State, courtesy—pages 18 (woman with head scarf), 64 (children outdoors and children at computers), 78, 82, and 83

Carnegie Foundation, courtesy—page 72

ICRC/Thierry Gassmann, courtesy—page 32

ICRC/Franco Pagetti, courtesy—page 70

Jane Addams School for Democracy, courtesy—page 10

Karen M. Kraft, courtesy—page 90 (college students)

NATO photos, courtesy—page 18 (men shaking hands and women shaking hands), and 33

Pan American Health Organization, courtesy—page 66

Ryan and Associates, courtesy—page 46 (hotel, McDonald’s, and KFC)