

Citizenship in the Community

1. Discuss with your counselor what citizenship in the community means and what it takes to be a good citizen in your community. Discuss the **a.** rights, **b.** duties, and **c.** obligations of citizenship, and explain how you can demonstrate good citizenship in your **d.** community, **e.** Scouting unit, **f.** place of worship, or **g.** school.

Provide picture choices of what their rights are: one correct, one incorrect. See photo gallery at end of lesson plans for all picture choices.

2. Do the following:

(a) On a map of your community, 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. Historical or other interesting points

Go to the Photo Gallery. Provide pictures to glue/pin to map. May put a symbol matching the picture to the map location to assist. OR Go to Google maps and choose points of interest and print.

(b) Chart the organization of your local or state government. Show the top offices and tell whether they are elected or appointed.

Go to <http://kcmo.gov/city-officials/city-council/> for the organizational chart. Put sticky letters of E or A for elected or appointed.

3. Do the following:

(a) Attend a city or town council or school board meeting, or a municipal, county, or state court session.

Can watch Channel 2 on cable if the Scout is unable to tolerate a group setting.

(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.

Give a chart of happy face/sad face or +/- and put pictures, words of both sides of the argument.

4. 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.

Topics you may find: trash, snow removal, more police presence, taxes, parks & recreation, abandoned homes, vacant lots, new airport. Give 3 index cards: legislative, judicial, executive and they put issues under each heading. May have to use pictures or symbols for each.

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=My+Community+Clip+Art&FORM=IRIBIP>

(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.

The State Representative or State Senator seem to be the most accessible. You could also interview your City Council representative.

(c) Share what you have learned with your counselor.

May put issues in images and the Scout puts under +/- category on progress of each issue.

5. 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.

One suggested site to look at choices: <https://brightside.me/wonder-films/15-incredibly-positive-movies-that-are-sure-to-motivate-you-161455/>

6. 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.

Take the services and match the pictures to what they offer. See photo gallery.

7. Do the following:

(a) Choose a charitable organization outside of Scouting that interests you and brings people in your community together to work for the good of your community.

Ideas: [KC Pet Project](#), [Harvesters](#), [City Union Mission](#), [Matt Mason Triathlon](#), [Leukemia Lymphoma Society](#), [Ronald McDonald House](#), [Wounded Warriors](#), [Heart to Heart](#)

(b) 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.

Google it! Best place to start on information.

(c) With your counselor's and your parent's approval, contact the organization 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.

Suggestions here will depend on the abilities of the Scout. Some pet rescues ask for help with fostering kittens until they are older, making hygiene kits, helping serve food, packaging food, helping pass out water at races, collecting monies for non-profits, cleaning up trash in parks.

8. 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.

Power Point is a great tool for presentation where even the Scout with non-verbal skills can explain about the history, cultures, etc. through slides. A communication partner is also suggested.