

# Merit Badge Counselor Registration and Training Packet

## Instructions

1. **New?** Read The Guide for Counselors  
It qualifies as self-directed training for B.S.A.
2. **Renewing?** Take the Self Quiz Start Page 24  
See how much you remember. Maybe a review is in order.
3. **Choose which Merit Badges to Teach.** Note:  
A few need BSA certifications to do, such as rifle or shotgun ect.
4. **Complete the Merit Badge Info Form** with  
BRIEF information on the reverse side.
5. **Complete the Leader Application**  
Note some important info in the guide about the form.
6. **Complete Youth Protection Training  
course Online or at a Training event.**  
After receiving your BSA ID.

**Each merit badge counselor must read and understand this information before they teach a merit badge.**

**Every boy deserves a trained leader... and that includes merit badge counselors.**

*Thank you so much for volunteering as a merit badge counselor. I hope this information is helpful and gets everyone on the same page. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.*

Advancement Chair  
Razorback District

## **This guide is a composite of the following BSA publications**

A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling, No. 34532  
Adult Application, No. 28-501  
Advancement Committee Guide Policies and Procedures, No. 33088  
Application for Merit Badge ("blue card"), No. 34124  
Boy Scout Handbook, No. 33105  
Boy Scout Requirements, No. 33215  
Badge Counselor Information form, No. 34405  
Merit Badge Pamphlet Series  
Scoutmaster Handbook, No. 33009

This packet was created and edited by

Mike Jandebour  
Asst. Scoutmaster Troop 122  
Advisor Sea Scout Ship 13  
Razorback District Comm. Westark Council  
479-640-5431  
[jandebour@starband.net](mailto:jandebour@starband.net)

For the boys.....

## **Table of Contents**

What Is a Merit Badge?	4
Why Does the BSA Use Merit Badge Counselors?	4
A Merit Badge Counselor Is ...	5
Requirements	6
Youth Protection training	7
The Merit Badge Process	8
Group Instruction of Merit Badges	10
Summer Camp Merit Badge Counselors	10
Counseling Techniques	11
Helpful Hints	11
FAQ	12
Fast Facts for the Returning Merit Badge Counselor	14
Blue Card in Word Format	15
Merit Badge Program Quiz	17
Merit Badge Program Quiz Answers	18
Registration	19
2008 List of Merit badges	20
<b>MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR INFORMATION FORM</b>	<b>21</b>

## **What Is a Merit Badge?**

A special part of a Scout's learning adventure, merit badges are awards presented to a Scout when he completes the requirements for one of the merit badge subjects. There are more than 100 merit badges a Scout may earn. The subject matters range from vocational and careers introduction, to personal development, hobbies, sports, high adventure, citizenship, and life-skills development.

Every merit badge is designed to teach the Scout new skills while outwardly encouraging him to challenge himself and have fun in the process. Merit badges offer a range of difficulty over a breadth of subject matters, and a Scout is free to pursue any merit badge he wishes. The merit badge itself is a simple embroidered patch, but the intangible end result of earning it is that the Scout gains self-confidence from overcoming obstacles to achieve a goal. Any registered Scout, regardless of rank, may work on any merit badge and receive the award when he earns it.

## **Why Does the BSA Use Merit Badge Counselors?**

One of the methods of Scouting is association with quality adults. Besides a Scout's parents and relatives, his schoolteachers, his religious leaders, and possibly his sports coaches, most Scout-age youth do not have much contact with many other adults or professionals. Merit badge counselors provide an excellent means for a Scout to grow through his exposure to outstanding adults who serve as examples and mentors to them. The opportunity to deal with business leaders, trained specialists, and experienced hobbyists while in the pursuit of a merit badge offers the Scout a chance for personal growth and possibly a life-altering experience.

The BSA recognizes that the merit badge counselor is the cornerstone to the merit badge program. By offering their time, experience, and knowledge to guide Scouts in one or more merit badge subjects, counselors help shape the future of our country. By assisting as the Scout plans projects and activities necessary to meet the merit badge requirements, and by coaching the Scout through interviews and demonstrations, the quality adult contact fostered by this working relationship can only enhance the Scout's self-confidence and growth.

