



One of the primary aims of the Boy Scouts of America is to guide youth toward good citizenship. That aim is expressed clearly in the Scout Oath pledge of "duty to country" and "to help other people at all times." And, of course, the 12 points of the Scout Law are virtually a checklist for good citizenship.

This program feature is designed to heighten a young man's appreciation of his rights and duties as a citizen, to make him aware of his heritage as an American, and to acquaint him with the approved ways of displaying and showing respect for the chief symbol of our country—the flag.

But the suggested troop meeting plans also include elements that apply to such related merit badges as Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, American Cultures, and American Heritage.

For the third week the troop could plan to attend a meeting of a public body such as the city council or school board, or of a private group that is concerned with the public welfare—a tenants' association, block club, or neighborhood watch group, for example. (Obviously the troop schedule will have to be adapted to the group's schedule.) The patrol leaders' council should arrange for an official or officer of the group to answer questions after the meeting.

The troop's big event will be a Heritage Hike. The destination might be a historic site or trail in your area. Or it could be a place that isn't necessarily historic but is a significant part of your area's heritage—perhaps a wildlife refuge, museum, unusual geological formation, zoo, or ethnic festival. The Heritage Hike may be a day outing or an overnight campout.

SCOUTING OUTCOMES

This month's patrol and troop activities should give your Scouts:

- A greater understanding of their duty to country and their duty to help other people.
- Awareness of their rights and duties as citizens.
- Some knowledge of their heritage as citizens of their community and country.
- Growing self-confidence.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

By the end of the month, all Scouts should have met the majority of their citizenship requirements through First Class. Depending on the activities, they may also complete all or part of the following rank requirements:

Tenderfoot

- Outdoor—Hiking, camping
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn
- Patrol/troop participation—Patrol identification
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

Second Class

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies
- Patrol/troop participation—Leadership
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

First Class

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, nature, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn