

CITIZEN(2) -- COMMUNITY GROUP

One of the purposes of Cub Scouting is developing habits and attitudes of good citizenship". A Scout promises to do his duty to his country. The Citizen Activity Badge helps the Webelos understand what a good citizen is and teaches him the history of our flag. Citizen Activity Badge is in the Community group.

The Citizen activity badge relates directly to developing responsible citizens, one of the prime purposes of the BSA. The appeal of this badge will be determined in a large part by the method used by the Webelos Leader in presenting it. It can be fun and exciting, or it can just be some more reports to write. Do your best in planning the program. The Webelos leader should plan carefully so that boys get a feeling for the real meaning of citizenship without spending a lot of time in study. There are various ways to do this. You might give them the opportunity to get a close look at government by planning a field trip to a local government agency or court. One of the best ways to stress the meaning of good citizenship is by practicing the good turn. This should be a "must" for every boy. Working on this badge can be exciting, fun and informative, or it can be just more reports to write.

Good citizenship is emphasized throughout Scouting. Being a good citizen means helping other people, knowing the history of our country, appreciating the contributions and sacrifices of others who have made our country better, knowing our public officials, understanding how our government works, obeying the laws, and doing things that will benefit the community.

The Citizen activity badge is important since the work involved relates directly to developing responsible citizens, one of the primary aims of the Boy Scouts of America. The Citizen activity badge is a requirement for the Arrow of Light Award. It is the first of several citizenship requirements on the trail to Eagle Scout. By completing this activity badge, all of the requirements for the Boy Scout Citizenship skill award can also be met.

Webelos Scouts get a feeling for the real meaning of citizenship in two ways. First by getting a closer look at local government by going to see it in action. Second, and most effective, by practicing good citizenship through Good Turns. The Good Turn is one of the optional requirements for the activity badge, but it should be a way of life for all Scouts.

Objectives:

- ✓ To foster citizenship in Webelos Scouts, to teach boys to recognize the qualities of a good citizen, to introduce boys to the structure of the U.S. government,
- ✓ To familiarize boys with basics of American history,

- ✓ To convince boys that laws are beneficial
- ✓ To encourage Webelos Scouts to become community volunteers.

Pack and Den Ideas

- Discuss the various organizations in your community which help people. How are they financed and run? Do they use volunteer help? Visit one of these organizations.
- Buy a pack of U.S. commemorative stamps. Pass out several to each Webelos and challenge them to discover the story behind the stamp.
- Visit a historic site in or near your community, learn your state's bird, tree, flower and flag, or take part in a Veteran's Day ceremony in your community. Take photos and prepare a report for the pack meeting.
- Make a pack meeting display of magazine pictures of places of historical interest or great beauty in America.
- Discuss requirement of Badge with a community leader
- A campaign against litter is a "must" for good citizenship. Discuss how your den can carry on such a campaign and do it. This could include making posters for display, litter clean up, making litterbags, a fight against pollution, and collecting items for recycling.
- Discuss the various organizations in the community, which help people. How are they financed and run? Do they use volunteer help?
- Observe the voting process.
- Remind people to fly the flag.
- Discuss difference between the rights and duties of a citizen.
- Select a Good Turn for school, church, or community and carry it out.
- Plan a special Good Turn for the next pack meeting, such as setting up chairs, acting as welcoming committee, ushering, cleaning up.
- Make logbooks to record work on the activity badge.
- Learn flag courtesy. (See the booklet, Your Flag.) Use the flag courtesy kit described later in this section to learn proper procedures. Then demonstrate to a group of younger Cub Scouts.
- Plan an anti-litter campaign. This could include making and displaying posters, picking up litter, making litter bags, etc.
- Discuss the community organizations that help people. How are they run and financed? Do they use volunteer help?
- Invite a new US citizen to speak to the den on what becoming an American means to him or her.
- Discuss the rights and the responsibilities of good citizens.