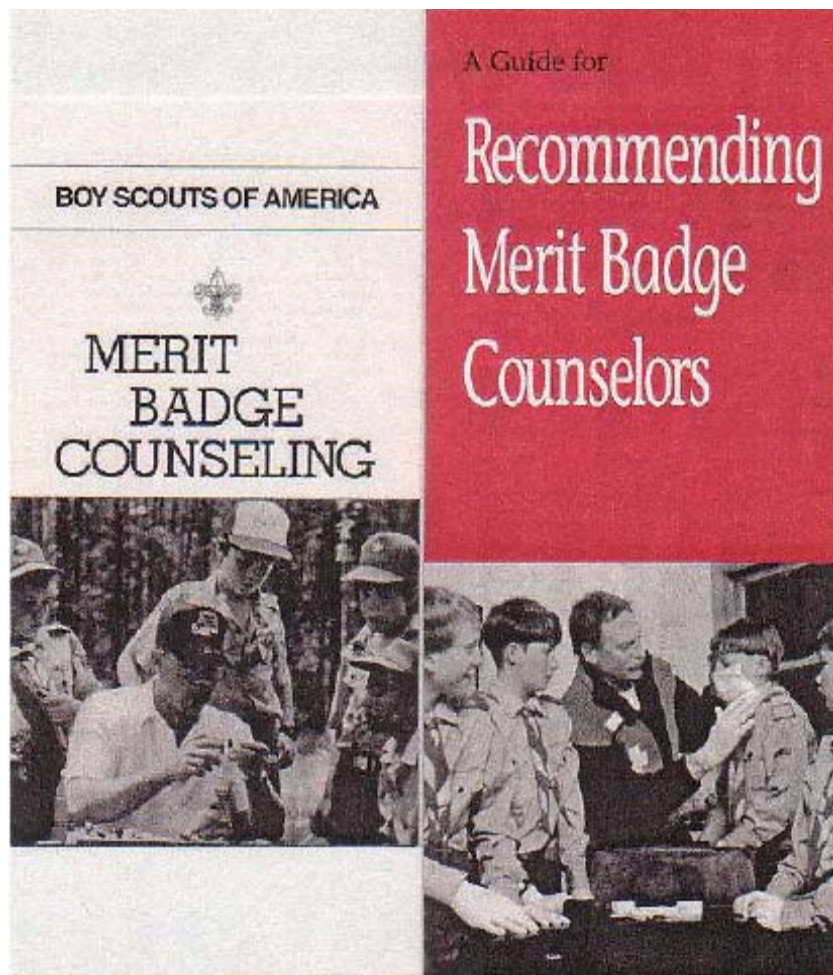


SO, YOU WANT TO BE A MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR



CHAIN BRIDGE DISTRICT

A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling

U.S. SCOUTING SERVICE PROJECT -- [HTTP://USScouts.org](http://USScouts.org)

Merit Badge Counselor

Merit badge counselors are the key to success in the merit badge plan. They offer their time, experience, and knowledge to help guide Scouts in one or more of the merit badge subjects.

The counselor's responsibility is to

1. Assist the Scout as he plans the assigned projects and activities to meet the merit badge requirements.
2. Coach Scouts through interviews and demonstrations on how to do the required skills of the craft, business, or hobby.
3. Certify the Scout after determining whether he is qualified for the merit badge.

Most local councils list merit badge counselors by district so that Scouts may call for appointments.

The number of Scouts requesting help is usually no burden to the counselor, since the number of counselors is normally determined by the popularity of the badge. Counselors schedule appointments at their convenience.

Merit Badge Plan

A part of the advancement program of the Boy Scouts of America, the merit badge plan is one of the most unique educational tools ever devised.

What Is a Merit Badge?

A merit badge is an award that is presented to a Scout when he completes the requirements for one of the merit badge subjects. The badge is only a small piece of khaki cloth with a design embroidered in color, but its significance is as large as the interest of the merit badge counselor who helps a Scout earn it.

