

# Citizenship in the Nation

**1. Explain what citizenship in the nation means and what it takes to be a good citizen of this country. Discuss the rights, duties, and obligations of a responsible and active American citizen.**

Lesson idea: Put out pictures depicting your rights: go to school, church, own a gun, vote and some distractors that are more likes but not rights: ice cream, vacations, owning a car. Have the Scout put the pictures of rights together and discuss. Same for duties and obligations: Show pictures of working, going to school, feeding kids, taking care of a house, picking up trash and some distractors like raking leaves, go to the library, going to a baseball game. Have the Scout pull out the pictures that are duties to be a good citizen but not required. Discuss. You can use yes/no format.

**2. Do TWO of the following:**

a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it. [Truman Library hosts 2 Boy Scout events including the film, tour and then coursework with counselors. Check out hoac-bsa.org for the calendar. Usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September and March.](#)

b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.

c. Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation. [Ft. Leavenworth offers an auto tour of the history of the base and then tour the national cemetery.](#)

d. Choose a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned, and explain why the monument is important to this country's citizens.

Lesson idea: There are many places to visit that are national and/or historic landmarks in your area. Take the tour, get the literature and generate a good discussion. For more information, go to: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_national\\_monuments\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_monuments_of_the_United_States)

**3. Watch the national evening news five days in a row OR read the front page of a major daily newspaper five days in a row. Discuss the national issues you learned about with your counselor. Choose one of the issues and explain how it affects you and your family.**

Lesson idea: Print/clip the news headlines and have the Scout choose a topic. You can use icons to say how it affects the family using happy/sad face if the Scout is non-verbal or challenging abilities level. You can ask yes/no questions as well to get the idea across: Does this affect your mom or dad? Does it affect their job? Where you live? How long one of your parents is gone from the house? Where you go to school? Where you live? If you can buy something new in your house? If you can go on vacation?

**4. Discuss each of the following documents with your counselor. Tell your counselor how you feel life in the United States might be different without each one.**

- a. Declaration of Independence
- b. Preamble to the Constitution
- c. The Constitution
- d. Bill of Rights
- e. Amendments to the Constitution

Lesson idea: Give each Scout 10 popsicle sticks and 2 rectangles of paper. Talk about building a house.

1. First, you buy your land and declare your independence from living with your parents. This is the Declaration of Independence. Put down a rectangle.
2. Next you need to dig a basement. This will be the foundation to your home. It is called the , which is the foundation to our Constitution. Put 3 sticks on the paper and make your basement.
3. Now we need to frame your home. Put 2 sticks on for walls and 1 for the ceiling. The framework is called the Constitution.
4. Every house needs a roof. Put 3 sticks up for the roof. These are the Bill of Rights, the first 10 rights you have.
5. You hate to scrape windshields in the snow so a garage is needed. Put a rectangle down for the garage at the side. This is are Amendments you made to your house, the Constitution.

**5. List the six functions of government as noted in the preamble to the Constitution.** Discuss with your counselor how these functions affect your family and local community.

Lesson idea: Take each statement and match to a picture. See handout.



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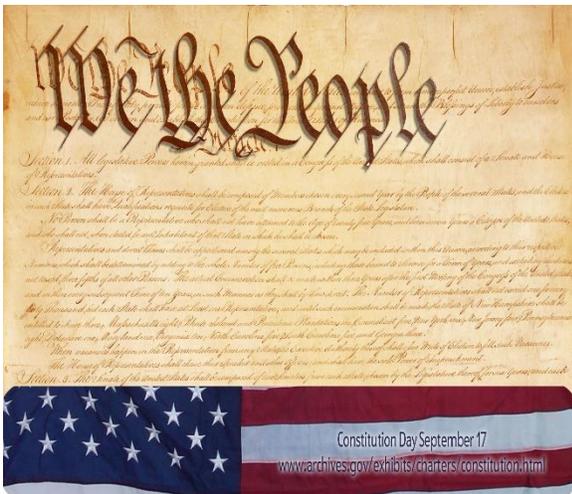
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## 5. Cut and match to each function of government to the picture.

Establish justice

Insure domestic tranquility

Provide for the common defense

Promote the general welfare

Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity

Establish the Constitution

**6. With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance.** Find out about the author, and tell your counselor about the person who gave the speech. Explain the importance of the speech at the time it was given, and tell how it applies to American citizens today. Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.

Lesson idea: Have several speeches available for the Scout to work with a communication partner. Highlight the name of the speech, date delivered and general idea about the speech. Have the communication partner read the highlights for the Scout. Use yes/no questions to answer how it affect the Scout today. For question ideas, look at plans for #3.

**7. Name the three branches of our federal government and explain to your counselor their functions.** Explain how citizens are involved in each branch. For each branch of government, explain the importance of the system of checks and balances.

Lesson idea: Draw a triangle on the board. Put the typed sentences on each corner and job functions. Can show School House Rock DVD.

**8. Name your two senators and the member of Congress from your congressional district.** Write a letter about a national issue and send it to one of these elected officials, sharing your view with him or her. Show your letter and any response you receive to your counselor.

Lesson idea: Look up the website for each. The Scout can submit the letter online. Print before sending.