



Boy Scouts of America National Capital Area Council Two Rivers District



MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR INFORMATION

PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Unit: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Month Day Year

Address: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ Business Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail: _____

Current Position in Scouting:

*All new MB Counselors must submit a completely filled out BSA Adult Registration Application with this form.
 Submit **all** copies of the form. You will become a District Scouter upon approval by the Scout Executive.
 Registration fee is not required unless you desire to receive Scouting Magazine and Council mailings.*

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.
- Notify the Merit Badge Dean if I can no longer counsel Merit Badge(s).

*Print the name of the Merit Badge(s) below,
 select "Yes" in one of the three columns, and
 print additional information on the back of this form.*

LIST MERIT BADGE SUBJECTS

	Vocation <small>Is this subject in line with your job, business or profession?</small>	Avocation <small>Do you follow this subject as a hobby, having more than a "working knowledge" of the requirements?</small>	Special training <small>Do you have any special training or other qualifications for this subject?</small>
For each selected, give brief information on the reverse side.			
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
8	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

I desire to work only with Troop _____.
You will not be listed in the MB Counselor directory.

Signature Date

DISTRICT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE APPROVAL	
_____ <small>Signature</small>	_____ <small>Date</small>
COUNCIL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE APPROVAL	
_____ <small>Signature</small>	_____ <small>Date</small>

Submit a separate form for each eight (8) Merit Badges.

Merit Badge Counseling

The merit badge program is one of Boy Scouting's basic measurement tools. Earning merit badges gives a boy the kind of self-confidence that comes from overcoming obstacles to achieve a goal. Through the merit badge program, a boy also learns career skills and hobbies that give a lifetime of healthful recreation.

The steps to follow in the merit badge program are outlined in the current *Boy Scout Requirements*. This book lists the requirements a Scout meets to earn each of the more than 100 merit badges that are available. Scouts must be tested individually, and they must meet all the requirements.

Scout Buddy System. A Scout must have a buddy with him at each meeting with a merit badge counselor. A Scout's buddy could be another Scout, a parent or guardian, a brother or sister, or a relative or friend. From his Scoutmaster, the Scout obtains a signed merit badge application and the name of the appropriate merit badge counselor. The Scout sets up his first appointment with the counselor. The counselor should explain the requirements to the Scout. The Scout and his buddy then meet as appropriate with the counselor until the Scout completes the badge's requirements.

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.

The Merit Badge Counselor and the Scout. The merit badge plan is based on the concept that a boy works with an adult knowledgeable in one or more fields, an experience invaluable to a Scout. The counselor introduces the Scout to subjects that may lead to a career choice or to a lifetime hobby.

Qualifications of Counselors. Persons serving as merit badge counselors must be registered as a merit badge counselor with the Boy Scouts of America. They must be 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 having the ability to work with Scout-age boys.

There is no restriction or limit on the number of merit badges an individual may be approved to counsel for.

There is no limit on the number of merit badges a Scout may earn from one counselor.

An approved merit badge counselor may counsel any Scout, including his or her own son, ward, or relative.

The Merit Badge Counselor Information sheet is available for district or council advancement committees to use in determining the qualifications of persons to serve as merit badge counselors. The council advancement committee must approve all merit badge counselors.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (attach separate sheet if necessary)

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

Submit a separate form for each eight (8) Merit Badges.