Millions of Scouts "browse" among the more than 100 subjects, choosing those that seem most interesting to them. Some subjects are in craftwork, some in vocational fields, some in service to others, and many in cultural or self-improvement areas. In addition, certain merit badges are required for the Eagle Scout rank.

It is in the career fields that adults can make a vital impact on the life of a Scout by helping him with merit badges. Badges such as Entrepreneurship, Graphic Arts, Engineering, Chemistry, and many others provide the finest kind of orientation toward a possible career for the Scout.

Service clubs, unions, and professional societies often support the merit badge program through their vocational guidance committees. Members offer their services as counselors, and the group as a whole may help recruit and train counselors for districts or councils.

Merit badge counselors provide the means for Scouts to explore many subjects that may not be available to them otherwise. The Scout who has earned a number of merit badges gains confidence, finds greater purpose in life, and becomes a better person from his experience. This cannot happen without the service of thousands of merit badge counselors expert in particular subjects and interested in helping Scouts grow into men of character who are ready to take their place in the world of work as participating citizens. You're probably saying, "That's all great, but what do I do, and how do I do it?"

What's My Responsibility?

Your task is to satisfy yourself that each Scout who comes to you meets all the requirements for the merit badge. In this sense you are an examiner, though your larger opportunity lies in coaching—helping the Scout meet the challenge of the requirements and making him aware of the deeper aspects of the subject through your knowledge and experience.

What Do I Agree to Do?

As a merit badge counselor, I agree to

- Follow the requirements of the merit badge, making no deletions or additions, ensuring that the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts.
- Have a buddy present with each Scout at all instructional sessions.
- Renew my registration as a merit badge counselor annually if I plan to continue serving as a merit badge counselor.

Earning a Merit Badge

Working on merit badges is especially enjoyable when Scouts work together. The BSA encourages this by making the buddy system a part of the merit badge program. Together the two meet with merit badge counselors, plan projects, and keep their enthusiasm high.

The requirements for each merit badge appear in the current BSA merit badge pamphlet for that award and in the book *Boy Scout Requirements*, available at Scout shops and council service centers. When a Scout has decided on a merit badge he would like to earn, he must follow these steps:

- Obtain from his Scoutmaster a signed merit badge application and the name of a qualified counselor for that merit badge. (A counselor must know the subject well, be able to work effectively with Scouts, and be currently registered as a merit badge counselor with the Boy Scouts of America.)
- Along with another Scout, a relative, or a friend, set up and attend the first appointment with his merit badge counselor. The counselor will explain the requirements for the badge and help the Scout plan ways to fulfill them so that he can get the most out of the experience.
- Complete the requirements, meeting with his counselor whenever necessary until he has finished working on the badge.

The advancement program allows the Scout to move ahead in his own way and at his own speed. Rather than competing against others, he challenges himself to go as far as his ambition will carry him. The rate of advancement depends upon his interest, effort, and ability.

How the Merit Badge Counselor Helps

1. The Scout contacts you, probably by phone. You may tell him what is expected of him over the phone, or you may want to make an appointment to discuss this with him face-to-face. Personal contact will make earning the badge a better experience for you both.
2. The Scout should bring a merit badge application signed by his Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach on his first visit. He must always be accompanied by a buddy.
3. In your discussion of what is expected, you may want to start by finding out what the Scout already knows. Spend some time helping him learn the remaining requirements, or give guidance in completing projects. You can set up additional meetings with the Scout-not only for the purpose of passing him on the requirements, but rather to help him understand the subject.
4. The Scout, along with his buddy, should make another appointment with you when he thinks he is prepared to prove his ability. You set the date, time, and place.
5. This review session might be approached by the Scout with some apprehension. He is familiar with final exams in school and may see this meeting with you as another such experience. You can help a great deal by putting him at ease. Talk with him rather than grill or examine him. There is a big difference, yet you can still find out what he knows. Express honest enthusiasm for the things he has done, particularly if projects are involved. Your approval will give the Scout confidence.
6. When he meets you, he should bring with him the projects required for completion. If these cannot be transported, he should present satisfactory evidence, such as a photograph of the project or adult certification. His Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach might, for example, certify that a satisfactory bridge or tower has been built for Pioneering, or that the required meals were prepared for the Cooking merit badge. Your job, in addition to coaching, is to satisfy yourself that the requirements have been met. Question the Scout and, if you have any doubts, contact the adult who signed the statement.
7. When you are satisfied that the Scout has met the requirements, you sign his merit badge application.

