

How to become a Merit Badge Counselor

Merit Badge Counselor qualifications:

- Be 18 years of age or older
 - 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 (there is no charge to be a counselor)
- 1) **Take Youth Protection training.** Navigate to My.Scouting.org and create an account. You'll receive an email notification with your account information, including a member ID/reference number. From the My.Scouting.org portal, click Menu then My Dashboard from the menu list.
Youth Protection Training - Boy Scouts of America
www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx
Print certificate at end of training and attach to your application.
 - 2) **Fill out a BSA Adult application** using position code (42) for merit badge counselor. Obtain paper application or download and save to your computer the on-line PDF
http://www.meritbadge.info/pdf/adultapplication_fillable.pdf
 - 3) **Select the merit badges** for which you would like to be a counselor (see the list below) and complete the Merit Badge Counselor Information sheet.
 - 4) Read and sign the **Merit Badge Counselor Orientation form.**
 - 5) Deliver your Adult Application, Youth protection certificate, Merit Badge Counselor Information sheet, and Merit Badge Counselor Orientation form to the Bozeman Scout Office.

MERIT BADGE LISTING

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1. <u>American Business</u> | 35. <u>Digital Technology</u> | 70. <u>Landscape Architecture</u> | 106. <u>Safety</u> |
| 2. <u>American Cultures</u> | 36. <u>Disabilities Awareness</u> | 71. <u>Law</u> | 107. <u>Salesmanship</u> |
| 3. <u>American Heritage</u> | 37. <u>Dog Care</u> | 72. <u>Leatherwork</u> | 108. <u>Scholarship</u> |
| 4. <u>American Labor</u> | 38. <u>Drafting</u> | 73. <u>Lifesaving</u> | 109. <u>Scouting Heritage</u> |
| 5. <u>Animal Science</u> | 39. <u>Electricity</u> | 74. <u>Mammal Study</u> | 110. <u>Scuba Diving</u> |
| 6. <u>Animation</u> | 40. <u>Electronics</u> | 75. <u>Medicine</u> | 111. <u>Sculpture</u> |
| 7. <u>Archaeology</u> | 41. <u>Emergency Preparedness</u> | 76. <u>Metalwork</u> | 112. <u>Search & Rescue</u> |
| 8. <u>Archery</u> | 42. <u>Energy</u> | 77. <u>Mining in Society</u> | 113. <u>Shotgun Shooting</u> |
| 9. <u>Architecture</u> | 43. <u>Engineering</u> | 78. <u>Model Design and Building</u> | 114. <u>Signs, Signals, and Codes</u> |
| 10. <u>Art</u> | 44. <u>Entrepreneurship</u> | 79. <u>Motor boating</u> | 115. <u>Skating</u> |
| 11. <u>Astronomy</u> | 45. <u>Environmental Science</u> | 80. <u>Moviemaking</u> | 116. <u>Small-Boat Sailing</u> |
| 12. <u>Athletics</u> | 46. <u>Family Life</u> | 81. <u>Music</u> | 117. <u>Snow Sports</u> |
| 13. <u>Automotive Maintenance</u> | 47. <u>Farm Mechanics</u> | 82. <u>Nature</u> | 118. <u>Soil and Water Conservation</u> |
| 14. <u>Aviation</u> | 48. <u>Fingerprinting</u> | 83. <u>Nuclear Science</u> | 119. <u>Space Exploration</u> |
| 15. <u>Backpacking</u> | 49. <u>Fire Safety</u> | 84. <u>Oceanography</u> | 120. <u>Sports</u> |
| 16. <u>Basketry</u> | 50. <u>First Aid</u> | 85. <u>Orienteering</u> | 121. <u>Stamp Collecting</u> |
| 17. <u>Bird Study</u> | 51. <u>Fish and Wildlife Management</u> | 86. <u>Painting</u> | 122. <u>Surveying</u> |
| 18. <u>Bugling</u> | 52. <u>Fishing</u> | 87. <u>Personal Fitness</u> | 123. <u>Sustainability</u> |
| 19. <u>Camping</u> | 53. <u>Fly Fishing</u> | 88. <u>Personal Management</u> | 124. <u>Swimming</u> |
| 20. <u>Canoeing</u> | 54. <u>Forestry</u> | 89. <u>Pets</u> | 125. <u>Textile</u> |
| 21. <u>Chemistry</u> | 55. <u>Game Design</u> | 90. <u>Photography</u> | 126. <u>Theater</u> |
| 22. <u>Chess</u> | 56. <u>Gardening</u> | 91. <u>Pioneering</u> | 127. <u>Traffic Safety</u> |
| 23. <u>Citizenship in the Community</u> | 57. <u>Genealogy</u> | 92. <u>Plant Science</u> | 128. <u>Truck Transportation</u> |
| 24. <u>Citizenship in the Nation</u> | 58. <u>Geocaching</u> | 93. <u>Plumbing</u> | 129. <u>Veterinary Medicine</u> |
| 25. <u>Citizenship in the World</u> | 59. <u>Geology</u> | 94. <u>Pottery</u> | 130. <u>Water Sports</u> |
| 26. <u>Climbing</u> | 60. <u>Golf</u> | 95. <u>Programming</u> | 131. <u>Weather</u> |
| 27. <u>Coin Collecting</u> | 61. <u>Graphic Arts</u> | 96. <u>Public Health</u> | 132. <u>Welding</u> |
| 28. <u>Collections</u> | 62. <u>Hiking</u> | 97. <u>Public Speaking</u> | 133. <u>Whitewater</u> |
| 29. <u>Communication</u> | 63. <u>Home Repairs</u> | 98. <u>Pulp and Paper</u> | 134. <u>Wilderness Survival</u> |
| 30. <u>Composite Materials</u> | 64. <u>Horsemanship</u> | 99. <u>Radio</u> | 135. <u>Wood Carving</u> |
| 31. <u>Cooking</u> | 65. <u>Indian Lore</u> | 100. <u>Railroading</u> | 136. <u>Woodwork</u> |
| 32. <u>Crime Prevention</u> | 66. <u>Insect Study</u> | 101. <u>Reading</u> | |
| 33. <u>Cycling</u> | 67. <u>Inventing</u> | 102. <u>Reptile and Amphibian Study</u> | |
| 34. <u>Dentistry</u> | 68. <u>Journalism</u> | 103. <u>Rifle Shooting</u> | |
| | 69. <u>Kayaking</u> | 104. <u>Robotics</u> | |
| | | 105. <u>Rowing</u> | |