## A Merit Badge Counselor Is ...

The merit badge counselor is a key player in the Boy Scout advancement program. Whatever your area of expertise or interest—whether it is a special craft or hobby (basketry, leatherwork, coin collecting), a profession (veterinary medicine, aviation, engineering), or perhaps a life skill (cooking, personal management, communications)—as a merit badge counselor, you can play a vital role in stirring a young man's curiosity about that particular topic. By serving as a merit badge counselor, you offer your time, knowledge, and other resources so that Scouts can explore a topic of interest.

As a merit badge counselor, your mission is to join fun with learning. You are both a teacher and mentor to the Scout as he works on a merit badge and learns by doing. By presenting opportunities for growth via engaging activities like designing a Web page (Computers), performing an ollie and a wheelie (Snowboarding), or fabricating rope (Pioneering), you can pique a young man's interest in the merit badge subject. Just think: Your hands-on involvement could inspire a Scout to develop a lifelong hobby, pursue a particular career, or become an independent, self-supporting adult.

A merit badge counselor is both a teacher and a mentor to the Scout as he works on the merit badge. Merit badge counselors should be satisfied that each Scout under their guidance meets all the requirements set forth for the merit badge. In this sense, a merit badge counselor is an examiner. In a larger sense, the real opportunity for a counselor lies in coaching—helping Scouts over the different hurdles of the requirements and helping make them aware of the deeper aspects of the subject from their knowledge and experience.

The merit badge counselor may help a Scout by providing instruction and guidance on the subject matter. However, the counselor must not complete the Scout's work on the requirements. The counselor needs to test the Scout to ensure that he has completed all the required work but *may not modify the merit badge requirements* in the process. This standard ensures that the advancement requirements are fair and uniform for all Scouts.

# Merit Badge Counselor Requirements

To qualify as a merit badge counselor, a volunteer Must:

- Possess the moral, educational and emotional qualities
- Be at least 18 years old
- Be a citizen of the USA; or a legal resident alien living in the US.
- Subscribe to:
  - the Declaration of Religious Principles
  - the Scout Oath or Promise
  - the Scout Law
- Have unique skills and education or experience or knowledge in the subject
- Have the interest to turn a color-embroidered piece of khaki cloth into something of significance for a Scout to want to earn it.
- Complete an Adult Application with a Position Code of "42" and the Merit Badge Counselor Information (MPCI) form
- Be approved by:
  - the District Advancement Committee
  - the Scout Executive or his designee
  - the Council Advancement Committee
- Register annually with the Boy Scouts of America.
- Be able to work with Scout-age youth.

## **Youth Protection training**

The Boy Scouts of America asks that all merit badge counselors take BSA Youth Protection training. This program addresses strategies for personal safety awareness for youth as well as adults. BSA Youth Protection policies include

- Two-deep leadership
- No one-on-one contact
- Respecting privacy
- Reporting problems

The BSA Youth Protection guidelines have been adopted primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, they also serve to protect our adult volunteers and leaders from false accusations of abuse. The “Guide to Safe Scouting” contains the safety policies for BSA. Counselors are advised to review it as well.

Upon approval to serve as a volunteer, **individuals are expected to complete BSA Youth Protection training within 90 days** of assuming a leadership position. This training can be done through the BSA's Online Learning Center at [olc.scouting.org](http://olc.scouting.org). The Boy Scouts of America seeks to create a safe environment for young people and adult leaders to enjoy the program and related activities. BSA Youth Protection training helps preserve that environment. **Current leaders must insure their youth protection certificate is less than 2 years old.**

Enter your BSA ID number, It's on your BSA ID card you received from council upon approval to be a volunteer. This will insure you are credited with completing the online version of training.

Scouts are expected to have a friend with them when they meet with MB counselors.

**Never meet 1 on 1 alone with a scout**

## The Merit Badge Process

The requirements for each merit badge appear in the **current** BSA merit badge pamphlet for that award and in the **current** edition of the *Boy Scout Requirements* book, available at Scout shops and council service centers. The requirements for a badge may change. The latest changes are on BSA national website, and go into effect at the beginning of each year.

