



BSA SIOUX COUNCIL

To: Sioux Council Executive Board
Sioux Staff & all Sioux Council Members

From: Melissa Stricherz, Scout Executive *MAS*

Re: ***Update to Sioux Council * Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Counselor Approval process**

Date: August 10, 2023

updated Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Counselor Requirements as of August 10, 2023

- Counselors should be:
 - o Skilled in listening and in guiding discussions.
 - o Knowledgeable in the subject matter -Committee Chair must sign off before meeting with Scouts. However, the Sioux Council is NO longer requiring that prospective counselors participate in an in-person Council lead training.
 - Completion of the DEI volunteer training is strongly recommended for all counselors; it includes integral information on key concepts the Scouts will be studying: https://training.scouting.org/courses/SCO_1800
 - Review of the counselor facilitation guide is necessary as it includes important information to aid in your research and preparation: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/diversity_equity_and_inclusion/Citizenship-in-Society-Merit-Badge-Counselor-Guide-2021.pdf
 - o Available to openly communicate with the Scout's parent(s)/guardian(s) if questions or discussions require their assistance.
- There is a plethora of very important and sensitive topics included for Scouts to learn about and address; it is important to be open in listening and asking questions without imparting your own feelings or views. Please remember that there is no Citizenship in Society merit badge pamphlet.
- Everyone has biases that can inform how people listen, so focusing on openness, objectivity, and inclusivity is paramount.
- We feel strongly that our Scouts' understanding of different identities and abilities is integral to empowering them to help make all Scouts feel welcomed.

That is the intent of this merit badge, to help achieve our vision of partnering with all families and communities in raising young people of high moral character, developing their leadership skills, and preparing them to serve and thrive in a world of increasing complexity and challenge. Citizenship involves people working together to make positive differences in the society in which they live. These goals align with our Scout Oath and Scout Law.

If you have any question comments or concerns, please reach out to Aaron Collins at aaron.collins@scouting.org or 605-323-0743

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