

Hi! I'm Nancy Torborg, and I will be you (or your son's) Merit Badge Counselor for the Citizenship in the Nation badge for Merit Badge Madness. I have been involved with Boy Scouts as a Leader or parent since 2004. I'm also a Teacher-librarian at Root Elementary in Wake County.

The BSA Merit Badge Book (available at the Scout Shop) is a pretty good read, but not necessary; I will supply all of the worksheets necessary to document completion of this badge. This Eagle-required badge is a great way for you son to learn about the documents that are the foundation of liberty and democracy in the United States.

I am expecting to complete Requirements 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 during the session. Requirement 2 may also be completed if your Scout brings the necessary documentation (see below). We have a lot to cover, but I promise there'll be some fun activities as part of the learning!

The Requirements for the Citizen in the Nation Merit Badge are as follows:

1.) *"Explain what citizenship in the nation means and what it takes to be a good citizen of this country. Discuss the rights, duties, and obligations of a responsible and active American citizen."*

2.) *"Do TWO of the following:*

- a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.*
- b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.*
- c. Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.*
- d. Choose a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned, and explain why the monument is important to this country's citizens."*

Time and logistics will not permit us to do this during the day, but to satisfy parts a, b or c:

- IF your son has visited a location or two that meets the above requirements from Winter Break 2013 through Merit Badge weekend **AND** can bring or send me a photo showing him at the location, he can do the written portion with me, and I will sign off on that requirement on 2/22.
- OR your son can visit one or two of the many locations here in the State or Triangle between now and 2/22 (same criteria as above):

From the National Park Service website:

National Historic Landmarks:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/designations/listsofNHLs.htm>

Search the National Registry of Historic Places

<http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreghome.do?searchtype=natreghome>

If they choose part d, they can research at home and bring all materials to the session

3.) *“Watch the national evening news five days in a row OR read the front page of a major daily newspaper five days in a row. Discuss the national issues you learned about with your counselor. Choose one of the issues and explain how it affects you and your family.”*

I will have newspapers, but they can bring in the front pages as well.

4.) *“Discuss each of the following documents with your counselor. Tell your counselor how you feel life in the United States might be different without each one.*

a. Declaration of Independence

b. Preamble to the Constitution

c. The Constitution

d. Bill of Rights

e. Amendments to the Constitution”

I will have copies, but here are some resources from the National Archives:

The Declaration of Independence,

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration.html>

The Preamble to the Constitution and The Constitution,

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html>

The Bill of Rights, http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/bill_of_rights.html

The Amendments

http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_amendments_11-27.html

5.) *“List the six functions of government as noted in the preamble to the*

Constitution. Discuss with your counselor how these functions affect your family and local community.”

6.) “With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Find out about the author, and tell your counselor about the person who gave the speech. Explain the importance of the speech at the time it was given, and tell how it applies to American citizens today. Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.”

Your son can do this research at home (please send in a copy of the document), or I will have an assortment of speeches from which they can choose.

7.) “Name the three branches of our federal government and explain to your counselor their functions. Explain how citizens are involved in each branch. For each branch of government, explain the importance of the system of checks and balances.”

8.) “Name your two senators and the member of Congress from your congressional district. Write a letter about a national issue and send it to one of these elected officials, sharing your view with him or her. Show your letter and any response you receive to your counselor.”

For your State Representative:

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

For your Senators:

<http://www.senate.gov/index.htm>

.