When a Scout has decided on a merit badge he would like to earn, he obtains from his troop librarian the name and phone number of the district/council-approved merit badge counselor. At this time, the Scoutmaster signs the Application for Merit Badge (blue card). Where he gets the “blue card” is not important, they can be printed online, from the librarian, a Scoutmaster, or who ever your unit has assigned to the task if you unit is using the blue cards. But he must get the scoutmasters ok to start the process.

Most local councils (including summer camps) use the Application for Merit Badge, or blue card, **although it is not required**. This tool just makes the record keeping easier for the Scout, the merit badge counselor, and the unit leader.

A merit badge counselor must always ensure that a Scout has a "buddy" present at all instruction sessions. Working on merit badges is especially enjoyable when Scouts work together, and 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 Scout's buddy could be another Scout, a parent or guardian, brother or sister, relative, or friend. The Scout should bring a buddy to all his appointments with his counselor.

The Scout telephones the merit badge counselor to make an appointment, and together they schedule a date and time for the Scout and his buddy to meet. The counselor suggests that the Scout bring the merit badge pamphlet, the Application for Merit Badge, and any work that he has started or accomplished, and that he prepare by reading over the requirements. Merit badge pamphlets are available through the scout shop or your own troop library. 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 and contain suggestions for projects. It is a good idea to obtain the latest printing of the pamphlet on your subject. It will contain the latest requirements and information. While the pamphlet is not required for the Scout to earn the merit badge, it helps the counselor to know what the Scout may be studying and the level of learning expected of the Scout.

Once a Scout has started working on a merit badge, he may stay with the requirements in effect when he started. **He is not required to meet newly introduced changes unless the national office places a specific timeline on the implementation of new requirements.** But he should keep a copy of the older requirements he must satisfy until he has received his badge. His scoutmaster signature date is the time when he “starts” a badge.

At their first meeting, the merit badge counselor and the Scout decide upon a tentative schedule for completing the requirements. They should keep the Scout's other obligations (Scouting, school, worship, etc.) in mind, and set the dates, times, and locations for future meetings. The counselor will explain the requirements for the badge and help the Scout plan ways to fulfill these requirements so that he can get the most out of the experience. In some cases, the Scout may share with the merit badge counselor the work he has started or accomplished.

Merit badge counselors help Scouts meet the requirements for the merit badge. They may expand on the information in the merit badge pamphlet based on their knowledge, experience, and expertise in the subject. They are encouraged to tell about their own experiences that positively reinforce the subject matter,

**The merit badge counselor assesses the Scout's knowledge to ensure he has completed all the required work—no more, and no less. You may not add to, delete from, or modify the merit badge requirements in any way, although certain considerations can be made for Scouts with disabilities.**

The number of counseling sessions will depend on the difficulty of the merit badge requirements and the Scout's preparation and ability. The Scout and counselor are expected to meet as many times as is necessary for the Scout to complete the requirements for the merit badge. The advancement program allows the Scout to move ahead in his own way and at his own pace. 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.

Your duty is to be satisfied that each Scout who comes to you meets all the requirements for the merit badge you are coaching. You do this by helping Scouts overcome the different hurdles of the requirements and making them aware of the deeper aspects of the subject through their learning experience. While you may guide and instruct a Scout on the subject matter, he must do the work himself.

As the Scout completes each requirement, he is always tested (but with a buddy present), and as each requirement is completed, the merit badge counselor marks it on the application. When all the requirements for the merit badge are fulfilled, the merit badge counselor certifies that the Scout has completed the requirements. The Scout may return his completed Application for Merit Badge (blue card, if one is used) to his Scoutmaster.

There shall be no board of review procedure for merit badges, but public recognition may be given at a unit court of honor or other suitable occasion.

## **Group Instruction of Merit Badges**

The question arises as to whether it is permissible to have Scouts earn merit badges in groups. Many subjects may be presented to groups of Scouts without defeating one of the purposes of the merit badge plan – working closely with a qualified adult. The National Executive Board has approved this policy statement on merit badge counseling:

"To the fullest extent possible, the merit badge counseling relationship is a counselor-Scout arrangement in which the boy is not only judged on his performance of the requirements, but receives maximum benefit from the knowledge, skill, character, and personal interest of his counselor. Group instruction and orientation are encouraged where special facilities and expert personnel make this most practical, or when Scouts are dependent on only a few counselors for assistance. However, this group experience should be followed by attention to each individual candidate's projects and his ability to fulfill all requirements."