Merit badges listed in ***bold italics*** are required for Eagle rank



Boy Scouts of America

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR INFORMATION



(Please type or print legibly.)

Name* _____ Primary phone* _____ Home Cell Work
 Address* _____ Other phone _____ Home Cell Work
 City/state/zip* _____ Other phone _____ Home Cell Work
 Email address* _____ I do not have email. Age _____
 District _____ Unit: Troop Team Crew Ship No. _____ BSA ID _____
 I am not affiliated with a district. I am not affiliated with a unit.

***Required field. Primary phone and email address indicate how Scouts should contact you.**

To qualify as a merit badge counselor, you must

- Be at least 18 years old and of good character.
- Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America (position code 42).
- Complete Youth Protection training.
- Be recognized as having the skills and education in the merit badge subjects covered and hold any required qualifications and training as outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* or the *Guide to Advancement*—or use others so qualified.
- Be able to work with Scout-age boys.

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 accompanied by his buddy during all instructional sessions.
- Keep my Youth Protection training current.
- Renew my registration annually if I plan to continue as a merit badge counselor.

Merit Badges <i>For more than eight merit badges, attach additional sheets.</i>	Add (A) Drop (D)	For each merit badge, list qualification(s) that support your request. <i>Qualifications could include college degrees, formal training certificates, positions held, and specific life experiences.</i>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

A = Adding a new merit badge that you will counsel to the roster. D = Removing your name from the roster for this merit badge.

Complete the following:

- This is a new application (first time to register as a merit badge counselor).
Attach this form to the BSA Adult Application, indicating position code 42.
- This is an update to an existing list of merit badge subjects.
- I no longer wish to serve as a merit badge counselor.

Youth Protection training date _____
(Attach copy of the current certificate.)

I agree to work with:

- All Scouts
- All Scouts in these districts: _____
- Only with Scouts in these units (indicate whether troop, team, or crew): _____

Counselors are encouraged to be available to work with any Scout in any unit.

I plan to serve as a merit badge counselor for this event or outside organization: _____

Council Approval:
 Name (print) _____
 Position _____
 Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

What's It All About?

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, communication)—as a merit badge counselor, you play a vital role in stirring a young man's curiosity about it. By serving as a counselor, you offer your time, knowledge, and other resources so Scouts have the opportunity to broaden their horizons. And in doing so, your mission is to combine fun with learning.

You are both teacher and mentor to the Scout as he learns by doing. By presenting opportunities for growth via engaging activities like designing a Web page (Computers), performing an ollie and a wheelie (Snow Sports), or fabricating rope (Pioneering), you may pique a young man's interest and inspire a Scout to develop a lifelong hobby, pursue a particular career, or become an independent, self-supporting adult.

