

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE
CITIZENSHIP IN SOCIETY MERIT BADGE**

Citizenship in Society is a brand new merit badge that is optional from November 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Starting on July 1, 2022 it will be an Eagle required merit badge. Due to the sensitive nature of some of the requirements, normal procedures for administering the badge as well as for approving counselors will change. Please note these changes are strictly for the Citizenship in Society Merit Badge.

The Council Advancement Committee has created the following set up rules and procedures for administering the Citizenship in Society Merit Badge. Please read through all and contact Bobby Rabbitt or your district advancement chair if you have any questions.

Initially it has been decided that we will approve 4 total counselors – 1 from each district for the test period as outlined below in the section “Procedures for administering the Citizenship in Society Merit Badge.” These counselors will be responsible for working with the advancement committee on setting up the first classes. Once the test period has concluded the council advancement committee will devise a more permanent set of rules and procedures.

As it is set now this badge will NOT be taught at camp nor at district or council summer merit badge programs.

PROCEDURES FOR BECOMING A COUNSELOR:

1. You must fill out a new adult application regardless of if you are already an approved merit badge counselor. This adult application MUST have the references section filled out completely (3 references). If there are no references listed you will not be considered.
2. You must also fill out a merit badge counselor application.
3. You cannot be a troop only counselor. You must be available for anyone in the council to contact.
4. You must take the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training as required and administered by the BSA prior to teaching any class or scouts. You also must meet with the advancement committee to discuss any further trainings or preparation that will be needed.

PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTERING THE CITIZENSHIP IN SOCIETY MERIT BADGE (December 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022)

1. The Citizenship in Society merit badge will only be taught, initially, in a group setting set up by the Suffolk County Council. These groups will have no more than 5 scouts per class.
2. A member of the council advancement committee will be present for these initial classes to verify the badge is being taught in accordance with the BSA and Council regulations and standards.
3. Council will work with the counselors chosen to determine the location, times and dates of the initial group classes.

**Applications can be emailed to either Norma Brasile at norma.brasile@scouting.org or
Bobby Rabbitt at Robert.rabbitt@scouting.org**