In harmony with this policy, a troop or team may use merit badge counselors in unit meetings. The merit badge counselor can make a presentation covering the highlights of a merit badge subject. Scouts should then be given an opportunity to try some skill related to the badge. This introduction to a merit badge can spark an interest in the subject.

Scouts must be tested individually, and they must meet all the requirements. A Scout may not qualify for merit badges by just being a member of a group that is instructed in skills. 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 that he has met the requirements.

## **Summer Camp Merit Badge Counselors**

The same qualifications and rules for apply to counselors for council summer camp merit badge programs. All counselors must be 18 years or older, but qualified camp staff members under age 18 may assist the merit badge counselor with instruction. (These assistants are not qualified to sign off on a Scout's blue card nor may they certify the Scout's completion of a merit badge.) As always, each counselor must maintain the exact standards as outlined in the merit badge requirements—nothing deleted, nothing added.

Partial completion of merit badges at summer camp should be credited to a Scout on the Application for Merit Badge (blue card) and given to his Scoutmaster at the end of the week. Back home, the Scout would need to contact a merit badge counselor for assistance with completing the rest of the requirements

# Counseling Techniques

The most productive environment for the Scout when he meets with his merit badge counselor will be one in which he feels welcome and relaxed. Start the conversation by finding out what the Scout already knows about the subject, then stimulate his interest by showing him something related to it. (Be careful not to overwhelm the Scout—remember, he's probably a beginner.) Establish an atmosphere that encourages the Scout to ask questions and to ask for help when he needs it.

Spend some time helping the Scout learn the requirements, making sure he knows he should do exactly what the requirements call for, whether "show" or "demonstrate," "make," "list," "discuss," or "collect, identify, and label." Take a genuine interest in his projects, and encourage him to complete them.

Remember that the requirements must be completed exactly as presented—do not expand any requirement. However, the Scout may undertake more activities on his own initiative. The merit badge counselor can encourage this without pushing him off course.

Encourage the Scout to practice for his review session and to reflect on his accomplishments. The review process might be approached by the Scout with some apprehension. He is familiar with final exams in school and may see this meeting with the counselor as another such experience. The counselor can help by talking to him rather than grilling or examining him—there's a big difference, yet it still will be evident what he knows. Expressing honest enthusiasm for the things he has done will give the Scout confidence.

During testing, the merit badge counselor may find that the Scout needs help learning a particular area. The counselor teaches the needed skill, and then retests to ensure the area has been learned.

## Helpful Hints

Here are some simple tips that every merit badge counselor should keep in mind.

- Make the Scout feel welcome and relaxed.
- Stimulate the Scout's interest by showing him something related to the merit badge subject, but don't overwhelm him; remember, he is probably a beginner.
- Carefully review each requirement, start with easy skills or questions, and encourage practice.
- Insist that the Scout do exactly what the requirements specify. Many of the requirements involve hands-on activities that call for a Scout to show or demonstrate; make; list; discuss; or collect, identify, and label—and he must do just that.
- Don't make the requirement more difficult—or any easier—than stated. A Scout may undertake more activities on his own initiative, but he cannot be pushed to do so.
- During testing, the Scout might need help in a particular area or with a certain skill, and may need to be retested later to ensure the requirement has been fulfilled.
- Encourage self-evaluation and self-reflection, and establish an atmosphere that encourages the Scout to ask for help.
- Take a genuine interest in the Scout's projects, and encourage completion.

# The Merit Badge Counselor: FAQ

Many of the same questions frequently arise from merit badge counselors, especially those who are new to the program. Here are the answers to some of those FAQs.

**Question:** Must individuals who are serving as a merit badge counselor register as a merit badge counselor with the Boy Scouts of America?

**Answer:** Yes, an Adult Application must be completed for each position in which the individual wants to serve. The application allows only one position per form. For instance, an individual who wants to serve only as a merit badge counselor will need to complete only one application. However, a Scoutmaster or assistant Scoutmaster who wants to serve as a merit badge counselor must complete two applications—one for the Scoutmaster position and one for the counselor position.

