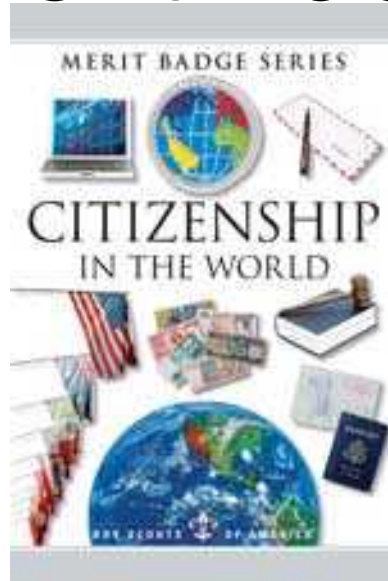


Citizenship in the World Merit Badge



2006 Requirements
PPP by Gary Anderson

Naturalization

- **Eligibility Requirements**
- Be at least 18 years old at the time of filing [Form N-400, Application for Naturalization](#).
- Be a permanent resident (have a “green card”) for at least 5 years.
- Have lived within the state or USCIS district with jurisdiction over your place of residence for at least 3 months prior to the date of filing [Form N-400](#).
- Have continuous residence in the United States as a lawful permanent resident for at least 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.
- Be physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing [Form N-400](#).
- Be able to read, write, and speak basic English.
- Have a basic understanding of U.S. history and government (civics).
- Be a person of good moral character.
- Demonstrate an attachment to the principles and ideals of the U.S. Constitution.

Apply for a US Citizenship

- **General Steps in the Process**

- Read [A Guide to Naturalization](#) for information on the naturalization process.
- Determine if you are eligible to apply for citizenship. Review the [naturalization eligibility worksheet](#) to help you decide if you are eligible to apply for naturalization.
- Download [Form N-400, Application for Naturalization](#).
- Complete your application.
- Have two passport-style photographs taken.
- Collect the necessary documents. Review the [document checklist](#) to assist you as you collect your documents.
- Send your application package and filing fee to the appropriate Lockbox Facility or Service Center.
- Receive an appointment letter for biometric services from USCIS.
- Visit a USCIS fingerprinting location and have fingerprints taken.
- Receive an appointment for an interview with a USCIS Officer.
- Go to your local USCIS office at the specified time.
- Bring state-issued identification, Permanent Resident Card, and any additional documents specific to your case.
- Answer questions about your application and background.
- Take the English and civics tests.
- Await a decision on your case.

International Law

- **International law** is the set of rules generally regarded and accepted as binding in relations between states and nations.^{[1][2]} It serves as a framework for the practice of stable and organized international relations.^[3] International law differs from national legal systems in that it primarily concerns nations rather than private citizens. National law may become international law when treaties delegate national jurisdiction to supranational tribunals such as the European Court of Human Rights or the International Criminal Court. Treaties such as the Geneva Conventions may require national law to conform.
- International law is consent-based governance. This means that a state member of the international community is not obliged to abide by international law unless it has expressly consented to a particular course of conduct.^[4] This is an issue of state sovereignty.
- The term "international law" can refer to three distinct legal disciplines:

International vs. National Law

International law is where many countries agree on a law, while national law applies only to the country that made them

United Nations

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.

4 Main Purposes of the United Nations

- To keep peace throughout the world;
- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms;
- To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals

The World Court

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America).
- The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ. Its official languages are English and French.

World Organization of the Scout Movement



- The **World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)** is a non-governmental international organization which governs most national Scout Organizations, with 28 million members. WOSM was established in 1920 and has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. It is the counterpart of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).
- The mission of WOSM is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Scout Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society. WOSM is organized into regions and operates with a conference, committee and bureau.

World Health Organization

- WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.
- In the 21st century, health is a shared responsibility, involving equitable access to essential care and collective defense against transnational threats.

Amnesty International

- **Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 3 million supporters, members and activists in over 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.**
- **Their vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.**
- **They are independent of any government, political**

International Committee of the Red Cross

The ICRC, established in 1863, works worldwide to provide humanitarian help for people affected by conflict and armed violence and to promote the laws that protect victims of war. An independent and neutral organization, its mandate stems essentially from the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, it employs some 12,000 people in 80 countries; it is financed mainly by voluntary donations from governments and from national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies

CARE

CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. We place special focus on working alongside poor women because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty. Women are at the heart of CARE's community-based efforts to improve basic education, prevent the spread of disease, increase access to clean water and sanitation, expand economic opportunity and protect natural resources. CARE also delivers emergency aid to survivors of war and natural disasters, and helps people rebuild their lives.