You may work with many Scouts each year as they earn merit badges. However, you might only work with a few. Your contact with these Scouts is tremendously important. Your influence is measured not by the number of Scouts with whom you work, but by the effect upon the lives of those with whom you have an opportunity to work.

Throughout your association with the Scout, keep in mind that you are in reality assisting the Scoutmaster, the Varsity Scout Coach, and other troop and team leaders in the advancement program that the Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach helps each Scout plan. Often, the Scout's leader will help him select the merit badges he will earn for a particular award. Whether he earns the award or not, a merit badge counselor is always interested in the Scout's progress. You should feel free to discuss his work with the Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach at any time.

More or Less?

The Scout is expected to meet the requirements as stated-no more and no less. Furthermore, he is to do exactly what is stated. If it says "show or demonstrate," that is what he must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make," "list," "in the field," and "collect, identify, and label."

On the other hand, you cannot require more of a Scout than stated. You must not, for example, say, "I want to be sure you really know your stuff, so instead of the 20 items in your collection, you must have 50 to get my signature." You can suggest, encourage, and help the Scout to get 50 things, but you must not require it.

You might wonder, then, if the requirements as stated are the limits, what there is for you to do other than help the Scout with the specifics of these requirements. Actually, you can go far beyond the requirements in your discussions with the Scout. He probably will welcome your willingness to share your knowledge well beyond the requirements, and you will make a sincere contribution to him by doing so. But it isn't required. That's the key. The Scout does not have to show his knowledge of those things beyond the requirements.

You might stress the fact that while knowledge is necessary, whether he can put his knowledge to work is the important thing in life. As you work with the Scout you can give him indirect career guidance. Many merit badge subjects can acquaint a Scout with the job opportunities in various fields. In these cases the merit badge work serves as an exploration in an adult work experience, showing him whether or not he has the interest or ability along such lines.

His activity also can expose him to the educational requirements of a subject area. You can provide the Scout with valuable information on job possibilities, show him what is most interesting to you and what is difficult. The final choice-the selection of what he will do with himself in life-is up to one person. That person is the Scout himself. However, he will appreciate your help in relating his merit badge work with his life as he goes to school, into business or a trade, and on into adult life.

Where Do You Meet?

If the merit badge subject relates to your job or profession, then your place of work might be the best place to meet with Scouts. Hobby related subjects usually are handled in your home. Here you will have the proper materials for use in coaching Scouts. For a few subjects, coaching will happen in the field or where special equipment is at hand. Rowing, Rifle Shooting, Swimming, and Astronomy are good examples.

How Many at a Time?

Frequently the skills of a subject can be taught to several Scouts at one time. This has a time advantage for you. However, completing the requirements must always be done on an individual basis. A Scout may not qualify for merit badges by just being a member of a group that is instructed in skills.

Scouts must qualify by personally satisfying their merit badge counselor that they can meet all the requirements. This may be hard to do in a group. When one Scout in a group answers a question,

that can't possibly prove all the other group members know the answer. Then, too, each Scout learns at his own pace. No Scout should be held back or pushed ahead by his association with a group.

So remember-you can coach more than one at a time, but only one Scout at a time can satisfy you that he has met the requirements.

Can You Sell Your Subject?