**Unit leaders are not automatically approved to serve as merit badge counselors.**

**Question:** Once the adult leader application has been submitted, how long does the approval process take?

**Answer:** The process usually takes from four to six weeks.

**Question:** What is the minimum age requirement for merit badge counselors?

**Answer:** An individual must be at least 18 years of age to serve as a merit badge counselor.

**Question:** Once a volunteer is registered and approved as a merit badge counselor, is that registration for life?

**Answer:** Approvals for merit badge counselors and all other adult volunteer positions are valid for one year only and must be renewed annually.

**Question:** Can a merit badge counselor who works only with a single unit obtain only unit committee approval?

**Answer:** With no exceptions, all merit badge counselors must be approved by the local council's advancement committee.

**Question:** How many merit badges can a merit badge counselor support?

**Answer:** Merit badge counselors may be approved for as many badges as they are qualified. However, the local council's approving body may impose a limitation based upon the needs of the local council and individual districts.

**Question:** Can merit badge counselors coach their own sons or close relatives (for instance, a nephew)?

**Answer:** It does not give the boy the full experience of meeting different adults but Yes, Approved counselors may coach **any** Boy Scout who contacts them through the **proper** procedures.

**Question:** Does that mean group instruction is allowed?

**Answer:** A merit badge counselor may make a presentation to a group of Scouts on a merit badge subject. However, unless the merit badge requirements specifically allow for a group project, each Scout still must complete the requirements individually, and the Scout must meet with a merit badge counselor (and his buddy) to complete the requirements.

**Question:** How many merit badges can a Scout earn by working with any single merit badge counselor?

**Answer:** A Scout may earn as many merit badges from a counselor as the counselor is qualified and approved to counsel. Again, the spirit of the program is to expose the Scout to a wide circle of adults to help broaden his perspective.

**Question:** How much time does a Scout have to complete all the requirements for a merit badge?

**Answer:** There is no time limit as long as the Scout completes all the necessary requirements by the time he reaches age 18.

**Question:** Can a merit badge counselor require a Scout to work beyond the specific requirements of the merit badge in order to challenge the Scout and allow him to discover more about the subject?

**Answer:** In fairness to all Scouts, additions, deletions, or other modifications to the requirements are not permitted. The requirements are to be completed exactly as written. However, a merit badge counselor may share additional information and resources that the Scout could use on his own to learn more and challenge himself.

**Question:** What happens when the weather, locale, or some other circumstance makes meeting all of the conditions of the merit badge requirements impractical? Can substitute requirements be created for those stated?

**Answer:** No additions, deletions, or alterations are permitted. The requirements are to be completed exactly as written.

**Question:** If the requirements for a merit badge on the required list for the Eagle Scout rank vary among the Boy Scout Handbook, the merit badge pamphlet, and the Boy Scout Requirements book (current edition), which resource takes precedence?

**Answer:** The current edition of the Boy Scout Requirements book lists the official set of requirements for rank advancement and for each individual merit badge.

**Question:** What is the buddy system, and why is it necessary?

**Answer:** The buddy system is a safety routine that calls for a Scout to be paired with a buddy whenever he participates in Scouting activities such as aquatics, cycling, or hiking, and when he meets with his merit badge counselor. It is a way for Scouts to look after one another, stay safe, and have more fun. During meetings with adult leaders, a Scout's buddy can be another Scout or friend, or a relative.

**Common sense dictates that two adult counselors alone with only one Scout should be avoided.**

**Question:** What BSA Youth Protection guidelines and leadership practices should a merit badge counselor be aware of whenever meeting with a Scout?

**Answer:** Be sure to follow the buddy system. Whenever a merit badge counselor meets with a Scout, there must always be a third

person present. This third person may be any other adult familiar to the Scout such as his parent or guardian, or the Scout's "buddy," such as a friend, sibling, or other relative.