Differences between Constitutional and Non- Constitutional Governments

Most non-constitutional governments tend to be monarchies or dictatorships, because who needs a constitution when you've got somebody to tell you what to do. Generally constitutional governments, even those with monarchs, have an elected body of legislation like a congress or parliament

Constitutional and Non-Constitutional Governments

- Constitutional: Almost always have some sort of ruling body of people to make sure that the constitution is followed. An example of this is the three branches of government in the United States.
- Non-Constitutional: Besides the fact that they do not have a constitution, are different from constitutional governments in that they are usually monarchies or dictatorships. Rulers whose very word is law would not like the idea that they have to follow some sort of rulebook

Federal Republic

a state in which the powers of the central government are restricted and in which the component parts (states, colonies, or provinces) retain a degree of self-government; ultimate sovereign power rests with the voters who chose their governmental representatives.

- United States
- Austria
- Brazil
- Ethiopia
- Germany
- India
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Venezuela

Communist

a system of government in which the state plans and controls the economy and a single - often authoritarian - party holds power; state controls are imposed with the elimination of private ownership of property or capital while claiming to make progress toward a higher social order in which all goods are equally shared by the people (i.e., a classless society).

- China
- Cuba
- North Korea
- Vietnam

Constitutional Monarchy

a system of government in which a monarch is guided by a constitution whereby his/her rights, duties, and responsibilities are spelled out in written law or by custom.

- United Kingdom
- Norway
- Netherlands
- Sweden

Federation

a form of government in which sovereign power is formally divided - usually by means of a constitution - between a central authority and a number of constituent regions (states, colonies, or provinces) so that each region retains some management of its internal affairs; differs from a confederacy in that the central government exerts influence directly upon both individuals as well as upon the regional units.

- Russia
- United Arab Emirates

Authoritarian

a form of government in which state authority is imposed onto many aspects of citizens' lives.

- Syria
- Kazakhstan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

Republic

a representative democracy in which the people's elected deputies (representatives), not the people themselves, vote on legislation

- Argentina
- Chile
- Ecuador
- Finland
- France
- Haiti
- Italy
- South Korea
- Lebanon
- Philippines
- Poland
- South Africa

Ambassador

- An **Ambassador** is an official envoy; especially, a highest ranking [diplomat](#) who represents a State and is usually accredited to another [sovereign](#) State (country), or to an [international organization](#) as the resident representative of his or her own government or sovereign or appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment.[\[1\]](#)
- In its most common use, the term usually applies to the ranking government representative stationed in a foreign [capital](#). The host country typically allows the ambassador control of specific territory called an [embassy](#), whose territory, staff, and even vehicles are generally afforded [diplomatic immunity](#) in the host country.
- The equivalent to an Ambassador exchanged among members of the [Commonwealth of Nations](#) are known as [High Commissioners](#). The "Ambassadors" of the [Holy See](#) are known as Papal or Apostolic [Nuncios](#).
- As formally defined and recognized at the [Congress of Vienna](#) (1815), ambassadors were originally regarded as personal representatives of their country's chief executive rather than of the whole country, and their rank entitled them to meet personally with the head of state of the host country. Since 1945 all nations have been recognized as equals, and ambassadors or their equivalents are sent to all countries with which diplomatic relations are maintained. Before the development of modern communications, ambassadors were entrusted with extensive powers; they have since been reduced to spokespeople for their foreign offices.

Ambassadors to International Organizations

Host organization	Location	Ambassador
African Union	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Dr. Michael Luttig
Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation	Washington, D.C., United States	Patricia Haslach
Association of Southeast Asian Nations	Jakarta, Indonesia	
Conference on Disarmament	Geneva, Switzerland	Laura E. Kennedy
European Union	Brussels, Belgium	William Kennard
International Civil Aviation Organization	Montreal, Canada	Duane F. Woerth
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	Brussels, Belgium	Ivo Daalder
Organization of American States	Washington, D.C., United States	Carmen Lunellin
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	Rashad Hussain
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	Paris, France	Karen Kombluh
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	Vienna, Austria	Ian C. Kelly
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	The Hague, Netherlands	Robert Mikulak
United Nations	New York, United States	Susan Rice
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Paris, France	David L. Killian
United Nations Environment Programme	Nairobi, Kenya	Joseph P. Murphy
United Nations Agencies in Rome	Rome, Italy	Ertharin Cousin
United Nations International Organizations in Vienna	Vienna, Austria	Glyn Davies
United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva	Geneva, Switzerland	Betty E. King
United Nations Human Rights Council	Geneva, Switzerland	Fileen Chamberlain Donahoe
World Trade Organization	Geneva, Switzerland	Michael Punko

Consul

The political title **Consul** is used for the official representatives of the government of one **state** in the territory of another, normally acting to assist and protect the **citizens** of the consul's own country, and to facilitate trade and friendship between the peoples of the two countries. A consul is distinguished from an **ambassador**, the latter being a representative from one **head of state** to another. There can be only one ambassador from one country to another, representing the first country's head of state to that of the second, and her or his duties revolve around diplomatic relations between the two countries; however, there may be several consuls, one in each of several main cities, providing assistance with bureaucratic issues to both the citizens of the consul's own country travelling or living abroad and to the citizens of the country the consul resides in who wish to travel to or trade with the consul's country.