Boy Scout troops and Varsity Scout teams constantly seek program materials for meetings. If you would like to expand interest in your subject and to attract more Scouts to earn the merit badge, contact Scoutmasters and Varsity Scout Coaches in your area and offer to attend a troop or team meeting to "sell your subject." Not all Scouts will be interested in the subject, so plan an exciting 10- or 15-minute presentation designed to tickle the fancy of your audience. Then, offer to meet after the meeting with those who are really interested to plan for your next get-together.

Do You Need a Merit Badge Pamphlet?

The information in the pamphlet is probably familiar to you, but it will help you to know what the Scout has read. The pamphlets are written for Scout-age boys. They also contain suggestions for projects.

It's a good idea to obtain the latest printing of the pamphlet on your subject. It will contain the latest requirements and information. The printing date is in each pamphlet. A complete list of merit badge pamphlets is printed on the inside back cover of all pamphlets with the latest revision date of each. By checking this list in any current year's pamphlet, you can find out whether your pamphlet has been updated. Most pamphlets are reprinted each year, and the contents are updated periodically.

If you have suggestions for improvements in the requirements or pamphlet, please send your comments to: Boy Scout Division, Boy Scouts of America, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079.

Please take note of the following information:

The requirements in the merit badge pamphlet may NOT be the current ones, even if the pamphlet is current. Please check the requirements listed in the current Boy Scout Requirements Book (No. 33215D), which is issued annually, to verify that you are using the current requirements, or check the current requirements posted on this web site which are updated whenever the requirements change. Unless a new pamphlet is issued AFTER the Requirements Book, the requirements listed in the Requirements Book are the controlling requirements.

Once you start working with a Scout, if the requirements change, you should continue to use the requirements in effect when the Scout began, unless the SCOUT desires to use the new requirements. However, if he wishes to use the new requirements, he must use ALL of the new requirements. He may not pick and choose a selection from the old and new requirements.

NOTE: Although the information above refers only to Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts, male members of BSA's Venturing Division, called Venturers, who have achieved the rank of First Class Scout in a Boy Scout Troop or Varsity Scout Team may continue to advance toward the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle Scout, and earn Eagle Palms, by earning Merit Badges within their Venturing Crews until their 18th birthday.

In addition, ALL members (including female members) of Sea Scouting Ships, which are actually specialized Venturing Crews, may advance toward the Sea Scout ranks of Apprentice, Ordinary, Able, and Quartermaster until their 21st birthday. The requirements for those ranks include meeting the requirements for certain Merit Badges including First Aid, Swimming, and Lifesaving, or demonstrating some of the requirements from a number of others. Note that they use the same requirements and process, but, except as noted in the preceding paragraph, do not actually "earn" the merit badges. Merit badges are not worn on Sea Scout uniforms.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

To qualify as a Merit Badge Counselor, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be proficient in the merit badge subject by vocation or avocation.
- Be able to work with Scout-age boys.
- Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America as a Scouting Volunteer
- Complete and submit the NCAC-CBD Merit Badge Counselor Information Form available on line at <http://chainbridge.org>.

As a Merit Badge Counselor, you must agree to:

- Follow the requirements of the merit badge, making no deletions or additions, ensuring that the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts.
- Have a Scout and his buddy present at all instructional sessions.
- Renew your registration annually if you plan to continue as a Merit Badge Counselor.

The information above is based on the 2000 printing of
"A Guide to Merit Badge Counseling" (BSA Publication No. 34532A
and "Merit Badge Counselor Information" (No. 34405).

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Using the Blue Card - The Mystery is Exposed

Follow the steps below in numerical order.

Which lines on the Blue Card do the

- Scout,
- Scoutmaster,
- Counselor and
- Advancement Chair

fill out and in what order?

When both sides of the “blue card” are completed, the Scout returns it to the Scoutmaster for record posting and recognition at a Court of Honor.

Step 1 – Scout.

The Scout fills out the top of this first panel to identify himself, along with his unit, district and council.

Step 7 - Scoutmaster.