**The current edition of the *Boy Scout Requirements* book is the official guide for rank advancement and merit badge requirements.**

## **Fast Facts for the returning Merit Badge Counselor**

- A merit badge counselor can counsel any Scout, including his own son—although this is discouraged in order to offer a Scout the chance to meet a diverse group of outstanding adults.
- A counselor may be certified in unlimited merit badge subjects, but he or she must be approved for each one.
- There is no limit on the number of merit badges that a counselor may counsel with one Scout. However, the Scout will benefit the most from working with a variety of outstanding adults.
- A merit badge counselor may limit his or her services to one unit but still must be approved by the council advancement committee.
- Scoutmasters and assistant Scoutmasters are not automatically approved as merit badge counselors.
- Group instruction is acceptable, but each Scout must be tested and passed individually.
- There is no time limit for completion of merit badges, but all work on merit badges must be completed before the Scout's 18th birthday.
- Counselors May not modify the requirements for a badge.
- Adults Must follow the BSA guidelines for youth protection when meeting with a boy, there must be two boys present.
- Your Youth protection certification must be dated in the previous 2 years.
- You must reapply every year by filling out a leader App and Merit badge Counselor form.



This page left blank

## Merit Badge Program Quiz

TRUE or FALSE:

1. T F A merit badge counselor may be a counselor for only up to six merit badges.
2. T F A merit badge counselor may not coach his own son or close relative (i.e., nephew) unless he is part of a group of Scouts all working on the same merit badge.
3. T F A merit badge counselor who works only with a single unit needs only the unit committee's approval before being approved by the Scout executive.
4. T F Persons serving as merit badge counselors must be registered as a merit badge counselor with the Boy Scouts of America.
5. T F A Scout may earn no more than five merit badges from the same merit badge counselor.
6. T F Once a Scouter is approved as a merit badge counselor, he is approved for life and never has to be reapproved.
7. T F A Scout must complete all the requirements for a merit badge within 12 months or he must start over.
8. T F A merit badge counselor may require the Scout to work beyond the specific requirements of the merit badge so he may discover more about the subject and continue the learning process.
9. T F Due to the BSA policies related to Youth Protection and two-deep leadership, a merit badge counselor must have another adult present during all merit badge counseling sessions.
10. T F If the weather, locale, or some other condition makes meeting all of the conditions of the merit badge requirements impractical, the merit badge counselor may substitute requirements for those stated for the merit badge.
11. T F Merit badge counselors must be at least 18 years old.
12. T F If the requirements for a merit badge differ between the merit badge pamphlet and the current edition of *Boy Scout Requirements*, the requirements in the *Boy Scout Requirements* book supersede all others.

## Merit Badge Program Quiz Answers

1. False. A counselor may be approved for as many badges as he or she is qualified. Since this is up to the members of the approving body to decide, they also may decide how many merit badges they feel it is necessary for a counselor to coach based upon need within the district or council.
2. False. A duly approved counselor may counsel any Scout who contacts him or her through proper procedures. However, it is suggested that wherever possible, Scouts should experience a variety of adult contacts and therefore, should use a diverse group of counselors.
3. False. All counselors must be approved by the district/council advancement committee.
4. True. Even volunteers who serve in multiple positions must fill out another form and show registration as a merit badge counselor.
5. False. A Scout may earn as many badges from a counselor as the counselor is qualified and approved to coach. However, since it is in the Scout's best interest that he experience a diversity of adult contacts, it is not in the spirit of the program to do so unless conditions warrant.
6. False. Counselor approvals are for one year only.
7. False. There is no time limit except that all requirements work must be completed before the Scout's 18th birthday.
8. False. No additions or deletions are permitted. The requirements are to be completed exactly as written. However, a counselor may share additional information or resources in the hope of encouraging the Scout to challenge himself.
9. False. There must always be a third person present, but it may be any other adult familiar to the Scout, a Scout's parent, or a Scout's "buddy." Common sense dictates that two adult counselors alone with only one Scout should be avoided.
10. False. No additions or deletions are permitted. The requirements are to be completed exactly as written.
11. True. Counselors must be At least 18 years old.
12. True. The Boy Scout Requirements book is revised annually and reflects any changes that have been made, whereas the merit badge pamphlets are not revised annually and may be outdated.

# Registration

To register with the Boy Scouts of America, a potential merit badge counselor must complete the BSA's Adult Application form (No. 28-501Y; available in Spanish as No. 28-502S) and submit it along with the BSA Merit Badge Counselor Information form (No. 34405, included with this packet) to the BSA local council office. Most troops/districts have a person who is responsible for maintaining the list of counselors for their unit or district. That person can handle your application and make sure it gets to the correct person in the council. Renewal of this registration annually is necessary to continue as a merit badge counselor (Every applicant is screened.) These forms are included with this packet. If not they can be obtained online, from a scout leader, or your local scout shop.

