

Citizenship in the Nation MB Prep List

Bring:

- Merit Badge book / Notebook / Pencil
- A sheet of paper for Counselors to keep, with parent/guardian name, complete address, home phone number, and e-mail (could affix address label, then add your name and additional info).

Req 1 Be able to **discuss** American citizens' **RIGHTS** and **RESPONSIBILITIES**. Participation event.

Req 2 Bring documentation about your historic site visit, and information to share. Be able to tell when and why you visited, and what most interested you, about the site.

Req 3 Bring the major topic articles you have read; be ready to discuss your topic.

Req's 4 & 5 Read the documents ahead of time. Participation event.

Req 6 **Bring a copy** of a speech of National significance. Be prepared to explain **why** you picked your most important sentence. Try to find something other than the following speeches, but if that is not possible, then think about:

- Ideas if using President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: It is short, but packed full of reflective thought. Think about how it applies to Americans of today.
- Ideas if using Martin Luther King, Jr.'s eloquent "I Have a Dream" speech: we commonly hear and remember the "Dream" portion, but there is much more at the beginning about economic and social inequality.

Req 7 Be ready to discuss.

Req 8 A sample letter on p.2 shows good grammar and format to be used when writing to Congress.

You should:

- Know what **Congressional District** you live in.
- Know the US Postal, [Washington, DC] **address** of the member of Congress you wish to write to (Senator or Representative).
- Bring your national issue letter which you sent (or will send) to a member of the US Congress, along with any response you may have received.

1 Washington Jefferson Lincoln
1 Buckingham Palace Circle
Freeland, Minnesota 88888

April 27, 2019

2 Senator Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

3 I am a Life Boy Scout in Troop 888 of Many Waters
District, Northern Star Council BSA, working to complete one
of the requirements for the *Citizenship in the Nation* merit
badge. I live in Queensland, Minnesota.

4 I am concerned about _____... OR My
question is _____? OR Please provide me with
some information about _____. OR Please explain
your position on _____. OR My opinion about
_____ is...

5 One of the reasons I am writing to you about this timely
issue is _____.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter
concerning _____. I will be very interested to hear
your thoughts about _____.

Yours truly (*or sincerely*),

6 Washington Jefferson Lincoln

We thought it might be helpful to see a formal letter, so we've provided this one to help you follow a template. Always spell words out in a formal letter: say Minnesota instead of Minn. or MN. Avoid contractions. Use spell-check. Have someone who has good grammar and spelling habits read it with you.

Your letter may be typed or handwritten, or sent via email (though the recipient will give more attention to a letter that is neatly and carefully written; if emailing, follow the same format as seen here).

- 1) Your address; the date
- 2) The recipient's address
- 3) 1st paragraph: **WHO** you are and **WHERE** you live
- 4) 2nd paragraph, **WHAT**: Begin the body of the letter.

Pick one topic. Think about a topic happening or that you think should be happening in Minnesota, or, a national issue or legislation currently being considered.

Paragraphs should have at least 5 sentences, beginning with the TOPIC sentence. Be clear and concise. Show that you have knowledge of/ have done some thinking/ research about the issue.

- 5) **WHY** Ask a question, seek information, or share an opinion about the issue. *Give reasons* for your question or opinion. If appropriate, thank the official for their work on the issue.
- 6) After your closing, leave room for your signature above your formal name.

Keep in mind, the official does not make changes to the law by himself/herself. Writing legislation/laws takes a lot of research, time, and cooperation from both the Senate and the House of Representatives, and often both major parties have to agree as well.