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BOYS' LIFE



BOYS' LIFE
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Boy Scouts of America

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BOYS' LIFE is your magazine. Each monthly issue is packed with information on Scouting skills and activities as well as many other interesting stories and articles. **BOYS' LIFE** will help you along your "trail to Eagle."

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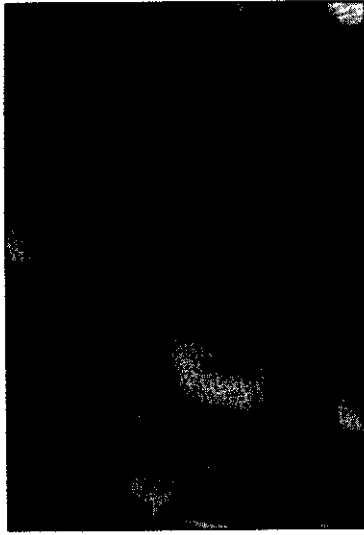


CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MERIT BADGE SERIES

How to use this pamphlet.



The secret to successfully earning a merit badge is for you to use both the pamphlet and the suggestions of your counselor.

Your counselor can be as important to you as a coach is to an athlete. Use all of the resources your counselor can make available to you. This may be the best chance you will have to learn about this particular subject. Make it count.

If you or your counselor feels that any information in this pamphlet is incorrect, please let us know. Please state your source of information.

Merit badge pamphlets are reprinted annually and requirements updated regularly. Your suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Send comments along with a brief statement about yourself to Boy Scout Division • Boy Scouts of America • 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079.

Who pays for this pamphlet?

This merit badge pamphlet is one of a series of more than 100 covering all kinds of hobby and career subjects. It is made available for you to buy as a service of the national and local councils, Boy Scouts of America. The costs of the development, writing, and editing of the merit badge pamphlets are paid for by the Boy Scouts of America in order to bring you the best book at a reasonable price.

CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
IRVING, TEXAS

Requirements

1. Describe your community to your counselor giving
 - a. A short history
 - b. Cultures and ethnic groups
 - c. Major places of employment
 What is the future of your community?
2. Mark or point out on a map of your community the following:
 - a. Chief government buildings such as your city hall, county courthouse, and public works/services facility
 - b. Fire station, police station, and hospital nearest your home
 - c. Schools, churches, and synagogues near your home
 - d. Main highways to neighboring cities and towns
 - e. Nearest railroads and bus stations and airport, if any
 - f. Chief industries or other major places of employment
 - g. Historical and other interesting points
3. Do the following:
 - a. Chart the organization of your local or state government. Show the top offices and tell which are elected or appointed.
 - b. Name the political parties in your community government and list four persons active in the politics of your community and what positions they hold.
4. Attend ONE of the following:
 - a. County or parish board meeting
 - b. City council meeting
 - c. School board meeting
 - d. Municipal, county, or state court session
5. After visiting the governmental meeting, obtain a copy of that body's published budget. Review the major sources of income

- and expenses for its operation with your counselor.
6. List the services your community provides to the citizens in return for the taxes paid by you and your parents.
 7. Select a city, county, or school problem or issue under consideration from the local newspaper or news broadcast and write a letter expressing your views to the mayor, administrator, or school board president. Show this letter and any response to your counselor.
 8. List and describe the work of five volunteer organizations through which people in your community work together for the good of your community.
 9. Tell how to report an accident or an emergency in your community.
 10. List five ways you can demonstrate good citizenship in your community, religious institution, school, or Scouting unit.

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Introduction

With the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492, a great new continent became available for exploration, exploitation, and colonization.

The history of every community in the United States has been influenced by the various peoples who have immigrated to this country over the past five hundred years, and who continue to come to this country today.

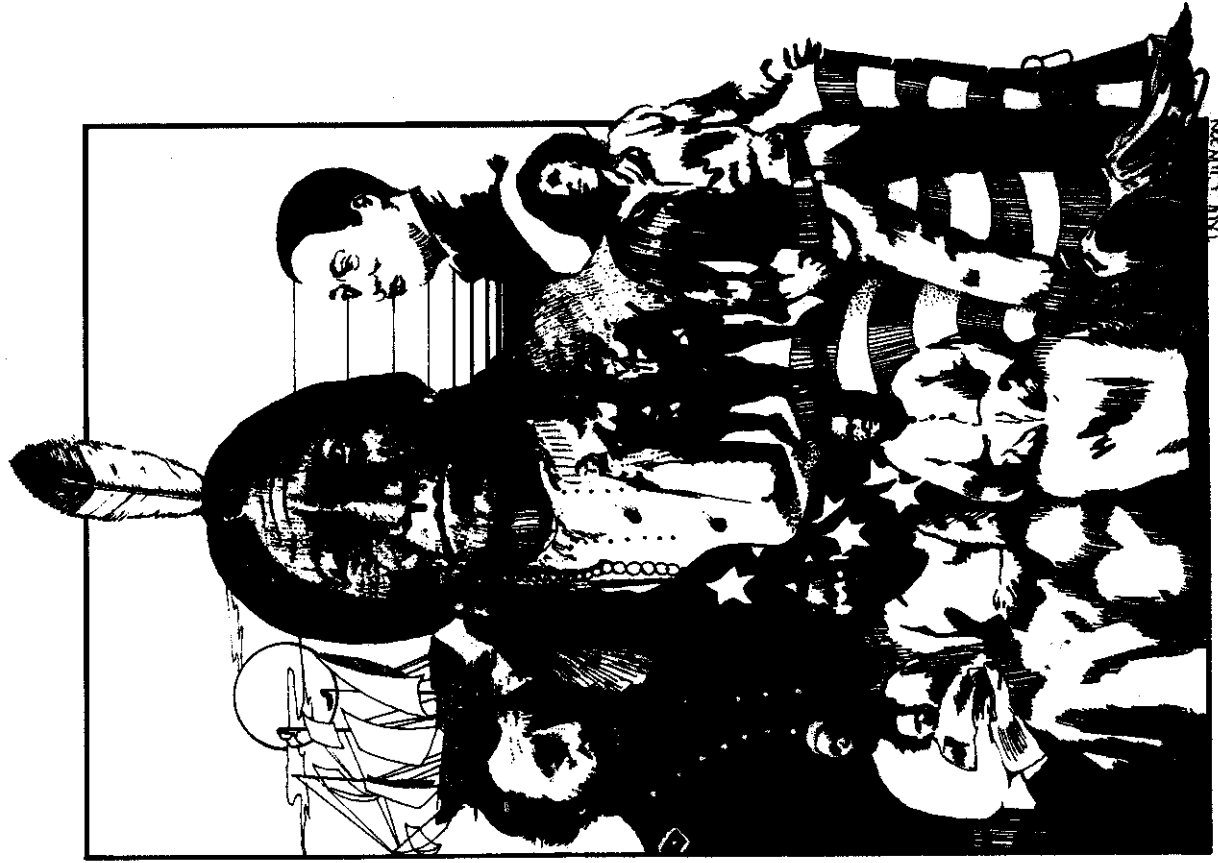
Great numbers of explorers from many European countries set sail for the west to find a large, beautiful land inhabited by a people they called "Indians." These native Americans were destined to play an important part in the history of the United States.