**You must have BOTH committee chair AND charter rep Sign the Application.**

It is recommended to turn in all apps to the unit advancement chair who could then get the correct signatures and send them on to the district advancement chair.

If you are not with a unit then the District scout executive will sign. If you check to only work with a certain unit you must apply through that unit. If you apply through the district you should work with all scouts.

**Do not forget** to explain on the back of the Info form your Brief sentence why you are qualified to teach the badge.

Fill out the complete form including references

On the leader app, where it asks for position code, use: 42

\*\* The Rifle Shooting merit badge counselor must be a currently NRA-certified rifle instructor or coach who is 21 years of age or older. Please attach a copy of your certification to this application.

\*\* The Shotgun Shooting merit badge counselor must be a currently NRA-certified shotgun instructor or coach who is 21 years of age or older. Please attach a copy of your certification to this application.

++ All Climbing and rappelling activities must be supervised by an Instructor who is 21 years of age or older and has successfully completed a minimum of 10 hours of instructor training for climbing/rappelling from a nationally or regionally recognized organization, a climbing school, a college-level climbing/rappelling course, or is a certified BSA climbing instructor.

\* Counselors for aquatics merit badges (Swimming, Lifesaving, Canoeing, Rowing, Small Boat Sailing, Whitewater, Waterskiing, and Motor boating) must have current Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense training (available online).