After the Scout has filled out parts 1 through 5, and the Scoutmaster has selected a merit badge counselor, the Scoutmaster signs here. The Scout may begin working for the merit badge.

"Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the Scout's Scoutmaster."

Step 2 - Scout.

The Scout fills out the first column on the blue card below. The Scout must locate the merit badge requirements to complete this step.

Step 8 – Merit Badge Counselor.

The counselor fills in columns 2 and 3 as the Scout appears before the counselor and demonstrates to the satisfaction of the counselor that he has completed each requirement.

Requirement no. and letter	Date of approval	Counselor initial	Requirement no. and letter	Date of approval	Counselor initial

<http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

"The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions."

Step 3 - Scout.

The Scout fills out the name of the merit badge.

Step 6 - SM.

The Scoutmaster selects a counselor from the Chain Bridge District Merit Badge Counselor Directory and provides the contact data including the counselor's phone number.

Step 9 – MB Counselor.

After the Scout personally appears before the counselor and demonstrates to the counselor's satisfaction that he meets ALL requirements, the counselor signs here. **This is the official date the badge was EARNED.**

Step 13.

The Committee Chair or Advancement Chair checks and records the presentation of the badge.

The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print)

Merit badge

Name of counselor

Address of counselor

City _____ ZIP code _____

Telephone number of counselor

_____ / /

Signature of counselor _____ Date _____

Checked and recorded:

Date _____ Initials _____

Certificate and badge presented _____

Date _____

Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.

<http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

This completed panel is kept by the Scout for his permanent record and may be needed to support an Eagle Scout Application.

Step 4 - Scout.

The Scout fills out his record with his name and the name of the merit badge again.

Step 10 - MBC.

When the Scout meets ALL requirements, the counselor fills out this part and signs again. . **This is the official date the badge was EARNED.**

Step 12 - SM.

When the Scout gives the two panels with the counselor's signatures to the Scoutmaster, the Scoutmaster signs here. The Scoutmaster returns one panel to the Scout and gives the last panel to the Advancement Chair for record posting and instant recognition at the next meeting.

APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name _____

has given me his completed application for the _____

Merit badge _____

Completed on _____ / _____ / _____ by _____

Date _____

Signature of counselor _____

Signature of unit leader _____

NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR EXPLORER: Retain this copy for your permanent records.

<http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

This completed panel is kept by the counselor.

Step 5 - Scout.

The Scout fills out the counselor's record with his name, unit and the name of the merit badge.

Step 11 - MBC.

After the Scout has completed all requirements to the satisfaction of the counselor, the counselor fills in the completion date, tears off and retains this panel. The counselor gives the other two signed panels to the Scout.

COUNSELOR'S RECORD

Applicant _____

Troop

Team Unit number _____

Post

Merit badge _____

Date completed _____ / _____ / _____

Remarks:

It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.

<http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

The sixth and final panel.

- Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the unit leader.
- The Counselor may not change any requirement either by adding to or deleting from the requirements in the current BSA annual requirements book.
- **A merit badge can only be approved by a registered merit badge counselor.**

Information for Applicant

- A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor.
- You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.
- Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion.

Information for Counselor

- Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.
- The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.
- You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable.



<http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

There is NO DEADLINE for earning Merit Badges, except the Scout's 18th Birthday. Once a Scout has started working on a Merit Badge (i.e. obtained a signed "Blue Card" Application for Merit Badge from his Scoutmaster, had an initial discussion with a merit badge Counselor, and started working on the requirements), he may continue using those requirements until he completes the badge or turns 18.

THERE IS NO ONE YEAR LIMIT ON SO-CALLED "PARTIALS".

Required for Eagle

The following 15 badges are on the list of badges in requirement 3 for Eagle Scout.

Although a Scout must earn only 12 of them for the rank of Eagle Scout, and certain of them are therefore options for others, a Scout may choose any combination of these merit badges to fulfill requirement number 3 for Star and Life Scout. (He must have a total of 4 of these badges for Star and 7 of these badges for Life).

