

Citizenship in Society Merit Badge

BSA recently released Citizenship in Society, an exciting new merit badge for Scouts. Citizenship in Society provides Scouts with opportunities to learn more about our world by encouraging them to explore information on diversity, equity, inclusion, and ethical leadership — and to learn why these qualities are important in society and in Scouting.

Scouts can currently earn Citizenship in Society merit badge, which will be become Eagle required on July 1, 2022.

Citizenship in Society offers a unique merit badge experience. BSA will not be publishing a merit badge pamphlet, and unlike most merit badge experiences, the objective is not to acquire a pre-determined set of practical skills or knowledge. Scouts will instead engage in a reflective journey of self-study, exploration, and conversation with their counselor, parents, peers, and other community members. Scouts are encouraged to tailor their study to their own experiences and goals for personal growth.

Merit Badge Counselors Needed

Because the Citizenship in Society merit badge is such a unique experience for Scouts, it will require a unique commitment from the merit badge counselors who will work with them.

In most other merit badges, the counselor is a subject matter expert who helps to share his or her knowledge and experience with a Scout who is learning a new skill. For the Citizenship in Society merit badge, however, the counselor is best viewed as a guide, or facilitator, who supports the Scout along their own personal journey of study and reflection.

Based on feedback from Scouts and counselors during pilot testing for the new merit badge, BSA recommends that Citizenship in Society counselors work together with no more than 3-5 Scouts of similar age and from the same troop. Due to the nature of the work involved, BSA's guidance directs that this badge should not be offered in large group settings such as troop meetings, or in summer camp or merit badge university environments.

The Twin Rivers Council is seeking qualified adult counselors to help guide Scouts through this Citizenship in Society experience. Citizenship in Society counselors will be expected to:

- Complete BSA's *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Scouting* training online at my.scouting.org.
- Read and follow BSA's *Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Counselor Guide*.
- Demonstrate support for the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and ethical leadership.
- Exhibit strong communication skills, including the ability to listen and ask guiding questions to promote discussion without imparting the counselor's own feelings or views.
- Be available to openly communicate with the Scout's parent(s) or guardian(s) if questions or discussions require their assistance.
- Demonstrate an ability to serve as a guide and facilitator for a Scout's personal, reflective, journey.

If you are interested in serving as a counselor for Citizenship in Society merit badge, please complete the application process detailed on trcscouting.org. Applicants must provide a copy of their *DEI in Scouting* training certificate from my.scouting.org. If you have questions, please contact Advancement Committee Chair Ross Petitjean (RPetitjean@ialawny.com) or Vice President of Program Ethan Angell (ethanangell56@gmail.com).