

Cub Scout Academics: Citizenship



REQUIREMENTS

Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts may complete requirements in a family, den, pack, school, or community environment. Tiger Cubs must work with their parents or adult partners. Parents and partners do not earn loops or pins.

Belt Loop

Complete these three requirements:

- _____ 1. Develop a list of jobs you can do around the home. Chart your progress for one week.
- _____ 2. Make a poster showing things that you can do to be a good citizen.
- _____ 3. Participate in a family, den, or school service project.

Academics Pin

Earn the Citizenship belt loop and complete five of the following requirements:

- _____ 1. Interview someone who has become a naturalized citizen. Give a report of your interview to your den or family.
- _____ 2. Write a letter to your newspaper about an issue that concerns you. Send your letter by mail or e-mail.
- _____ 3. Create a collage about America.
- _____ 4. Make a list of items to check for a home safety or energy audit and then inspect your home. Talk with your parent or adult partner about correcting any problems you find.
- _____ 5. Visit your local site of government. Interview someone who is involved with the governmental process.
- _____ 6. Visit a courtroom and talk with someone who works there.
- _____ 7. Go to the polls with your parents when they vote. Talk to them about their choices.
- _____ 8. Take part in a parade with your den or pack.
- _____ 9. List ways you can recycle various materials and conserve and protect the environment.
- _____ 10. Attend a community event or visit a landmark in your community.

Resources

Check out your local library and schools for information about citizenship. You can find magazines and books for children that focus on concern for the community, the environment, history, and other people. Another resource is *Boys' Life* magazine.

Leaders can find more ideas for citizenship activities by reading the merit badge pamphlets for *Citizenship in the World*, *Citizenship in the Nation*, *Citizenship in the Community*, and *Family Life*.

Good Citizenship

The role of citizen is complex even for adults. Our democratic nation is always addressing complex issues and presenting its citizens with difficult choices. Rights and freedoms of individuals need to be balanced against those of the majority. Consideration for the common good is an enduring issue. Often, our personal values play an important role in the decisions we make and the actions we take.

The following ideas may help you help your child:

1. **Model good citizenship.** This can be the most powerful assistance you can give a child.
2. **Encourage your child to express his ideas** on the issues related to the projects even if they differ from your own.
3. **Subscribe to newspapers** or news magazines and select articles of mutual interest to read and discuss together.
4. **Take your child with you to a PTA or PTO meeting**, school board meeting, community hearing, or similar activity.
5. **Discuss with your child about national holidays** and why they are important and celebrated.
6. **Check books out from the library** about the community, region, nation, or world.
7. **Visit historical places** during family vacations.
8. **Don't let racial, ethnic, or gender slurs go unnoticed.**
9. **Share family stories** with your child. Look through old photo albums or scrapbooks together.
10. **Help your child learn about people who live in other places.** We live in a global society.
11. In the face of the many problems that plague our world, it is important that adults **convey a sense of hope and a belief in the ability of human beings to solve problems.**

The World Conservation Award



Earning the Cub Scout World Conservation Award is a great way for a boy to show he cares about his community and to learn about the environment. Requirements can be found in the *Cub Scout Leader Book* and in the *Wolf*, *Bear*, and *Webelos Scout* handbooks.