After the explorers came the settlers. Wave upon wave of settlers—English, Dutch, French, German, Scotch-Irish, Spanish, Swedish, Italian—came to the New World. Each nationality brought its language and customs, and many of these people of similar backgrounds settled near family and friends, creating communities with a predominant single-ethnic heritage.

What attracted these settlers? It was primarily the lure of economic opportunity, freedom of worship, and inexpensive or free land that brought the first colonists to America. The English established permanent residence in the largest numbers, but other nationalities also left their stamp on various parts of the country.

The Spanish, who already had established a large colonial empire in Central and South America, laid claim to the southeastern part of the U.S. when a small group of settlers landed at St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565. The Spanish also marched north from Mexico, founded Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1610, and established missions throughout the Southwest and California.

After founding New Orleans in 1718, the French erected a string of forts stretching from the mouth of the Mississippi River and Mobile, Alabama, to Lake Champlain in New York and Montreal, Canada. The French controlled the Mississippi River valley, the shores of the Great Lakes, and Canada—a vast area that they eventually lost to the English.



The English settled their first permanent colony at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. Most of us are familiar with the stories of these settlers and of the Pilgrims of New England, who settled Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. Less common, however, is our understanding of the Dutch colonization of what is now New York, of the Swedish colonization of Delaware, or of the German colonization of eastern Pennsylvania (the "Pennsylvania Dutch").

Settlers advanced westward over the Allegheny Mountains, into the Ohio River valley, and across the Mississippi River. There was constant migration westward across the Great Plains. The settlers were only to be stopped by the Pacific Ocean.

The frontier required these settlers to provide for their own defense, and from this early history come stories and legends that are unique to each community.

People from other continents also came to the U.S. Black people from Africa were brought to this country as slaves—a sad chapter in our country's history. Asians came, many of them to work on the railroads that linked the East and West coasts.

Beginning in the 1840s and cresting between about 1885 and the First World War, a tidal wave of immigration brought tens of millions more people—Irish, German, Italian, Austro-Hungarian, and Russian—across the ocean to America.

Recent years have seen an influx of new arrivals from Mexico, Central America, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. The 1990 census revealed that about 25 percent of U.S. population growth continues to come from immigration. We are indeed a nation of immigrants. All have brought their distinctive backgrounds to weave into the fabric of American life.

This introduction is not meant to be a history of the U.S., but rather to serve as a brief illustration of the variety of people who have forged our society and influenced each community in the country.

The U.S. has undergone many changes in its history. Instant communications and rapid transportation have made our country seem smaller and smaller. In 1856, travel from coast to coast took 29 days by rail and stagecoach. In 1940, an airline flew from New York to Los Angeles in 15½ hours. With the launching of the space shuttle *Enterprise* in 1982, travel was measured in seconds and minutes rather than in hours and days.

Because of the increasing interdependence of our society and the economics of our nation, communities are constantly changing. Earning this merit badge will give you a better understanding of your community—its past, present, and future.

Your Community

Regardless of its size or location, your community is rich in legend and fact. Seek out local sources of information to discover what makes your community distinct. Some of the better reference sources are

- Your local public library.
- Your telephone directory. Many directories list their community's resources and contain a short history of the community.
- The most recent U.S. census reports.
- Your school library.
- Your city hall or administration center. Tour the facility and meet with the elected officials of your community.
- Your local chamber of commerce. This organization is a good source for obtaining information about local employment and about the major industries in your community.

Find out about the founding of your community, the people who were important in its development, and the events that influenced its growth. Find out about the people who live in your town, their backgrounds and customs, and what they do for a living.

To determine the future of your community, talk with politicians, religious leaders, laborers, schoolteachers, and other young people to get a variety of opinions. The future belongs to everyone.

During your investigation you should get a map of your community, or draw one with the help of your telephone directory. This will help you locate the important buildings, sites, and transportation systems in your town.

Government Buildings

Most city maps designate the locations of public buildings. Every citizen should be familiar with the location of government buildings, not only for his or her own use, but to guide strangers to the correct government offices.



For example, where would you go to get a copy of your birth certificate? A license for your pet or bicycle? Help in starting a garden? You should know not only where the government offices in your community are located, but what services they offer.

Emergency Services

Fire, police, and hospital services are vital to a community. It is important for you to know about the emergency services nearest your home. Locate them on a map. Visit these places so that you are familiar with them and are able to give clear and concise directions in the event of an emergency. A bad fire, an automobile accident, a chemical spill, a train derailment, or a home injury could occur in your community. Know where to go for help should the need arise.

Religious Institutions and Schools

A Scout is reverent. Become familiar with the locations of the places of worship near your home. Depending on where you live, one religious denomination may be predominant, but you should know about all nearby places of worship to familiarize yourself with your community. Also know the locations of the schools near your home. Religious institutions and schools are more than places of worship and learning, they are important centers for many people in your community and the sites of a variety of activities. Be able to give accurate directions to where they are located.

Transportation Systems

The types of transportation available in a community have a major influence on its economic life and are a vital link with other communities.

Locate the main highways that pass through your community, and with the aid of a map, locate the other communities these highways connect with your town. Truck and automobile traffic are important factors in determining a community's growth.

Railroads today still carry a tremendous volume of goods (more than a trillion ton-miles each year). A few decades ago railroads also accounted for most of the passenger traffic between cities. Total trackage in the U.S. is approximately 239,000 miles, and railroad lines are found in most industrial sections of a community. Locate

the railways in your community and the industries they serve.

Passenger service now has become a major source of revenue for airline and bus companies. Planes and buses, along with private automobiles, transport most of the people in the country today. Become familiar with the locations of the bus stations and airports in your community so that you can direct others to them.

Chief Industries

For a community to prosper, it is important for people to find employment. What are the major industries in your community? Check with the chamber of commerce to find out which industries and business firms employ the most people in your area.

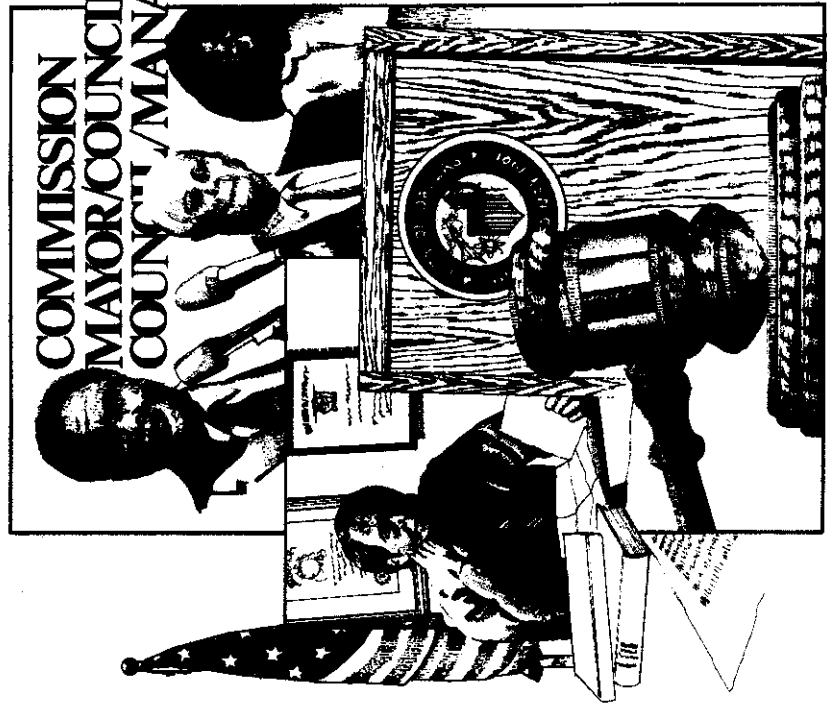
Some communities have only one major industry. When that industry suffers a business setback, the entire community suffers. By bringing in different types of businesses, a community can help guard against such widespread economic reversals. This is called *diversifying* the economic base. In the past several years, local associations, often called *development groups*, have been organized in many communities to attract other types of industries.

A representative of a development group would be able to explain to you the industrial base and the projected economic future of your community.

Historical Places

What is there of interest in your community that you would like to share with a friend from out of town? Most communities have historic landmarks, statues, buildings, or museums; there may be the site of an early battle or an important gathering, an unusual geological formation, or a company that makes a unique product. The more you learn about the special places in your community, the more you will realize what distinguishes your community from every other one.

COMMISSION MAYOR/COUNCIL COUNCIL/MANAGER



Local Government

No matter where you live, you reside within the boundaries of one or more government jurisdictions—city, county or parish, town, village, or special district. Most of these local governments are run by elected officials and provide specific benefits and services for their citizens. Local government is the level of government most directly accountable to the public. All local governments derive their powers from their state governments, including the authority to tax citizens.

In 1990, local governments spent a combined total of \$581 billion, equal to 42 percent of all federal spending. Approximately 41 percent of that amount went to pay 10.7 million employees. In 1990, there was one local government worker for every 23 Americans, compared with one local government worker for every 53 Americans in 1940, when only 2.5 million people were employed by local governments. Although local government functions and expenditures have swollen, the number of local government *units* has declined by about 72,000 since 1942.

Forms of Local Government

There are approximately 83,000 units of local government in the U.S. They are distributed among five categories: municipalities, counties, towns and townships, school districts, and special districts.

Municipal Government

For some 150 million Americans, local government means one of 19,200 *municipalities*: cities, villages, and boroughs. Municipal governments are organized in one of three basic systems: mayor—council, council—manager, and commission.

Under the mayor—council system, which is most popular in large cities, voters elect a mayor to serve as chief executive and council members to pass laws and enact ordinances.

For cities with populations between 5,000 and 500,000 residents, the fastest-growing form of government is the council—manager system. Voters elect members to the council, and the council members

appoint a professional manager to execute their policies and supervise city departments.

The third form of government, found in about 5 percent of cities, is the commission system. Voters elect commissioners to set legislative policy as a group and to administer city departments individually.

County Government

Though municipalities may be the best-known form of local government, most Americans live in *counties*. More than 217 million persons—nearly 90 percent of the population of the U.S.—live in the nation's 3,042 counties. The traditional functions of counties are law enforcement, judicial administration, road construction and maintenance, keeping public records, welfare, and, in some areas, the administration of public schools.

All U.S. states are divided into counties (called boroughs in Alaska and parishes in Louisiana). Connecticut and Rhode Island, however, do not have county governments. Connecticut counties are used only for election purposes, and Rhode Island counties are divisions of the state court system.

County government is structured in one of three main ways. The first, used in most counties, is the commission system. Voters elect a board of commissioners, which has both legislative and executive powers. The commissioners, or supervisors as they are sometimes called, share power with other elected officials such as a sheriff, prosecutor, clerk, and coroner. The second system is the council-administrator. An elected commission passes laws and appoints an administrator to execute its policy. The third and least-used system has an elected administrator who serves as chief executive and a council that determines legislative policy.

Consolidation of city and county governments is increasingly being offered as a solution to local problems. This federated metropolitan system has an upper level of government responsible for area-wide activities, while lower-level units manage local functions. Only eighteen city-county consolidations have occurred since 1947. The best-known federated local structures in the U.S. are Dade County, Florida, and the Twin Cities Metropolitan Council in Minnesota. Others have involved Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee; Indianapolis and Marion County, Indiana; Lexington and Fayette County, Kentucky; and Jacksonville and Duval County,

Florida. City-county consolidation is rarely carried out because it usually requires voter approval.

The cities of Baltimore and St. Louis are not part of a county; there, city officials are responsible for traditional county functions.

Township Government

While the number of counties has remained nearly the same since 1942, the number of *towns and townships*—created to serve defined areas regardless of population—has dropped to under 17,000, 2,200 fewer than fifty years ago.

Township government, once the centerpiece of rural life, has dwindled in much of the Midwest and in the middle Atlantic states. But the New England town still features the town meeting, considered the purest form of American democracy. In this type of local government, voters assemble to decide such matters as taxes, budgets, and bond issues.

School Districts

About 18 percent of all governmental units in the U.S. are *school districts*. These units, as the name implies, provide for the education of the young people in their jurisdictions. School districts are run by an elected board whose policies are carried out by an appointed or elected superintendent. Because of consolidation and reorganization, the number of independent school districts is steadily decreasing.

Special Districts

The fastest growing form of local government is the *special district*. The number of special districts jumped from 8,299 in 1942 to 29,532 in 1987 (the latest year for which numbers are available). Special districts often are concerned with a single service such as soil and water conservation, sewerage, fire protection, parks and recreation, hospitals, or libraries. These government units range in size from tiny districts dealing with historic preservation or mosquito control to the mammoth Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates tunnels, bridges, airports, and the World Trade Center on an annual budget of some \$1 billion.

Financing Local Government

In 1940, local governments raised three-fourths of their \$7.7 billion in revenues from local sources and one-fourth from federal and state grants. In 1990, local governments generated only two-thirds of their \$580 billion in revenues and relied on their state legislatures and the federal government for a third of their funds. Increased dependency on state and federal money has complicated local government finance. At the same time, local tax rates and fee structures have greatly increased to keep pace with the growth and higher costs of government operations.

Branches of Government

Most local governments have three branches similar to the structure of the federal government.

Executive. A mayor, commissioner, or administrator appoints people to aid in the operation of your community.

Legislative. Aldermen, council members, or committee members are elected to act as a legislative branch in order to pass local laws and ordinances.

Judicial. Judges and magistrates act as interpreters of justice and local laws. They preside at trials and hearings that determine the guilt or innocence of people accused of violating the law. Judges and magistrates are elected, and occasionally appointed, to office.

Political Parties

When asked, most people would probably say there are two political parties, Democrat and Republican, because these two groups are national in scope and easy to identify. Many communities, however, have local political parties that are interested only in their community's problems and have no relationship to national issues. Occasionally, a third national political party such as the American Party, or the "United We Stand" grass roots group of the 1992 presidential election, will be organized in response to specific issues.

Political parties are vital to a republic like the United States since important public officials are elected by qualified voters. Political parties select candidates to run for public office, raise the funds to conduct political campaigns, keep issues before the public for debate, provide opposition to the party in power, and help to organize government. Basically, political parties provide a means for people of like interests and goals to band together for political action.

Both major political parties have organizations at the county level. The basic political division in the U.S. is the precinct, of which there are more than 146,000. Political parties are active in elections at the county, state, and national level, and often at the local level. In some communities, however, traditional political parties do not play an important part in elections. To fill this gap, special-interest groups often are formed to select or support candidates and to raise money for their campaigns.

To become familiar with the politics of your community, visit with someone who is active or interested in a local political party.

Public Meetings

All government bodies meet on a regular basis to discuss and decide matters falling under their jurisdictions. Your newspaper usually will list the times and places of public officials' meetings. If you have difficulty determining when a group is planning to meet, call a member of the group. Your chamber of commerce, local library, newspaper office, or school counselor also can help you.

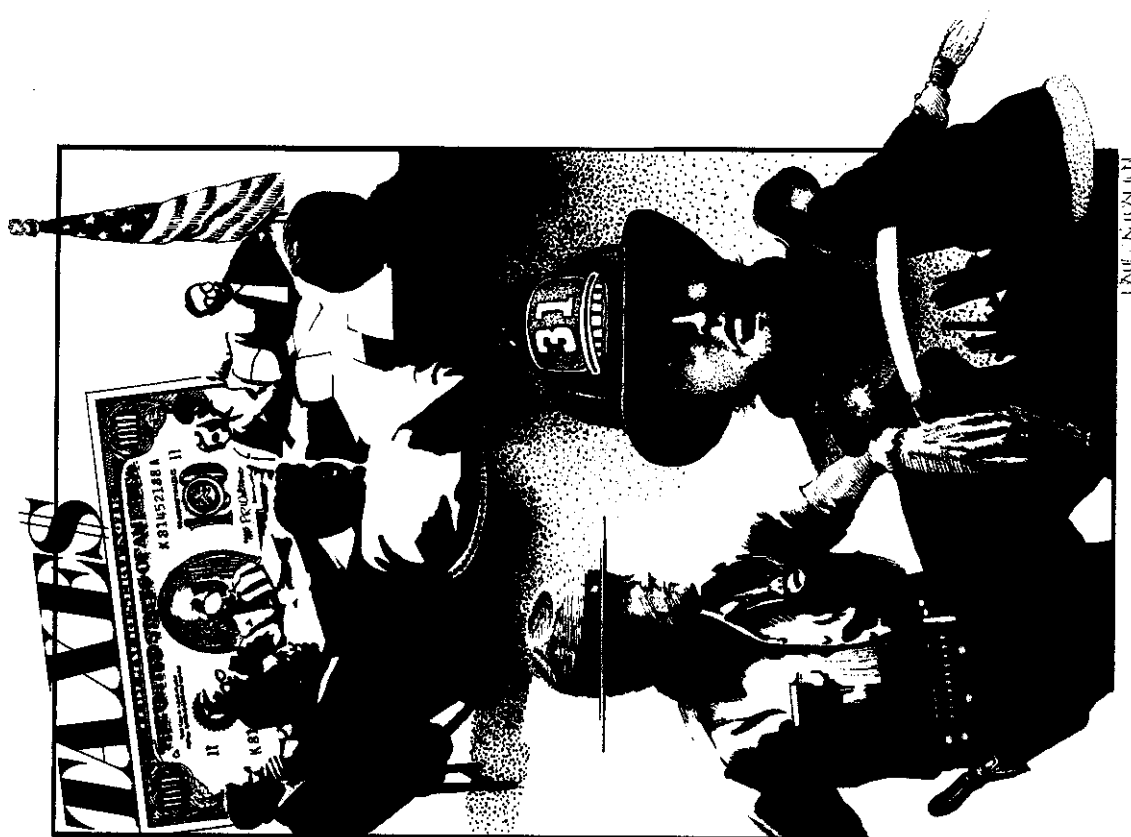
When you attend the meeting, take a pencil and paper, sit in the public seating area, and observe the proceedings. You will find them fascinating. Many times the group will ask for comments from the audience. This is government in action.

All public boards and commissions (other than judicial courts) have an agenda that will be available to spectators. An agenda is a list of the items to be discussed during the meeting. Be sure to get a copy. Many agendas are extensive, and you may not be able to stay until the meeting is adjourned. If this is the case, quietly leave the room. People usually come and go during proceedings because citizens attend only the part of the meeting in which they have an interest.

Budgets

The government body whose meeting you visited not only has an agenda, but a formal budget for its yearly operations. A copy of the budget can be obtained from such people as the city or county clerk or the school board secretary.

Budgets are usually detailed and complicated. They include the amount of money a governmental body expects to receive from



taxes and other revenues and how that money will be spent.

Depending on the government body you visit, you will probably find most of these sources of income in the budget:

- Property tax
- Income tax
- Fines and fees
- State and federal aid
- Special assessments
- Interest

You probably will find most of these expenses in the budget:

- Police and fire protection
- Highways and secondary roads
- Sanitary and health services
- Parks and recreation
- Courts
- Mental health
- Welfare
- General operations (including salaries)
- Capital improvements
- Interest

Services

All levels of government must have money to operate. Citizens living in different governmental jurisdictions pay a variety of taxes and fees for the services they receive.

Depending on the size of your community, the services you receive may include fire and police protection, street improvements,

garbage pickup, licensing of food establishments, parks and playgrounds, courts, a jail in which to place lawbreakers, mental health facilities, an airport terminal, and a local transit system.

Taxes and fees also pay the salaries of the various people who work for your community—firefighters, police officers, street crews, inspectors, judges, librarians, and many others.

Examine your copy of the local budget to see which services your taxes and fees are helping to finance.

Local Issues

A good citizen keeps informed. Read your local newspaper and listen regularly to television and radio news broadcasts. Important matters of communitywide interest arise constantly. Determine a current local issue or problem that you feel strongly about and write a letter expressing your views to the appropriate person.

Issues and problems are discussed in a variety of ways—at public meetings, in editorials, in letters to the editor, and in private correspondence. Address your letter to the person directly concerned with the issue, such as the mayor, administrator, or school superintendent.

Since the primary responsibilities of local governments are to collect taxes and other revenues and to provide services in return, most local issues concern money and how it is spent.

One of the major problems of local governments is trying to provide satisfactory services to their citizens. As our society has grown more urbanized and complex, the demands on government services have increased. These increasing demands strain the financial capacity of local governments. The population is increasing. More and more people are moving to cities or suburbs. These population shifts and changes have created a demand for more schools, better fire and police protection, more sanitation services and water systems, and improved mass transit systems—all of which cost money.

When investigating a local issue that interests you, find out as much as you can about all sides of it. Consult news sources, other people interested in the issue, members of your family, and friends. Almost all local issues will affect you in some way, and you must uncover as many facts as possible to develop an informed opinion about an issue.



Volunteer Organizations

Your community, regardless of its size, has a number of volunteer organizations and many concerned citizens who freely give their time and efforts to support them. Millions of volunteer hours and billions of dollars are contributed each year to these organizations, whose projects range from local interests to national importance.

Service

Service groups are established by people who wish to share friendship and good works. Their contributions to society provide immeasurable good to communities. Some examples of service groups are the Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Optimist, Exchange, Junior League, Jaycees, Urban League, Elks, and Moose organizations.

Health

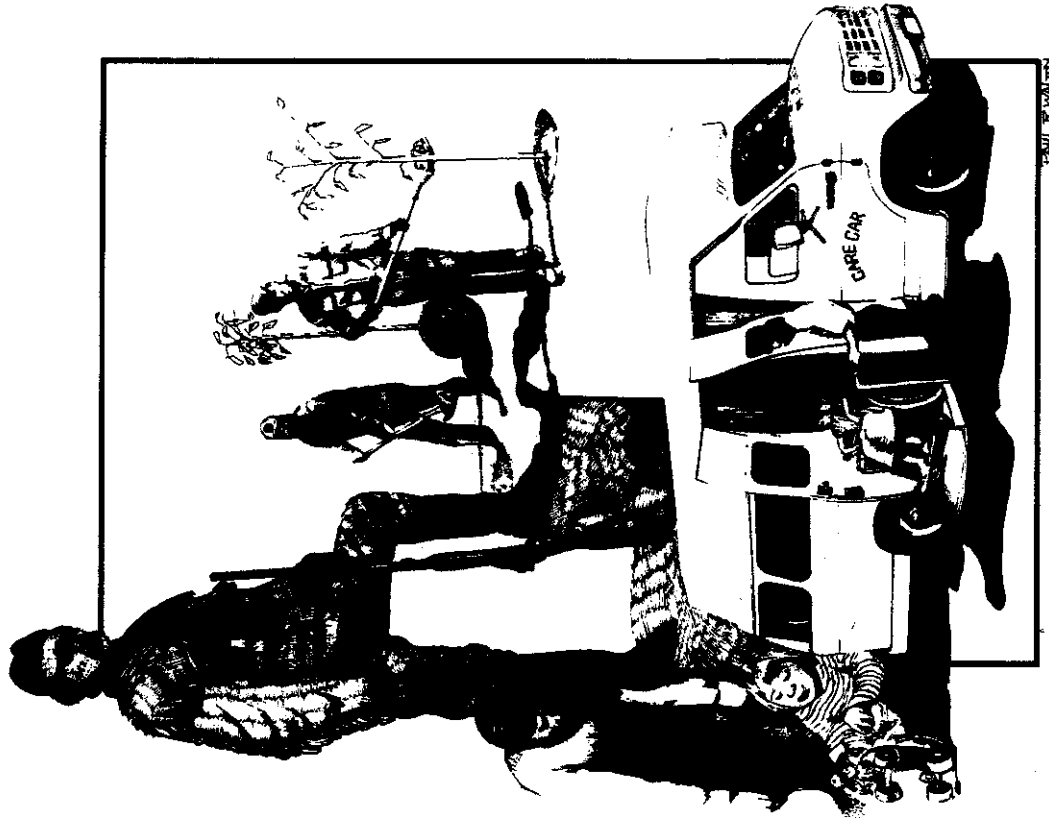
Local chapters of these volunteer groups are dedicated to raising money for research and education in the health care field. Organizations such as the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, American Heart Association, March of Dimes, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and Muscular Dystrophy Association have been formed for this purpose.

Youth

Many national groups provide programs on a local basis for young people. Some examples of these educational and recreational organizations are the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, YWCA, Camp Fire, and Boys and Girls Clubs.

Conservation

These groups are concerned with the care and protection of our natural resources. Among the organizations that serve rural and urban areas are the 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America, and



specialized groups sponsored by county extension agents and other agricultural organizations. Other conservation groups devote their attention to forests, wildlife, minerals, energy, water, soil, or wilderness areas.

Veterans

The U.S. has a proud history of volunteer groups of armed service veterans. Organizations such as the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have contributed millions of hours toward the improvement and welfare of communities.

Fund-raising

These groups concentrate on raising money to be distributed among different volunteer and charitable agencies. Organizations such as community chests and United Ways help finance many other agencies through their fund-raising efforts.

Others

Many other volunteer organizations help make our communities better places to live. Groups such as Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), hospital volunteers, Masons, garden clubs, and religious institution volunteers donate their time, energy, and dollars toward the improvement of communities.

Volunteer organizations are a vital part of any community. They work to improve the quality of life, providing needed money and human resources outside of governmental services funded by tax dollars. The primary aim of these organizations is helping people.

This "volunteer spirit"—people working freely together for their mutual benefit—is a distinctly American notion. From the early days of this country, people have joined together to improve their communities, building roads, houses, churches, libraries, hospitals, and schools. The concept of voluntarism has become one of the cornerstones of our society.

The tradition of colonial and pioneer America is still in evidence today in the volunteer fire department. This is a vital service provided by citizens in many small communities.

But from these modest beginnings has developed a nationwide force that is truly astounding. In 1990, an estimated \$122.6 billion was donated to charitable organizations. This record amount of giving was provided by individuals, bequests, corporations, and foundations.

Perhaps more important than money is the time donated by citizens. About half of all Americans 18 and older do some volunteer work for churches, schools, and other organizations. The dollar amount placed on the time contributed by volunteers is estimated at between \$125 billion and \$180 billion annually.

A large part of citizenship is based on the concept of voluntarism. For example, Scout projects are volunteer work. Your Scoutmaster or Advisor serves as a volunteer, as do many people who help make possible the operation of your troop or post.

Look around your community to determine which agencies and organizations benefit from the volunteer spirit. Some typical examples are churches and synagogues, colleges and universities, hospitals and clinics, symphony orchestras, libraries and museums, neighborhood renovation projects, and meals-on-wheels programs.

Reporting an Accident

A good citizen should be ready to respond to an accident or an emergency. Know who to call in case of a mishap such as a fire, a traffic accident, a rabid animal, or a downed power line.

Know how to report quickly and accurately. Where did the accident happen? What happened and what is your assessment of the situation? When did it occur? How many people were involved? By being able to give the facts of an incident, you can help the proper agency respond to the situation more effectively.

You should post emergency numbers for fire, police, and medical assistance next to each of your telephones. Many communities have a "911" exchange for emergencies. Post a three-digit emergency number along with other emergency numbers.

Baden-Powell's motto—"Be Prepared"—is demonstrated thousands of times each year by Boy Scouts who are ready and able to help others.

Many communities have civil defense plans and full-time directors to respond to disasters. Originally planned and financed by the federal government as a war mobilization method, civil defense plans have since been initiated in communities to meet the need for an organized procedure in the event of a natural disaster—forest fire, flood, tornado, or earthquake. Civil defense directors in many communities have done outstanding planning with medical, transportation, and public safety officials preparing for possible emergencies.

Many Boy Scout troops and Explorer posts have sophisticated mobilization plans. Check to see whether your Scoutmaster or Advisor has one. Rosters should be made and given to each member of the troop or post, and a calling order established for immediate mobilization.

Scouts have been used for traffic control, lost child searches, communications, and many other worthwhile activities because units were prepared with mobilization plans.



JAN. 7/1970

Citizenship in Action

Good citizenship is not only word but also deed. Many people "talk a good game," but good citizenship needs to be demonstrated.

If you cannot easily determine what constitutes good citizenship, visit with a teacher, counselor, spiritual adviser, or other adult who has a reputation of being a good citizen.

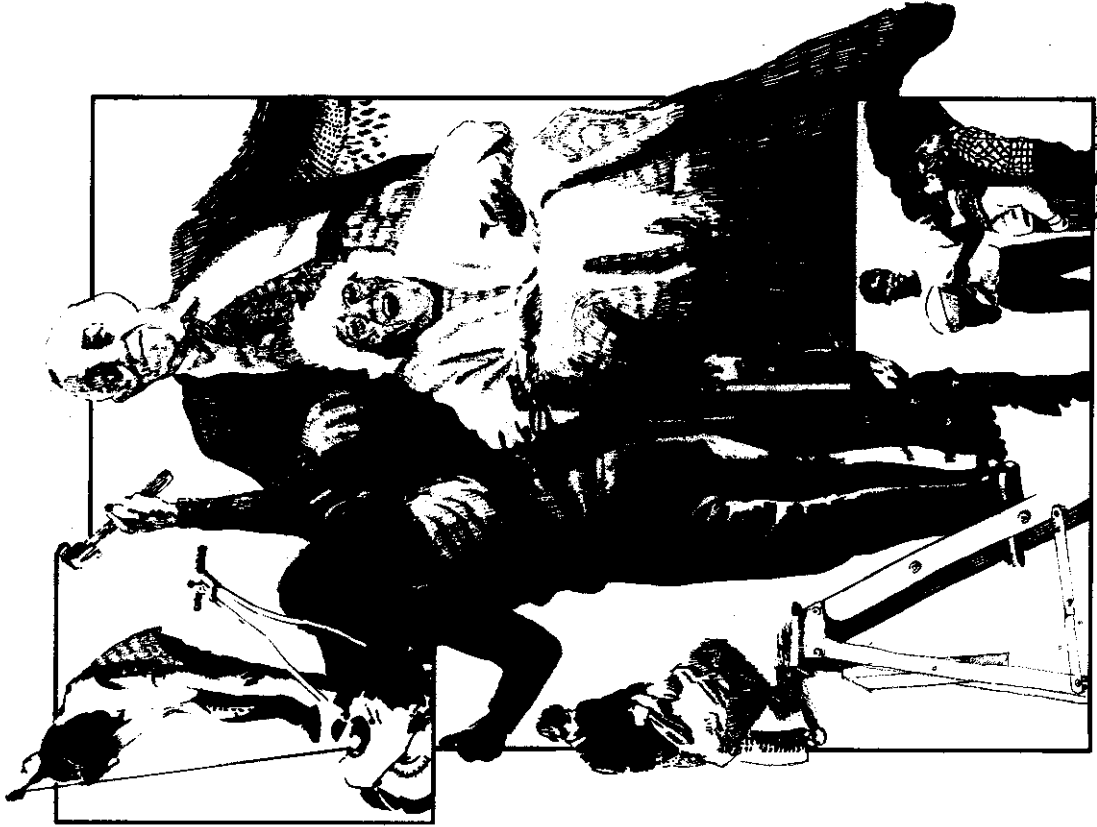
Your community always needs good leadership. Here are a few ways you can demonstrate good citizenship:

- Schedule regular services to patients at a hospital for the aged.
- Serve as ushers and an emergency squad at school football and basketball games.
- Volunteer for all types of maintenance work, including grounds cleanup, simple painting, and repairs.
- Trees in every community suffer from severe weather conditions. Why not plan a day of tree pruning in early spring?
- If your community seems littered, you can help the sanitation department by making, placing, and maintaining trash receptacles at parks and playgrounds.

Your place of worship may need some of the following good deeds:

- "Adopt" an older person or couple not living in a nursing home and offer your assistance in such areas as shopping, getting books from the library, and care of the yard.
- Volunteer to publish bulletins or newsletters—doing typing or computer keyboarding, photocopying, collating, and distributing.
- A baby-sitting service might be helpful at meetings. Also, your church or synagogue might welcome assistance with simple clerical work.

Your school can always use a helping hand. Here are a few ideas on how to contribute:



- Plan and conduct monthly outings for younger children, such as taking them to a ball game, picnic, or museum.
- Organize a series of workshops on drug and alcohol abuse.
- Conduct swimming and lifesaving instruction, possibly extending the lessons to all youth in the community.

Your Boy Scout troop or Explorer post can use your help in working with a fellow Scout on his Star, Life, or Eagle service project.

- Provide "camperships" so that non-Scouts or needy Scouts can enjoy a week at Scout camp.
- In some areas of the country, there are many camping and hiking trails, sites, and special attractions. Help compile a directory of outdoor opportunities and distribute it through the chamber of commerce, recreation department, or other organizations.

Citizenship carries both privileges and responsibilities. If you are born in the United States, if your parents are United States citizens, or if you are naturalized (conferred with citizenship by the government), you are a citizen, even as an infant. As a citizen you are entitled to the full protection of federal, state, and local laws and to the freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. In return for these privileges, a citizen is expected to perform civic duties—to vote, to obey the laws, and to defend our country when needed.

However, the concept of citizenship goes beyond allegiance to your country; it is how you conduct yourself as a citizen, being constantly alert to ways to improve the lives of your family, friends, neighbors, and your community as a whole.

Books About Citizenship

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Credits

Illustrations by Paul Walton

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Notes

Notes

MERIT BADGE LIBRARY

Though intended as an aid to Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and qualified Venturers in meeting merit badge requirements, these pamphlets are of general interest and are made available by many schools and public libraries. The latest revision date of each, which might not necessarily correspond to the copyright date of the pamphlet, is shown below (corrected to January 1, 2002).

Merit Badge Pamphlet	Year	Merit Badge Pamphlet	Year	Merit Badge Pamphlet	Year
American Business	1975	Energy	1978	Photography	1984
American Cultures	1995	Engineering	2000	Pioneering	1983
American Heritage	1976	Entrepreneurship	1998	Plant Science	1983
American Labor	1987	Environmental	1998	Plumbing	1999
Animal Science	2000	Science	1998	Pottery	1989
Archaeology	1997	Family Life	1991	Public Health	1996
Archery	1986	Farm Mechanics	1997	Public Speaking	1989
Architecture	1995	Fingerprinting	1983	Pulp and Paper	1993
Art	2001	Fire Safety	1995	Radio	2001
Astronomy	1983	First Aid	1995	Railroading	1992
Athletics	1964	Fish and Wildlife	1990	Reading	1993
Atomic Energy	1983	Management	1990	Reptile and	1993
Auto Mechanics	2000	Fishing	1988	Amphibian Study	1993
Aviation	2000	Forestry	1984	Rifle Shooting	2001
Backpacking	1983	Gardening	1982	Rowing	1998
Basketry	1986	Genealogy	1988	Safety	1997
Bird Study	1989	Geology	1985	Salesmanship	1987
Bugling (See Music)		Golf	1977	Scholarship	1988
Camping	1984	Graphic Arts	1998	Sculpture	1989
Canoeing	1989	Hiking	2001	Shotgun Shooting	1989
Chemistry	1996	Home Repairs	1993	Skating	1999
Climatology	2001	Horsemanship	1996	Small-Boat Sailing	1995
Citizenship in the		Indian Lore	1995	Snow Sports	1999
Community	1993	Insect Study	1985	Soil and Water	1995
Citizenship in the		Journalism	1999	Conservation	1995
Nation	1983	Landscaping	1969	Space Exploration	1990
Citizenship in the		Architecture	1975	Sports	1996
World	1995	Law	1983	Stamp Collecting	2000
Climbing	1999	Leatherwork	1972	Surveying	1992
Can Collecting	1975	Literature	2000	Swimming	2002
Calligraphy	1981	Mammal Study	1991	Textile	1972
Communications	1987	Medicine	2001	Theater	1999
Computers	1993	Metalwork	1993	Traffic Safety	2001
Cooking	1996	Model Design and Building	1993	Truck	1973
Crime Prevention	2001	Motorboating	1992	Transportation	1996
Cycling	1997	Music and Bugling	1994	Veterinary Medicine	1999
Decorative	1993	Nature	1991	Weather	1999
Disabilities Awareness	1993	Oceanography	1991	Waterskiing	1989
Dog Care	1984	Orienteering	1993	Weather	1999
Drilling	1993	Painting	1992	Whitewater	1989
Electricity	1986	Personal Fitness	1999	Wilderness	1989
Electronics	1996	Personal Management	1996	Wood Carving	2001
Emergency	1995	Pets	1984	Woodwork	1970
Preparedness					

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