Bureau of International Information Programs

- The Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) is the principal international strategic communications service for the foreign affairs community. IIP designs, develops, and implements a variety of information initiatives and strategic communications programs, including Internet and print publications, traveling and electronically transmitted speaker programs, and information resource services. These reach--and are created strictly for--key international audiences, such as the media, government officials, opinion leaders, and the general public in more than 140 countries around the world.
- The Bureau prides itself on using technology and alliances to improve its effectiveness. The Bureau's products and services--including web sites and other internet services, electronic journals, speaker programs, print publications, and CD-ROMs--uniquely are designed to support the State Department's initiatives, as well as those of other U.S. foreign policy organizations. It also manages Information Resource Centers overseas and offers reference specialists based in Washington, DC, to answer specialized information queries from abroad. The IIP was created from elements of the U.S. Information Agency when it merged with the Department of State on October 1, 1999.

United States Agency for International Development

- The **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** is the [United States federal government](#) agency primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid. President [John F. Kennedy](#) created USAID in 1961 by executive order to implement development assistance programs in the areas authorized by the Congress in the [Foreign Assistance Act](#).^[3] The Congress updates this authorization through annual funds appropriation acts, and other legislation. Although technically an [independent federal agency](#), USAID operates subject to the foreign policy guidance of the [President](#), [Secretary of State](#), and the [National Security Council](#).^[4] USAID's Administrator works under the direct authority and foreign policy guidance of the Secretary of State. ^[4]
- USAID seeks to "extend a helping hand to those people overseas struggling to make a better life, recover from a disaster or striving to live in a free and [democratic](#) country."^[4] USAID's stated goals include providing "economic, development and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States".^[5] It operates in [Africa](#), [Asia](#), [Latin America](#) and [Europe](#).

United States Commercial Service

- The **United States Commercial Service** (CS) is the trade promotion arm of the U.S. [Department of Commerce](#)'s International Trade Administration, which helps U.S. companies succeed in markets around the world. Led by Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General Suresh Kumar and located across the United States and in U.S. embassies and consulates in nearly 80 countries, the CS global network of trade professionals helps thousands of U.S. companies to export goods and services worth billions of [dollars](#) every year.
- The impact of this work ripples throughout the U.S. economy—broadening and deepening the U.S. exporter base, removing obstacles to the export success of U.S. small- and medium-sized companies, advancing U.S. business interests abroad, and supporting job creation in the United States. In 2009, the CS helped in more than 12,000 export transactions in nearly 200 international markets worth billions of dollars.

Passport

- A **passport** is a document, issued by a national government, which certifies the identity and nationality of its holder for the purpose of international travel. The elements of identity contained in all standardized passports include information about the holder, including name, date of birth, gender and place of birth.
- A passport does not of itself entitle the passport holder entry into another country, nor to consular protection while abroad nor any other privileges. It does, however, normally entitle the passport holder to return to the country that issued the passport. Rights to consular protection arise from international treaties, whilst the bearer's right to return to the passport's country of issue arises is dependent on the laws of the issuing country. A passport does not represent the right or the place of residence of the passport holder in the country that issued the passport.

Visa

- A visa is a document showing that a person is authorized to enter or leave the territory for which it was issued, subject to permission of an immigration official at the time of actual entry. The authorization may be a document, but more commonly it is a stamp endorsed in the applicant's [passport](#) (or passport-replacing document). Some countries do not require a visa in some situations, such as a result of reciprocal treaty arrangements. The country issuing the visa typically attaches various conditions of stay, such as the territory covered by the visa, dates of validity, period of stay, whether the visa is valid for more than one visit, etc.
- A visa generally gives non-citizens clearance to enter a country and to remain there within specified constraints, such as a time frame for entry, a limit on the time spent in the country, and a prohibition against employment. The possession of a visa is not in itself a guarantee of entry into the country that issued it, and a visa can be revoked at any time. A visa application in advance of arrival gives the country a chance to consider the applicant's circumstance, such as financial security, reason for applying, and details of previous visits to the country. A visitor may also be required to undergo and pass security and/or health checks upon arrival at the border.
- Visas are associated with the request for permission to enter (or exit) a country, and are thus, for some countries, distinct from actual formal permission for an [alien](#) to enter and remain in the country.
- Some countries require that their citizens, as well as foreign travelers, obtain an "exit visa" in order to be allowed to leave the country.