## 2008 List of Merit badges, pamphlet # - year updated

American Business, No. 33325 – 2002  
American Cultures, No. 33399 – 2005  
American Heritage, No. 33398 – 2005  
American Labor, No. 33326 – 2006  
Animal Science, No. 33395 – 2006  
Archaeology, No. 35000 – 2006  
\*Archery, No. 33259 – 2004  
Architecture, No. 33304 – 2004  
Art, No. 33320 – 2006  
Astronomy, No. 33303 – 2004  
Athletics, No. 33324 – 2006  
Auto Mechanics, No. 33241 – 2000  
Aviation, No. 33293 – 2006  
Backpacking, No. 33232 – 2002  
Basketry, No. 33313 – 2003  
Bird Study, No. 33300 – 2005  
Camping, No. 33256 – 2005  
\*Canoeing, No. 33305 – 2004  
Chemistry, No. 33382 – 2004  
Cinematography, No. 33238 – 2001  
Citizenship in the Community, No. 33249 – 2005  
Citizenship in the Nation, No. 33248 – 2005  
Citizenship in the World, No. 33260 – 2005  
++Climbing, No. 35001 – 2006  
Coin Collecting, No. 33390 – 2002  
Collections, No. 33242 – 2003  
Communications, No. 33258 – 2003  
Composite Materials, No. 33252 – 2006  
Computers, No. 33246 – 2005  
Cooking, No. 33349 – 2007  
Crime Prevention, No. 33400 – 2005  
Cycling, No. 33226 – 2003  
Dentistry, No. 33394 – 2006  
Disabilities Awareness, No. 33370 – 2005  
Dog Care, No. 33289 – 2003  
Drafting, No. 33262 – 1993  
Electricity, No. 33408 – 2004  
Electronics, No. 35003 – 2004  
Emergency Preparedness, No. 33368 – 2003  
Energy, No. 33335 – 2005  
Engineering, No. 33376 – 2000  
Entrepreneurship, No. 35008 – 2006  
Environmental Science, No. 33363 – 2006  
Family Life, No. 33243 – 2005  
Farm Mechanics, No. 33346 – 1997  
Fingerprinting, No. 33287 – 2003  
Fire Safety, No. 33318 – 2004  
First Aid, No. 33301 – 2003  
Fish and Wildlife Management, No. 33307 – 2004  
Fishing, No. 33231 – 2002  
Fly-Fishing, No. 33283 – 2002  
Forestry, No. 33302 – 2005  
Gardening, No. 33240 – 2002  
Genealogy, No. 33383 – 2005  
Geology, No. 33284 – 2005  
Golf, No. 33397 – 2002  
Graphic Arts, No. 33374 – 2006  
Hiking, No. 33407 – 2001  
Home Repairs, No. 33247 – 2002  
Horsemanship, No. 33298 – 2004  
Indian Lore, No. 33360 – 2003  
Insect Study, No. 33353 – 2002  
Journalism, No. 33350 – 2006  
Landscape Architecture, No. 33355 – 2002  
Law, No. 33389 – 2003  
Leatherwork, No. 33310 – 2002  
\*Lifesaving, No. 33297 – 2001  
Mammal Study, No. 33271 – 2003  
Medicine, No. 33244 – 2002  
Metalwork, No. 33312 – 2001  
Model Design and Building, No. 33280 – 2003  
\*Motor boating, No. 33345 – 1992  
Music and Bugling, No. 33341 – 2003  
Nature, No. 33285 – 2003  
Nuclear Science, No. 33275 – 2004  
Oceanography, No. 33306 – 2003  
Orienteering, No. 33385 – 2003  
Painting, No. 33372 – 2002  
Personal Fitness, No. 33286 – 2006  
Personal Management, No. 35002 – 2003  
Pets, No. 33281 – 2005  
Photography, No. 33340 – 2005  
Pioneering, No. 33377 – 2006  
Plant Science, No. 33396 – 2005  
Plumbing, No. 33386 – 2004  
Pottery, No. 33314 – 2002  
Public Health, No. 33233 – 2005  
Public Speaking, No. 33373 – 2002  
Pulp and Paper, No. 33343 – 2006  
Radio, No. 33361 – 2001  
Railroading, No. 33292 – 2003  
Reading, No. 33378 – 2003  
Reptile and Amphibian Study, No. 33288 – 2005  
\*\*Rifle Shooting, No. 33330 – 2001  
\*Rowing, No. 33404 – 2006  
Safety, No. 33347 – 2006  
Salesmanship, No. 33351 – 2003  
Scholarship, No. 33384 – 2004  
Sculpture, No. 33322 – 2002  
\*\*Shotgun Shooting, No. 33331 – 2005  
Skating, No. 35006 – 2005  
\*Small-Boat Sailing, No. 33356 – 2004  
Snow Sports, No. 33365 – 2007  
Soil and Water Conservation, No. 33291 – 2004  
Space Exploration, No. 33354 – 2004  
Sports, No. 35007 – 2006  
Stamp Collecting, No. 33296 – 2007  
Surveying, No. 33327 – 2004  
\*Swimming, No. 33352 – 2002  
Textile, No. 33344 – 2003  
Theater, No. 33328 – 2005  
Traffic Safety, No. 33391 – 2006  
Truck Transportation, No. 33371 – 2005  
Veterinary Medicine, No. 35004 – 2005  
\*Waterskiing, No. 33348 – 1999  
Weather, No. 33274 – 2006  
\*Whitewater, No. 33405 – 2005  
Wilderness Survival, No. 33265 – 2001  
Wood Carving, No. 33309 – 2006  
Woodwork, No. 33316 – 2003



## Boy Scouts of America MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR INFORMATION

(Please type or print.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**To qualify as a merit badge counselor, you must**

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

**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 Scout and his buddy present at all instructional sessions.
- Renew my registration annually if I plan to continue as a merit badge counselor.

	<b>Vocation</b>	<b>Avocation</b>	<b>Special training</b>
	Is this subject in line with your job, business, or profession? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side.	Do you follow this subject as a hobby, having more than a "working knowledge" of the requirements? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side.	If not, do you have any special training or other qualifications for this subject? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side.
<b>List merit badge subjects here.</b>			
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			
5. _____			
6. _____			
7. _____			

**CHECK ONE:**

I wish to work only with \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit number

I wish to work with all units.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** The BSA Adult Registration Application must be attached.

Council approval by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



As the applicant, I give permission for my name, full address and phone number, to be published in a hard copy document for distribution and use by registered Troop Leaders of the Council. By signing, I hereby give my consent and approval and hold harmless the Council, Boy Scouts of America and the National Council, Boy Scouts of America and the officers, employees, and volunteers thereof. Additionally, by checking this block I affirm that I DO wish to be listed on the "Merit Badge Counselor List" on the Council, and affiliated BSA websites, and DO AGREE to have ONLY my name, phone number, and city listed (full address will not be posted). I also understand that I can request my name to be removed at any time by contacting the Council.

34405  
2001 Boy Scouts of America

