

BOY SCOUT TROOP 995

Merit Badge Counselor, Adult Leader

Overview

The merit badge program, part of the Advancement Program of the Boy Scouts of America, provides opportunities for youth to explore more than 120 fields of skill and knowledge. Through participation in the program, which may begin immediately upon registration in a troop or team, a Scout acquires the kind of self-confidence that comes only from learning and mastering a skill. Instruction is offered in everything from animal science and public speaking to swimming and communications, providing a young man with invaluable career, physical, and interpersonal skills.

This program cannot succeed without the service of unit and district volunteers who serve as Merit Badge Counselors. A counselor must not only possess the necessary technical knowledge but also have a solid understanding of the needs, interests, and abilities of Scouts.

In order to be certified as a Merit Badge Counselor in the Twin Arrows District of the Indian Nation Council for a particular merit badge, one must be qualified by job, profession, business, hobby or special training in that subject. All Merit Badge Counselors must also have an understanding of their role in Scout advancement.

What's The Job of a Merit Badge Counselor?

The primary responsibility of the Merit Badge Counselor is to certify that each Scout taking the merit badge meets all the requirements for the particular merit badge. However, the larger job is as a coach who helps the Scout over the different hurdles of the requirements and makes him aware of the deeper aspects of the subject from the Merit Badge Counselor's knowledge and experience.

There are really three simple rules to remember as a Merit Badge Counselor:

- Scouts must be tested individually but must always have a "buddy" present
- Scouts must meet all of the requirements
- No one has authority to change any of the requirements

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Requirements for Merit Badge Counselors

To qualify as a valid Merit Badge Counselor in the Indian Nation Council, you must:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Be proficient in the merit badge subject by vocation, avocation, or training
- Be able to work with Scout-age boys
- Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America as a Merit Badge Counselor
- Complete and submit the BSA Merit Badge Counselor Information Form (No. 33405), indicating which Merit badges you wish to counsel

Merit Badge Counselors are strongly encouraged to complete Youth Protection Training, available both online and through courses offered through the Yellow River District Training Curriculum.

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

To register As a Merit Badge Counselor

The Boy Scouts of America requires all merit badge counselors to register with their local council by submitting an Adult Application Form and the Merit Badge Counselor Information Form. There is no fee to register as a merit badge counselor.

Please fill out the Adult Application completely and truthfully. At the top, do not fill in the Unit Scouters box. Put "Merit Badge Counselor" in the Council/District/Division Scouters box labeled *position* and put "Twin Arrows" in *District name*. At the bottom of the blue section, put "Boy Scouts" under *Program*, "42" under *Position code*, and "Merit Badge Counselor" under *Position (Description)*.

On the Merit Badge Counselor Information form, fill out the top section completely. Then list the merit badge(s) you wish to counsel. You should include a short statement of your qualifications for each badge on the back of the form. At the bottom of the form, indicate whether you want to work with only your unit(s) listing the unit number, or if you are willing to have your name put on a District Merit Badge Counselor list to counsel other scouts in the District. If there are specific badges for each category, please indicate all units or specific unit in the margin next to each badge. If you are a counselor for more than seven badges, please fill out a second (third, etc.) sheet. Please include an email address on the Information form.

Merit Badge Counselors should give both of these completed forms to our Committee Chairman to begin processing. Acknowledgement of approval will be mailed to the counselor.

So why do you have to fill to fill out a new and separate application?

Merit Badge Counselors, even those working only within their unit, are on the District Charter (registration), not the unit charter. And as with the unit, they must also renew their registration yearly with the District. Our District records are being revitalized and renewed. Therefore, we are asking your help in bringing our rosters up-to-date. Thank you in advance for your help.

MERIT BADGE LIST

American Business	Engineering	Pets
American Cultures	Entrepreneurship	Photography
American Heritage	<i>Environmental Science</i>	Pioneering
American Labor	<i>Family Life</i>	Plant Science
Animal Science	Farm Mechanics	Plumbing
Archaeology	Fingerprinting	Pottery
Archery	Fire Safety	Public Health
Architecture	<i>First Aid</i>	Public Speaking
Art	Fish & Wildlife Management	Pulp and Paper
Astronomy	Fishing	Radio
Athletics	Fly Fishing	Railroading
Auto Mechanics	Forestry	Reading
Aviation	Gardening	Reptile & Amphibian Study
Backpacking	Genealogy	Rifle Shooting
Basketry	Geology	Rowing
Bird Study	Golf	Safety
Bugling	Graphic Arts	Salesmanship
<i>Camping</i>	<i>Hiking</i>	Scholarship
Canoeing	Home Repairs	Sculpture
Chemistry	Horsemanship	Shotgun Shooting
Cinematography	Indian Lore	Skating
<i>Citizenship in the Community</i>	Insect Study	Small Boat Sailing
<i>Citizenship in the Nation</i>	Journalism	Snow Sports
<i>Citizenship in the World</i>	Landscape Architecture	Soil & Water Conservation
Climbing	Law	Space Exploration
Coin Collecting	Leatherwork	Sports
Collections	<i>Lifesaving</i>	Stamp Collecting
<i>Communications</i>	Mammal Study	Surveying
Composite Materials	Medicine	<i>Swimming</i>
Computers	Metalwork	Textile
Cooking	Model Design & Building	Theater
Crime Prevention	Motorboating	Traffic Safety
<i>Cycling</i>	Music	Truck Transportation
Dentistry	Nature	Veterinary Medicine
Disabilities Awareness	Nuclear Science	Water Skiing
Dog Care	Oceanography	Weather
Drafting	Orienteering	Whitewater
Electricity	Painting	Wilderness Survival
Electronics	<i>Personal Fitness</i>	Wood Carving
<i>Emergency Preparedness</i>	<i>Personal Management</i>	Woodwork
Energy		



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.

	Vocation Is this subject in line with your job, business, or profession? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side.	Avocation 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.	Special training If not, do you have any special training or other qualifications for this subject? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side.
List merit badge subjects here.			
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 _____

#34405



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