Camping, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Cycling, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science, Family Life, First Aid, Hiking, Lifesaving, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Swimming

Merit Badges by Number and Name

Numerical Sort		Alphabetical Sort	
Number	Merit Badge Name	Merit Badge Name	Number
001	Camping	<i>Agribusiness</i>	<i>120</i>
002	Citizenship in the Community	American Business	015
003	Citizenship in the Nation	American Cultures	017
004	Citizenship in the World	American Heritage	016
005	Communications	American Labor	121
006	Emergency Preparedness	Animal Science	018
007	Environmental Science	Archaeology	132
008	First Aid	Archery	019
009	Lifesaving	Architecture	020
010	Personal Fitness	Art	021
011	Personal Management	Astronomy	022
012	Safety	Athletics	023
013	Sports	Auto Mechanics	127
014	Swimming	Aviation	025
015	American Business	Backpacking	026
016	American Heritage	Basketry	027
017	American Cultures	<i>Beekeeping</i>	<i>028</i>
018	Animal Science	Bird Study	029
019	Archery	<i>Bookbinding</i>	<i>030</i>
020	Architecture	<i>Botany</i>	<i>031</i>

021	Art	Bugling	032
022	Astronomy	Camping	001
023	Athletics	Canoeing	033
024	Nuclear Science <i>Atomic Energy</i>	Chemistry	034
025	Aviation	Cinematography	126
026	Backpacking	Citizenship in the Community	002
027	Basketry	Citizenship in the Nation	003
028	<i>Beekeeping</i>	Citizenship in the World	004
029	Bird Study	Climbing	133
030	<i>Bookbinding</i>	Coin Collecting	035
031	<i>Botany</i>	Collections	128
032	Bugling	Communications	005
033	Canoeing	Composite Materials	137
034	Chemistry	Computers	036
035	Coin Collecting	<i>Consumer Buying</i>	037
036	Computers	Cooking	038
037	<i>Consumer Buying</i>	Crime Prevention	131
038	Cooking	Cycling	039
039	Cycling	Dentistry	040
040	Dentistry	<i>Handicap Awareness</i> Disabilities Awareness	060
041	Dog Care	Dog Care	041
042	Drafting	Drafting	042
043	Electricity	Electricity	043
044	Electronics	Electronics	044
045	Energy	Emergency Preparedness	006
046	Engineering	Energy	045
047	<i>Farm and Ranch Management</i>	Engineering	046
048	Farm Mechanics	Entrepreneurship	134
049	Fingerprinting	Environmental Science	007
050	<i>Firemanship</i> Fire Safety	Family Life	129
051	Fish & Wildlife Management	<i>Farm and Ranch Management</i>	047
052	Fishing	Farm Mechanics	048
053	<i>Food Systems</i>	Fingerprinting	049
054	Forestry	<i>Firemanship</i> Fire Safety	050

055	Gardening	First Aid	008
056	Genealogy	Fish & Wildlife Management	051
057	General Science	Fishing	052
058	Geology	Fly Fishing	136
059	Golf	Food Systems	053
060	Handicap Awareness Disabilities Awareness	Forestry	054
061	Hiking	Gardening	055
062	Home Repairs	Genealogy	056
063	Horsemanship	General Science	057
064	Indian Lore	Geology	058
065	Insect Life Insect Study	Golf	059
066	Journalism	Graphic Arts	122
067	Landscape Architecture	Hiking	061
068	Law	Home Repairs	062
069	Leatherwork	Horsemanship	063
070	Machinery	Indian Lore	064
071	Mammals Mammal Study	Insect Life Insect Study	065
072	Masonry	Journalism	066
073	Metals Engineering	Landscape Architecture	067
074	Metalwork	Law	068
075	Model Design and Building	Leatherwork	069
076	Motorboating	Lifesaving	009
077	Music	Machinery	070
078	Nature	Mammals Mammal Study	071
079	Oceanography	Masonry	072
080	Orienteering	Medicine	130
081	Painting	Metals Engineering	073
082	Pets	Metalwork	074
083	Photography	Model Design and Building	075
084	Pioneering	Motorboating	076
085	Plant Science	Music	077
086	Plumbing	Nature	078
087	Pottery	Nuclear Science Atomic Energy	024