Learning to Be a Merit Badge Counselor

All merit badge counselors should seek training. It is important that they have a full understanding of their responsibilities and also of the recommended practices for quality counseling. The presentation "The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling" has been designed for this purpose and covers the following topics:

A Scouting overview: mission, aims, and methods	Merit badge program role and benefits
Merit badge counselor qualifications	How to become a counselor
The merit badge counseling process	Merit badge requirements
Effective counseling	Group instruction and camp settings

The session can be downloaded and viewed from www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/GuideforMeritBadgeCounselors/Resources/advancement_presentations.aspx.

Another resource is the *Guide for Merit Badge Counseling*, No. 34532. This resource can be found online at www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/GuideforMeritBadgeCounselors/MBCounselorGuide.aspx.

Processing This Application

Merit badge counselors *must* register as adult Scouters and be approved by the council advancement committee for each merit badge listed on this Merit Badge Counselor Information form. A merit badge counselor does not have to pay a registration fee, but must complete an Adult Application for position code 42, fill out this form, and complete BSA Youth Protection training. Counselors may wish to associate with a particular unit but are encouraged to serve any Scout from any unit.

Special Qualifications and Guidelines for Merit Badge Counselors

A number of merit badges involve activities that are restricted or require certification or special training for those supervising these activities. See the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 7.0.1.1, "Qualifications of Counselors." Merit badge counselors may personally meet these required qualifications, or they may use others so qualified. Additionally, the BSA *Guide to Safe Scouting* has specific requirements and procedures for shooting sports and for aquatics, winter, and other activities. These policies apply to all BSA activities, including merit badge instruction. For other merit badges where specific BSA requirements do not exist, counselors should have sufficient depth of knowledge and experience to understand how to safely present the material.

Instructions to Counselors

- The unit leader (Scoutmaster, Varsity Coach, crew Advisor, or Skipper) recommends and provides the name and contact information of at least one merit badge counselor to each Scout desiring to work on a merit badge. Before beginning to work with a youth, counselors should check the boy's merit badge application (blue card) to ensure it is signed by the unit leader.
- Every Scout must have a buddy with him at each meeting with a merit badge counselor. This buddy could be another Scout, a parent or guardian, a brother or sister, or a relative or friend. There is no one-on-one contact allowed with Scouts and counselors—the buddy requirement is mandatory.
- Counselors may not add to or delete any merit badge requirements. Group instruction is allowed where special facilities and expert personnel make this most practical, or when Scouts are dependent on a few counselors for assistance. However, any group experience must provide attention to every individual candidate's projects and progress, and assure each has actually and personally fulfilled *all* the requirements. If, for example, a requirement uses words like show, demonstrate, or discuss, then every Scout must individually do so. It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of Scouts sitting in classrooms and watching demonstrations or remaining silent during discussions.
- When a Scout begins working on a merit badge, the current-year *Boy Scout Requirements* book lists the official requirements in effect at that time. If requirements change after a Scout has started working on a merit badge, he may stay with the requirements in effect when he started unless the BSA's National Council places a specific timeline on the implementation of new requirements.



Merit Badge Counselor Orientation

The merit badge counselor is important in the Boy Scout advancement program. Whatever your area of expertise or interest—a 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.

If you are not yet a merit badge counselor, it is easy to become a volunteer. You will need to register with the Boy Scouts of America, through your BSA local council by submitting a completed "Adult Application."

You must also complete BSA Youth Protection training (available from <http://www.scouting.org/Training/>). 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.

The Boy Scouts of America at a Glance

Since its founding in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has maintained its purpose and mission to prepare youth to become responsible, participating citizens and leaders. Throughout the years, the Scout Oath and Law have served as the guiding light for BSA youth members.

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best

- to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;
- to help other people at all times;
- to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

A Merit Badge Counselor ...

- is both a teacher and mentor as the Scouts work on a merit badge.
- sets a date and time to meet with the Scout and his buddy.
- at your first meeting, you and the Scouts review and set expectations for completing the requirements.
- is satisfied that Scouts who come to you meet all the requirements for the merit badge you are coaching.
- relates your own experiences to help positively reinforce the subject matter.
- allows the Scouts to complete the requirements themselves.
- does not make the requirements more difficult—or any easier—than stated.
- updates the Scouts' merit badge progress records and signs completion reports.

I understand and agree to comply with these requirements.

Printed name

Signature

Date

Please return this signed form, along with your completed adult application, to the Bozeman Scout Field Office