



- Patrol/troop participation—Leadership
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

Merit Badges. Older Scouts may concentrate on the Citizenship merit badge this month; they should be able to complete many of the requirements. Depending on activities during the month, they may also complete requirements in American Culture, American Heritage, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Cooking, Hiking, Camping, and other outdoor-related merit badges.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

The patrol leaders' council may involve parents in the program feature this month by:

- Asking qualified parents to help with troop meeting instruction for related merit badges. (Look for lawyers, history teachers, law enforcement officials, and journalists who cover public affairs.)
- Inviting parents on the outing.
- Asking parents to provide transportation for the visit to a community meeting.

PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL

The PLC should meet in the middle of the previous month to plan troop activities for this program feature. If you don't complete all items on the following agenda, continue planning at PLC meetings after each troop meeting.

- Decide what public body or private organization the troop will visit during the month. Assign a member to check on the date, time, and place of the meeting, and arrange to have an official meet with the troop afterwards, or ask the troop committee to make these arrangements.

- Make arrangements to invite a community leader to the second troop meeting to discuss his or her work and moderate a discussion of the rights and duties of a citizen. The person might be the mayor, city council member, school board member, or other elected official, or he or she might be a judge, city attorney, or the leader of a civic or service group.
- Make the following patrol assignments for troop meeting activities:

Patrol A—Opening and closing flag ceremonies.

Patrol B—Presentation on U.S. flag history.

Patrol C—Report on the history or significance of the destination for the Heritage Hike.

- Make a list of possible patrol Good Turns for the community. Here are a few possibilities:

Raise and lower the U.S. flag at the school the patrol members attend for 1 week.

Clean up a vacant lot or playground.

Run errands, clean yard, or shovel snow for an elderly couple.

Make regular visits to a handicapped or homebound child.

Plant flowers, shrubs, or tree seedlings in an eroded area of a park, playground, or other public land. Be sure to get permission first.

- Review citizenship requirements. Discuss the rights and duties of Scout-age youth. Review the lists in the *Boy Scout Handbook* and note the rights and duties that don't apply to young people. Then add others that do, such as: The right to be protected from assault and theft; to complain to authorities if someone is being treated unjustly; to use