

Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge

Requirement 5 - With the approval of your counselor and a parent, watch a movie that shows how the actions of one individual or group of individuals can have a positive effect on a community.

All these movies are acceptable to me as a merit badge counselor. You must also get permission from your parents, and from your counselor, if you are using a different counselor. If you have another movie you would like to watch in fulfillment of Requirement 5, please get my permission first.

- 12 Angry Men One man, Henry Fonda, sways a jury and saves an innocent man. NR but would be G today.
- All the Presidents Men - Reporters Woodward and Bernstein uncover the details of the Watergate scandal that leads to President Nixon's resignation. R
- Amazing Grace Chronicles the struggle of William Wilberforce to stop the British slave trade in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. PG for disturbing images of slavery.
- A Man For All Seasons The story of Sir Thomas More who challenged King Henry VIII's divorce and remarriage. Rated G.
- The Blindside The true story of Michael Oher, a homeless boy who became a first round Baltimore Raven draft pick with the help of a caring woman and her family. PG-13.
- Bridge over the River Kwai - After settling his differences with a Japanese PoW camp commander, a British colonel co-operates to oversee his men's construction of a railway bridge for their captors - while oblivious to a plan by the Allies to destroy it. PG
- A Civil Action - The families of children who died sue two companies for dumping toxic waste: a tort so expensive to prove, the case could bankrupt their lawyer. PG
- Coach Carter About a coach who tries to instill merits of scholarship and ethics by benching his undefeated basketball team because of poor academic performance PG-13
- Erin Brockovich An unemployed single mother becomes a legal assistant and almost single-handedly brings down a California power company accused of polluting a city's water supply. R
- Fly Away Home An adventure to save orphaned geese. PG.
- Follow Me Boys The story of how one guy starts a Boy Scout troop to help the town. NR.
- Forrest Gump One slow-witted but good-hearted man is at the center of key events of the 20th century. "Stupid is as stupid does." PG-13 for brief sexual content and war scenes.
- Friendly Persuasion - The story of a family of Quakers in Indiana in 1862. Their religious sect is strongly opposed to violence and war. It's not easy for them to meet the rules of their religion in everyday life...
- Gettysburg Great historical account of Colonel Joshua Chamberlain who held Little Round Top though greatly outnumbered. Out of ammunition, Chamberlain orders a charge instead of retreating. PG for war scenes.
- Ghandi Biography of Mohandas K. Gandhi, the lawyer who became the famed leader of the Indian revolts against the British rule through his philosophy of nonviolent protest. PG
- The Great Escape WWII POW escape. NR, but some violence.
- High Noon A marshal faces a man just released from prison where he was put by the marshal. His own town refuses to help & the odds are high he will not live. NR. Gunfight at the end.
- Hoosiers - A coach with a checkered past and a local drunk train a small town high school basketball team to become a top contender for the championship. PG
- Hoot Saving a population of endangered owls. PG for mild obscenities.

- It's A Wonderful Life The message in this film is one of courage and sacrifice for the greater good as George Bailey, a man with big ideas about seeing the world, continually forsakes his own desires to do what is right for the town. The second message is that each life is important. No matter how insignificant we feel we are, we are all inextricably linked to each other and play an important part in the fabric of one another's lives.
- Lean on Me Story of Paterson NJ principal Joe Clark (PG-13)
- The Man Who Planted Trees A lone shepherd changes the character of an entire valley.
- Mighty Ducks Emilio Estevez stars as a lawyer doing community service who becomes coach to a pee wee hockey team. PG.
- Mr. Holland's Opus A frustrated composer (Richard Dreyfuss) finds fulfillment as a high school music teacher. PG.
- Mr. Smith Goes to Washington One of Jimmy Stewart's signature roles as an idealistic senator caught in the corruption of the political machine. NR.
- Norma Rae - A young single mother and textile worker agrees to help unionize her mill despite the problems and dangers involved. PG
- October Sky The true story of Homer Hickam, a coal miner's son who was inspired by the first Sputnik launch to take up rocketry. PG.
- One Night with the King The story of Esther. Rated PG for mild violence, suggestion of sensuality.
- Pay It Forward Like some other kids, 12-year-old Trevor McKinney believed in the goodness of human nature. Like many other kids, he was determined to change the world for the better. Unlike most other kids, he succeeded. Rated PG-13 for mature thematic elements.
- Phenomenon - John Travolta is hit by a light and becomes very smart and addicted to learning. PG. 123 minutes.
- Radio - based on the true story of a small town HS football coach who befriended a developmentally disabled man which ultimately inspires the local townfolk
- Remember the Titans The true story of a newly appointed African-American coach and his high school team on their first season as a racially integrated unit. PG.
- Rudy True story of a boy who struggles with life in order to realize his dream: to play football for Notre Dame. PG
- Spartacus The slave, Spartacus, leads a revolt against a corrupt Rome. NR.
- Stand and Deliver Story of LA math teacher Jaime Escalante (PG)
- To Kill a Mockingbird Atticus Finch, a lawyer in the Depression-era South, defends a black man against an undeserved rape charge, and his kids against prejudice.
- We Are Marshall When a plane crash claims the lives of members of the Marshall University football team and some of its fans, the team's new coach and his few surviving players try to keep the football program alive. PG.