

Citizenship in the Nation

Thursday, August 4, 2026 – Cape Girardeau, MO

Locations: Please note: This program begins and ends at two separate locations.

Check in begins at 9:00 a.m. Program begins promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Location #1: Cape City Hall

We will meet near the Gazebo, on the west/back side of the building.

44 N. Lorimer Street, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

At 10:00 a.m., the group will walk 0.3 miles together to -

Location #2: Rush H. Limbaugh, Sr. U.S. Courthouse

555 Independence Street, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Program adjourns at 4:00 p.m. from -

Location #2: Rush H. Limbaugh, Sr. U.S. Courthouse

Drop off - Pick up instructions: For adults not staying all day, Scouts can be dropped off at **Location #1: Cape City Hall**. Check-in will take place at the Gazebo on the west side of the building, accessible from **Lorimer Street**. Check-in begins at 9:00 a.m.

Scouts will only be released into the care of an adult when dismissed from **Location #2: Limbaugh Courthouse**. There is a public parking lot south of the building, accessed from **S. Frederick Street**. Please pull in and wait for your Scout to be dismissed into your care. Please plan accordingly and **ARRIVE ON TIME** for pick up. We will wait for 15 minutes.

If you arrive later than 4:15 p.m., you will need to park and enter the building to pick up.

Parking:

Parking for drop off only: If you are dropping off at **Location #1: Cape City Hall**, you will find plenty of free street parking on Themis Street and Lorimer Street. If you plan to stay all day, please use one of the options below instead of parking on the street.

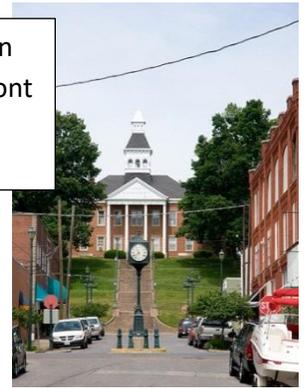
All day parking: You have 2 choices for all day parking if you plan to attend the program.

- There is a public parking lot downtown by the floodwall, at Broadway and Water Street. If you park here, you would have a farther walk at the END of the day.
- There is public parking lot on the south side of **Location #2: Rush H. Limbaugh Sr. U.S. Courthouse**, enter from S. Frederick Street. If you park here, you would have a farther walk at the BEGINNING of the day, please plan accordingly.

A note to adults staying all day:

Thank you for agreeing to stay for the program. I will ask for your assistance throughout the day to do head counts, and collect and distribute materials. **Please let me know RIGHT AWAY if you are unable to attend the program.** Many thanks.

Location
#1 – Front
(East)



Location
#1 – Back
(West)

Gazebo



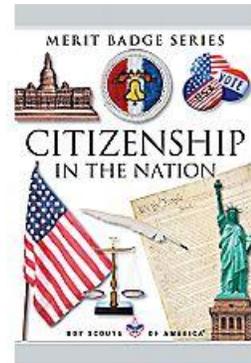
Location
#2

**Parking
Lot**



Scouts are expected to bring the following:

- Optional, a small umbrella if rain is expected
- A Pencil (pencils only please, NO PENS)
- Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Pamphlet (*optional*, pictured)
- Signed Merit Badge Card (see next page)
- Signed Photo Agreement (see page 4)
- Completed Pre-Requisite Assignments (see pages 5-9)
- A Lunch, labeled with first and last name. There will be a lunch break at **Location #2**. Because lunches need to go through the security screening, do not pack metal forks, knives, etc.
 - **ALL SNACKS AND LUNCHES SHOULD BE NUT-FREE.**
 - No liquids may be brought in except with packed lunches.
 - Scouts should also bring a water bottle.
 - Snack and beverage machines are NOT available. The building has NO cafeteria. There is no lunch break during which participants can leave the group. All participants, including adults, must bring a lunch.



Entering the building:

- Official Dress (Class A) uniforms are the appropriate dress for the day. Shorts are discouraged, but will be allowed if they are uniform shorts. No hats.
- For adults who are not in uniform, business casual attire is recommended. No shorts, tank tops, flip flops, or hats.
- Please, be prepared to go through security. Everyone will need to go through security at **Location #2: Limbaugh Courthouse**.
- Cameras are not allowed, nor are the usual restricted items like weapons, scissors, pepper spray, etc. No knives or other sharp metal objects, please.
- No liquids may be brought into the building expect with packed lunches.
- Adults will need their driver's license or other legal photo ID with them.
- All Scout cell phones will need to be **TURNED ALL THE WAY OFF**. **Scouts are not to use their phones or have them out at all during the program.** Adults should leave their phones set to silent/vibrate except if/when observing court. All phones must be OFF in active courtrooms.