088	Printing	Oceanography	079
089	Public Health	Orienteering	080
090	Public Speaking	Painting	081
091	Pulp & Paper	Personal Fitness	010
092	Rabbit Raising	Personal Management	011
093	Radio	Pets	082
094	Railroading	Photography	083
095	Reading	Pioneering	084
096	Reptile Study Reptile and Amphibian Study	Plant Science	085
097	Rifle and Shotgun Shooting	Plumbing	086
098	Rowing	Pottery	087
099	Salesmanship	Printing	088
100	Scholarship	Public Health	089
101	Sculpture	Public Speaking	090
102	Signaling	Pulp & Paper	091
103	Skating	Rabbit Raising	092
104	Skiing	Radio	093
105	Small Boat Sailing	Railroading	094
106	Soil & Water Conservation	Reading	095
107	Space Exploration	Reptile Study Reptile and Amphibian Study	096
108	Stamp Collecting	Rifle and Shotgun Shooting	097
109	Surveying	Rifle Shooting	123
110	Textile	Rowing	098
111	Theater	Safety	012
112	Traffic Safety	Salesmanship	099
113	Truck Transportation	Scholarship	100
114	Veterinary Science -Veterinary Medicine	Sculpture	101
115	Waterskiing	Shotgun Shooting	124
116	Weather	Signaling	102
117	Wilderness Survival	Skating	103
118	Wood Carving	Skiing	104
119	Woodworking	Small Boat Sailing	105
120	Agribusiness	Snow Sports	135
121	American Labor	Soil & Water Conservation	106

122	Graphic Arts	Space Exploration	107
123	Rifle Shooting	Sports	013
124	Shotgun Shooting	Stamp Collecting	108
125	Whitewater	Surveying	109
126	Cinematography	Swimming	014
127	Auto Mechanics	Textile	110
128	Collections	Theater	111
129	Family Life	Traffic Safety	112
130	Medicine	Truck Transportation	113
131	Crime Prevention	<i>Veterinary Science</i> Veterinary Medicine	114
132	Archaeology	Waterskiing	115
133	Climbing	Weather	116
134	Entrepreneurship	Whitewater	125
135	Snow Sports	Wilderness Survival	117
136	Fly Fishing	Wood Carving	118
137	Composite Materials	Woodworking	119

If the requirements change while a Scout is working on the badge, he may continue to use the OLD requirements until he completes the work, or he may use the new requirements if he wishes. It is HIS choice, and his alone.

If a Merit Badge is discontinued, Scouts working on the badge when it is removed from the Boy Scout Requirements booklet may continue to work toward completing the badge, and get credit for earning the badge, until they turn 18. However, it may not be possible to obtain an actual merit badge patch, once the local council's supply is exhausted.

If a discontinued Merit Badge is replaced with one or more other Merit Badges covering the same or similar topics (such as Rifle and Shotgun Shooting MB which was replaced by Rifle Shooting MB and Shotgun Shooting MB), a Scout that has earned the discontinued badge may also earn the new badge or badges. If the badge is simply renamed (such as Firemanship MB which was changed to Fire Safety MB), Scouts may NOT earn the badge again. If the badge number in BSA's numbering system is the same before and after the change, it is a renaming. If a new number is assigned, it is a replacement.

(Information based on: <http://usscouts.org/mb>)

Revised October 2006

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR INFORMATION

CHAIN BRIDGE DISTRICT
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL
Boy Scouts of America

The information obtained in this form is for the internal use of BSA only.



