

What makes a good merit badge counselor?

• Merit badge counselors are :

- volunteers that have been selected, trained, and approved by council or district committees.
- knowledgeable in the topic and understanding the important role they play as counselors in the Boy Scout merit badge program.
- registered and certified each year as a merit badge counselor with the Boy Scouts of America by using the basic adult leader registration form.
- men and women of good character, age 18 or older, and recognized as having the skills and education in the subjects for which they are to serve as merit badge counselors, as well as the ability to work with Scout-age boys.

- Troop leaders are NOT automatically certified as counselors. A separate counselor application is required each year. Merit badge counselors are not required to pay a fee if they are only registered as merit badge counselors.
- There is no restriction or limit on the number of merit badges an individual may counsel, but they must be approved for each specific merit badge every year.

- All adult leaders must complete BSA Youth Protection training within 90 days of taking office. This training can be done through the BSA's Online Learning Center.
- The responsibility for merit badges shall rest with the merit badge counselor approved by the local council and district advancement committee.
- An approved counselor may counsel any youth member, including his or her own son, ward, or relative.
- Troops should provide as many counselors as they can, but troops must not add troop merit badge counselors' names to the district list unless the individuals agree to be included on the district list.
- Summer camp merit badge counselors also must be qualified. Camp staff members who are qualified in the subject, but are still younger than age 18 may only assist the merit badge counselor with instruction.
- The merit badge counselor or instructor in a particular subject should be available to both individuals and groups.
- A merit badge cannot be taken away once it has been earned, provided the counselor is a registered counselor for the merit badge.
- The district advancement committee is responsible for providing the essential training to the counselors recruited by the units and by the district.

Scouting promotes ethical leadership skills

so that Scouts can develop:

- a higher personal sense of duty and purpose ;
- real life-skills that allow them to become contributing members of society
- and grow physically and intellectually stronger in their self-awareness and self-confidence.

- Eagle-required merit badges provide important building blocks upon which to base emerging leadership skills.
- When laying in foundations for our future leaders, it's important not to take shortcuts.
- Each counselor must maintain the exact standards as outlined in the merit badge requirements -- nothing deleted, nothing added.
- No council, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to or subtract from an advancement requirement.
- Group instruction and orientations are encouraged. However, this group experience must be followed by attention to each individual candidate's projects and his individual ability to fulfill all requirements.



REFS:

- <http://scoutmaster.org/usscouts/boyscouts/mbcounseling.asp>
- http://scoutmaster.org/usscouts/boyscouts/MBC_Training.asp
- <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/boyscouts/guideformeritbadgecounselors.aspx>
- <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/boyscouts/guideformeritbadgecounselors/review.aspx>
- <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/boyscouts/trainingmodules/meritbadgecounselorinstructorsguide.aspx>
- <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx>
- <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx>

Why are merit badges important to Scouting?

- Scouting is over 100 years old; it's a mature, cohesive program with closely interrelated parts.
- Merit badge programs support other aspects of Scouting; they amplify the lessons of Scouting.
- The merit badge system benefits the Scout not only as a result of his own performance of the badge requirements, but also because of the knowledge, skill, character, and personal interest modeled for him by his counselor.
- Note that the three themes of the Scout Oath are also reinforced by the Twelve merit badges required for Eagle.

(1) Duty to God & Country;

- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Environmental Science

(2) Duty to help others;

- Family Life
- Communications
- First aid
- Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving



(3) Duty to oneself.

- Personal Management
- Personal Fitness
- Swimming or Hiking or Cycling
- Camping

Information for Applicant		APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE	
1. My name is _____		Name _____	
2. I am _____ years old.		Age _____	
3. I am a member of the _____ Troop.		Troop _____	
4. I am applying for the _____ Merit Badge.		Merit Badge _____	
5. I am applying for this badge because _____		Reason _____	
6. I have completed the required training for this badge.		Training _____	
7. I have completed the required projects for this badge.		Projects _____	
8. I have completed the required knowledge requirements for this badge.		Knowledge _____	
9. I have completed the required skill requirements for this badge.		Skills _____	
10. I have completed the required character requirements for this badge.		Character _____	
11. I have completed the required leadership requirements for this badge.		Leadership _____	
12. I have completed the required citizenship requirements for this badge.		Citizenship _____	
13. I have completed the required environmental science requirements for this badge.		Environmental Science _____	
14. I have completed the required family life requirements for this badge.		Family Life _____	
15. I have completed the required communications requirements for this badge.		Communications _____	
16. I have completed the required first aid requirements for this badge.		First Aid _____	
17. I have completed the required emergency preparedness or lifesaving requirements for this badge.		Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving _____	
18. I have completed the required personal management requirements for this badge.		Personal Management _____	
19. I have completed the required personal fitness requirements for this badge.		Personal Fitness _____	
20. I have completed the required swimming or hiking or cycling requirements for this badge.		Swimming or Hiking or Cycling _____	
21. I have completed the required camping requirements for this badge.		Camping _____	
22. I have completed the required citizenship in the community requirements for this badge.		Citizenship in the Community _____	
23. I have completed the required citizenship in the nation requirements for this badge.		Citizenship in the Nation _____	
24. I have completed the required citizenship in the world requirements for this badge.		Citizenship in the World _____	
25. I have completed the required environmental science requirements for this badge.		Environmental Science _____	
26. I have completed the required family life requirements for this badge.		Family Life _____	
27. I have completed the required communications requirements for this badge.		Communications _____	
28. I have completed the required first aid requirements for this badge.		First Aid _____	
29. I have completed the required emergency preparedness or lifesaving requirements for this badge.		Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving _____	
30. I have completed the required personal management requirements for this badge.		Personal Management _____	
31. I have completed the required personal fitness requirements for this badge.		Personal Fitness _____	
32. I have completed the required swimming or hiking or cycling requirements for this badge.		Swimming or Hiking or Cycling _____	
33. I have completed the required camping requirements for this badge.		Camping _____	
34. I have completed the required citizenship in the community requirements for this badge.		Citizenship in the Community _____	
35. I have completed the required citizenship in the nation requirements for this badge.		Citizenship in the Nation _____	
36. I have completed the required citizenship in the world requirements for this badge.		Citizenship in the World _____	
37. I have completed the required environmental science requirements for this badge.		Environmental Science _____	
38. I have completed the required family life requirements for this badge.		Family Life _____	
39. I have completed the required communications requirements for this badge.		Communications _____	
40. I have completed the required first aid requirements for this badge.		First Aid _____	
41. I have completed the required emergency preparedness or lifesaving requirements for this badge.		Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving _____	
42. I have completed the required personal management requirements for this badge.		Personal Management _____	
43. I have completed the required personal fitness requirements for this badge.		Personal Fitness _____	
44. I have completed the required swimming or hiking or cycling requirements for this badge.		Swimming or Hiking or Cycling _____	
45. I have completed the required camping requirements for this badge.		Camping _____	