Earning the Merit Badge:

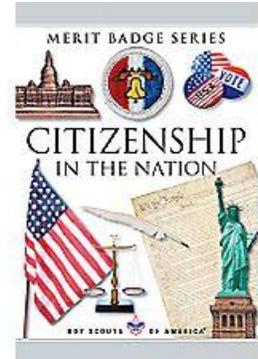
Simply attending this event does not guarantee that you will earn the merit badge. Each Scout must meet all requirements as they are stated. Some of the requirements will need to be completed in advance, and turned in on the day of the workshop.

One or more of the instructors has been certified as a Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Counselor, and will sign off on the merit badge card. Each Scout must bring a merit badge card that has been signed by the Scoutmaster. Have Scout name and all other information already filled out. The card will be collected at check in. The Merit Badge Counselor will sign off only for requirements successfully completed.

If any requirements are incomplete after participation in this workshop, it will be up to the Scout to contact a Merit Badge Counselor on their own, to finish any requirements not completed before or during this workshop.

Each Scout should do the following, in advance of the workshop:

- Obtain the Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge Pamphlet (*optional, pictured*).
- Read over all of the requirements for Citizenship in the Nation.
- Use the pages 5-9 of this handout to complete requirements 5, 6, and 8 in advance.
 - **PLEASE NOTE:** You may answer on my worksheets or on your own paper, but please **use the format I have outlined on pages 5-9 of this handout**. **DO NOT** use any worksheets available from other sources on the internet.
- Bring all of your work with you to the workshop.
- Or, **you may email your work to me in advance**. This is greatly appreciated whenever possible. **Parent/Guardian/Scout Leader must be the sender of the email or be copied on the email. Scouts should not email me without including another adult.**
- We will complete requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 at the workshop.



Successful completion of everything listed above will fulfill all Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge requirements. Simply attending the workshop does not guarantee that you will earn the merit badge.

Do not wait until the last minute to begin working on the pre-requisite assignments, as several of them take days or even weeks to complete. You should get started on them right away, read everything carefully, and do a good job if you expect to earn the Badge.

I will accept typed or handwritten worksheets. **I will also accept emailed worksheets in advance of August 4 (preferred).**

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Rachel E. Marshall
Director of Civic Education
United States Courts
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
Tel: (314) 244-2410
Email: Rachel_Marshall@ca8.uscourts.gov

Complete this page. Bring it with you to be collected on August 4.

Photo Agreement

August 4, 2026

Scouts BSA Merit Badge Skill Center

I understand that photos and video may be taken by the staff of the United States Courts during any program or activity. I further understand that these photos may be used for future public relations or promotional materials. This may include internal and/or general publications, including the court's website and social media pages.

Please complete and send with your Scout on August 4.

Participant's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Complete this page. Bring it with you to be collected on August 4.

Complete this page. Bring it with you or email in advance and be ready to discuss it on August 4.

A NOTE ABOUT REQUIREMENTS #1-4: On August 4, you will be provided a pocket guide, free of charge, that includes the Declaration of Independence, and the complete U.S. Constitution (including the Preamble, the Constitution itself, the Bill of Rights, and all additional Amendments). If you are interested in seeing these documents in advance of the workshop, they are all available for you to read on the internet.

- a. Declaration of Independence: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>
 - b. The Constitution: <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/full-text>
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Requirement #5

Watch the **national** evening news for five days in a row OR read the main stories in a **national** media organization (e.g., a newspaper or a news website) for five days in a row. Discuss the **national** issues you learned about with your counselor. Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and community.

NOTES: **National** means something affecting the citizens of this country, not something happening locally. Therefore, you should use a **national** news source. Examples of national news sources include:

- **Television:** Examples - Channel 4 CBS Evening News weekdays at 5:30, Channel 5 NBC Nightly News at 5:30; Channel 30 ABC World News Tonight weekdays at 5:30; OR find the U.S. or National sections on the websites of any local TV stations
- **Print or Online:** Examples - U.S. section of Newsweek or Wall Street Journal News, Nation-World section of St. Louis Post Dispatch; OR find the U.S. or National sections on the websites of any local TV stations

INSTRUCTIONS: List **more than one new** issue for each day.