Make and keep a copy for your records
Return to: CBD Merit Badge Assistant
Isabelle Muller
6541 Orland St.
Falls Church, VA 22043

isabellem@vsl.cua.edu

Name _____ Date of Birth: _____ Home Phone () _____
Circle one (Required to verify BSA registration)
 Mr. Ms. Mrs., Dr. _____
Please type or print clearly

Address _____ M F Work Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ E-Mail _____

To qualify as a merit badge counselor, you must:

1. Be at least 18 years old.
2. Be proficient in the merit badge subject by vocation or avocation.
3. Be able to work with Scout-age boys.
4. Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America.

As a merit badge counselor, I agree to:

1. Follow the requirements of the merit badge as found in BSA's annual book of requirements, making no deletions or additions, ensuring that the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts.
2. Have two or more Scouts present at all instructional sessions.
3. Renew my registration annually if I plan to continue as a merit badge counselor.

Answer Yes if you have special knowledge that qualifies you to counsel merit badges. Describe that knowledge on the back.

Merit Badge Counselor Training is available on the Internet at:
<http://www.ncac-cbd.org/mb/>

	Vocation	Avocation	Special Training
LIST MERIT BADGE SUBJECTS HERE	Is this subject in line with your job, business, or profession? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side or a blank page.	Do you follow this subject as a hobby, having more than a "working knowledge" of the requirements in the merit badge pamphlet? If yes, explain.	If not, do you have any special training or other qualifications for this subject? If yes, explain on the reverse side or a blank page.
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

<p>CHECK ONE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to work with all units. <small>Note: This choice is recommended for merit badge subjects with few counselors. Your name will be marked on the district-wide listing to indicate your support for Boy Scouts in all Chain Bridge units.</small></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to work only with unit _____ <small>As an approved MB Counselor, you may still work with Scouts in other units.</small></p>	<p>PROVIDE BSA REGISTRATION INFORMATION</p> <p><small>If you are not currently registered with BSA-NCAC, you must include a BSA Adult Registration Application with this form.</small></p> <p>BSA Registered: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Expires: _____</p> <p>BSA Position: _____ Unit: _____</p>
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<p>X Signature of MB Counselor _____ Date _____</p> <p><small>Training is available for new and currently enrolled Merit Badge Counselors. Check your district training schedule or look at the Merit Badge Resources on-line at http://www.ncac-cbd.org/mb/</small></p>	<p>FOR ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE USE</p> <p>Counselor Data Base ID No. _____</p> <p>Approved: _____ Date: _____</p>
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THANK YOU FOR OFFERING YOUR SERVICES TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

Please describe your qualifications for each merit badge you wish to counsel:

Merit Badge	Qualifications (To explain each "Yes" on front.)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

Processing Your Forms:

Merit Badge Counselors **MUST** register or be currently registered as adult Scouters with BSA-NCAC and be approved by the District Advancement Committee (Merit Badge Dean). Submit one or both forms **DIRECTLY** to your District's Advancement Committee. If you are currently registered, please identify your unit number and position on the lines provided on the front of this form so your registration can be verified. For recent BSA volunteers (who may not appear on an NCAC listing of registered Scouters) please send a copy of the Adult Volunteer Form that was sent to NCAC (Form 28-501W).

1. BSA Adult Volunteer Application Form

Registered: If you are currently registered as a Scouter you need only to fill out this Merit Badge Information Form and submit it to your District Advancement Committee.

Not registered: If you are not registered you must fill out a BSA Adult Volunteer Application form. Use a position code of 042 to apply as a Merit Badge Counselor and no registration fee is necessary.

2. Merit Badge Information Form

Fill out the front and describe your qualifications for each merit badge on the back of the form. You may choose to make yourself available to Scouts throughout the district or to limit your role to counseling Scouts in a single unit. We encourage you to make yourself available to other units because the expertise for some merit badges is not present within many small units. You will always be able to limit the number of Scouts you work with at any one time. Check the box on the front of this form that indicates your desire.

DO NOT SEND EITHER FORM DIRECTLY TO THE COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER.