



Citizenship

Heritage Frontier
(Adventurers Only)

Name _____

Because it is written with a mature preparation for manhood, this Trail Badge is to be earned only by registered Adventurer Trailmen.

Do all of the following requirements (1-9)

- ____ 1. Research what the Bible says about God creating man and woman in his own image and likeness. Describe how this truth should affect the following:
 - ____ a. The sacredness of life itself and our view of human dignity.
 - ____ b. How we should treat people in our society.
 - ____ c. How the government makes laws.
 - ____ d. Who you will or will not vote for in elections when you are an adult.
- ____ 2. Do one of the following activities:
 - ____ a. Participate in a discussion about the issues in requirement 1 above with your patrol, Troop, family, or another group.
 - ____ b. Write a paper or prepare a presentation about what you learned from your research and thinking about the issues addressed in requirement 1.
- ____ 3. Political and economic systems:
 - ____ a. Define the following political systems: democracy, republic, autocracy, and oligarchy.
 - ____ b. Define the following economic systems: capitalism, socialism, and communism.
 - ____ c. Name a country that practices each type of political system and a country that practices each type of economic system.
 - ____ d. Select one of the above countries with a non-constitutional form of government and contrast the treatment of its citizens and noncitizens with the treatment of citizens and noncitizens in the United States (US).
- ____ 4. Read the US Constitution and all its amendments and then do the following:
 - ____ a. Describe the three different branches of our federal government and explain their respective functions.
 - ____ b. Find one federal program or service that is a constitutional function of the federal government and explain why it should be provided at the federal level.

- ____c. Find one federal program or service that is not a constitutional function of the federal government and explain why it should be provided at the state or local level.
 - ____d. Explain how the Electoral College is used to elect the president and how that differs from the popular vote.
 - ____e. Explain the following constitutional principles: popular sovereignty, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review, and federalism.
 - ____f. Discuss the Bill of Rights, the rights we are guaranteed as citizens of the United States, and the circumstances under which a citizen can lose some of those rights.
- ____5. Explain the responsibilities of US citizenship.
- ____6. Investigate US citizenship and naturalization requirements using US Citizenship and Immigration Service publications or their web site and do the following:
- ____a. List the criteria for automatic US citizenship.
 - ____b. List the qualifications to become a naturalized US citizen.
- ____7. Do the following requirements on international treaties:
- ____a. Explain how international treaties are negotiated, signed, and ratified.
 - ____b. Describe the authority of ratified treaties in US law (US Constitution, Article VI).
 - ____c. Investigate the issues involved in one controversial treaty that the US has signed, but has not ratified.¹
 - ____d. Present an argument either in favor or against ratification of your selected treaty.
- ____8. Do the following requirements on local, county, and state governments:
- ____a. Determine the types of local and county government used where you live.
 - ____b. List any major differences of your state government structure relative to the federal government structure.²

¹ Examples of such treaties include the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

² Examples include single-house legislature, direct election of judges, and periodic confirmation of judges by direct election, etc.

- _____c. List at least five services or programs provided for citizens by each of your local, county, and state governments (at least five for each level of government).³
- _____d. List the major taxes and fees collected by your local, county, and state governments to pay for the services they provide.
- _____e. Explain jury duty, the county juror selection process, and the citizen's duty to serve.
- _____f. List the residency, age, and registration requirements to vote where you live.
- _____g. Do three of the following citizenship activities:
 - _____a. Examine the list of 100 Civics Questions from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Prepare for and pass the exam as given by USCIS (Answer 6 out of 10 questions picked at random from the 100 questions).
 - _____b. List the federal taxes that citizens may be required to pay and explain how each is assessed and collected. Compare federal government income with expenses for the last year reported.
 - _____c. Describe how a bill is written, passed in Congress or your state legislature, and signed into law.
 - _____d. List your elected representatives in local, county, state and Federal governments. Select one representative and one issue you care about. Examine his voting record on that issue. Communicate with your representative by email, letter, fax, phone, or in person to express your support or disagreement with his position.
 - _____e. List three important local, state, or national political issues for which Biblical moral principles directly apply. Name a bill currently in the local government, state legislature, or US Congress that addresses at least one of these issues. List at least three arguments supporting the bill and at least three arguments opposing the bill.
 - _____f. Explain the differences between and the relationship of government debt and budget deficit. For your local, county, state, and federal governments, determine the amount of debt and budget deficit at the end of their last reported fiscal year.
 - _____g. Attend a meeting of your local government, county government, school board, or park board. Discuss some of the agenda items that are discussed, voted on, or opened to the public for community comments.
 - _____h. Participate in a debate of an issue of importance on a local, state, or national level.
 - _____i. Visit your state capitol and sit in on a legislative session.

³ Possible services include street repair, snow removal, trash collection and recycling, police and fire protection, parks and related facilities, educational programs, community swimming pools, tennis courts, skating rinks, stop signs and traffic lights, libraries and medical centers.

- ____j. Visit Washington D.C. and sit in on a legislative session.
- ____k. Visit national landmarks in Washington D.C. such as the Capitol, Library of Congress, National Archives, Washington Monument or Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, or Vietnam War Memorial.

Trail Badge Mentor Signature

Date

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