Day 1: _____ (date). What are the national issues you learned about today?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Day 2: _____ (date). What are the national issues you learned about today?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Complete this page. Bring it with you or email in advance and be ready to discuss it on August 4.

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Day 3: _____ (date). What are the national issues you learned about today?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Day 4: _____ (date). What are the national issues you learned about today?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Day 5: _____ (date). What are the national issues you learned about today?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

DO NOT SKIP THIS: Choose one of the national issues and write it here: _____

DO NOT SKIP THIS: Explain how it affects you, your family, and community: _____

*******Do not skip this last set of questions. They must be completed to get credit, and to earn the Badge.**

Complete this page. Bring it with you or email in advance and be ready to discuss it on August 4.

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Requirement #6

Choose a speech of national historical importance from the list of choices or select your own and identify it below. Carefully read the text of the speech. It may also help you to watch and listen to someone reading or giving the speech. Answer the discussion questions on this page and the next page.

CHOOSE ONE:

___ **Patrick Henry.** Addressing Colonial Virginia’s Delegates.

Read the speech: <http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/henry.htm>

Watch an actor give part of the speech: http://youtu.be/iEOets_L7vg

___ **Abraham Lincoln.** Gettysburg Address.

Read the speech: <http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/gettysburg.htm>

Listen to people read the speech: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/gettysburgaddress.htm>

Watch an actor explain the setting, and give the speech, speech begins at 2:05:

<http://youtu.be/JPzAZ5N-mtU>

___ **John F. Kennedy.** Inaugural Address.

Read and listen to the speech: <http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/jfk-inaug.htm>

Watch a video of John F. Kennedy himself, giving the actual speech: <https://youtu.be/d6sGMV60Xc4>

___ **Martin Luther King, Jr.** At the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Read the speech, and listen to Martin Luther King, Jr. himself, giving the actual speech:

<https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkhaveadream.htm>

___ **A speech and speaker of your choice:** _____

A. Research the speaker. Write 5 facts about the speaker in the space below.

Speaker’s Name: (Circle One) **Patrick Henry** -- **Abraham Lincoln** -- **John F. Kennedy** -- **Martin Luther King, Jr.** -- ?

Write 5 Facts about him/her:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Complete this page. Bring it with you or email in advance and be ready to discuss it on August 4.

Answer the following questions about the speech:

B. In what year was the speech given? _____

What was the historical context when the speech given? What was going on at the time? _____

C. What difficulties was the nation facing, that the author wished to discuss? _____

D. What did the speech say? _____

E. Why is the speech important to the nation's history? _____

F. Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you. Write it here:

Why is this significant to you? _____

Complete this page. Bring it with you or email in advance and be ready to discuss it on August 4.

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Requirement #8

Name your representative in the U.S. Congress from your Congressional district. Write a letter to your representative in Congress explaining your views on a **national** issue. Show your letter, along with any response you receive, to your counselor.

NOTES: In order to get credit for this requirement, and to earn your Badge, you must do **ALL** of the following:

1. Complete this worksheet correctly.
2. Write a letter to your elected representative to share your view about this issue.
3. Mail the letter or send it in an email. Use this page to help you find the mailing address, email address, or web contact form - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>
4. **Provide a copy of the letter you wrote**, proof you mailed or emailed it, and any response you get back, along with this worksheet. **YOU WILL NOT GET CREDIT IF YOU DO NOT INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR LETTER.** If you send an email or web contact, keep a screen shot or save the text of the email in a separate document to turn in.

House of Representatives: In what Congressional district do you live? Who is your Representative?

Use this page to help you: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

What is a **national** issue you'd like to discuss with your elected official? _____

What is your view or opinion about the issue? _____

Pointers for writing a good letter –

- Does it state a specific issue or problem?
- Does it clearly state the reason for concern?
- Is this supported by facts or evidence?
- Is a reasonable request or suggestion made?
- Does it ask for a reply?
- Is correct letter format used?
- Is it neatly written or typed?
- Does it include your name and return contact information?

Complete this page. Bring it with you or email in advance and be ready to discuss it on August 4.