



## Citizenship in Society Merit Badge TFC Roll-Out



On November 1, 2021, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), announced the launch of the Citizenship in Society merit badge, its newest merit badge for youth in the Scouts BSA program (ages 11-17). The new merit badge encourages Scouts to explore important topics around diversity, equity, inclusion and ethical leadership and learn why these qualities are important in society and in Scouting. Beginning July 1, 2022, the Citizenship in Society merit badge will be required for any youth seeking to achieve the Eagle Scout rank. Additional details will be provided by the National Youth Program team in coming weeks. More information can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/about/diversity-equity-inclusion/>

### **Three Fires Council Roll-Out Plan**

**Phase 1:** A group of qualified Merit Badge Counselors for Citizenship in Society will be identified and approved by the District Advancement Committees in the coming weeks. Merit badge counselors will be available to work with Scouts starting in mid-December.

- Counselors will be identified and approved by the council based on their ability to be a skilled listener, facilitator, and discussion leader.
- Initially there will be about 20 approved counselors (a mix of men and women) located throughout the council.
- Counselors will work with Scouts from all units.
- This group of counselors will have council training to be prepared to work with interested Scouts in December 2021.
- **Do not** submit a request to become a merit badge counselor until Phase 2 is implemented.
- This badge includes some advanced and complex topics, so we recommend Scoutmasters, counselors and parents weigh-in on a Scout's readiness for participation.
- Scouts are not to work on the merit badge prior to meeting with a counselor. Requirement 1 is 'before beginning work on other requirements for this merit badge research the following terms, and then explain to your merit badge counselor how you feel they relate to the Scout Oath and Law.....'

**Phase 2:** As experience is learned we will add additional counselors. The process for applying to become a Citizenship in Society merit badge counselor is being developed.

### **Counselors**

- Unlike other merit badges, there is no Citizenship in Society merit badge pamphlet.
- Counselors need to be:
  - Skilled in listening and in guiding discussions.
  - Individuals who are 'facilitators' who can enable discussion with the Scout and not interject their own opinions.
  - Knowledgeable in the subject matter before meeting with Scouts.
    - Completion of the DEI volunteer training is required for all counselors; it includes integral information on key concepts the Scouts will be studying: [https://training.scouting.org/courses/SCO\\_1800](https://training.scouting.org/courses/SCO_1800)
    - Attend training conducted by Three Fires Council



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- Review of the Counselor facilitation guide is necessary as it includes important information to aid in your research and preparation:  
[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/diversity\\_equity\\_and\\_inclusion/Citizenship-in-Society-Merit-Badge-Counselor-Guide-2021.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/diversity_equity_and_inclusion/Citizenship-in-Society-Merit-Badge-Counselor-Guide-2021.pdf)
- Available to openly communicate with the Scout's parent(s)/guardian(s) if questions or discussions require their assistance.
- Knowledgeable as a merit badge counselor
  - Completion of the Merit Badge Training Course available from the BSA Lean Center on [my.scouting.com](http://my.scouting.com) or through the annual Training Academy.
- There is a plethora of very important and sensitive topics included for Scouts to learn about and address; it is important to be open in listening and asking questions without imparting your own feelings or views.
  - Everyone has biases that can inform how people listen, so focusing on openness, objectivity, and inclusivity is paramount.

### Requirements

- The requirements (<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>) focus on learning about diversity, equity, inclusion, and ethical leadership and how the Scout will apply this new knowledge to their life as a Scout and good citizen in society.
- Aligned with the BSA Mission and Vision.
  - **Mission:** The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.
  - **Vision:** The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.
- The requirements enable the Scout in personal learning but do not provide any opinions.

### Counseling the Merit Badge

- There will be no merit badge pamphlet
- Research and identification of resources rests with the Scout.
- It will not be offered in a class setting (summer camp, merit badge workshops, merit badge university, etc.)
- Individual or small group setting (3-5 Scouts, within two years of age and within the same unit) working with a merit badge counselor following YPT as specified in the Guide to Safe Scouting.
- It is strongly recommended Scoutmasters advise that Scouts should be at least 14 years old. Scouts will need maturity to pursue the Citizenship in Society to research and understand the requirements.
- Counseling will be within a safe environment with open and unbiased discussion.