



MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR APPLICATION

District: _____ Unit # _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____
(home) (work)

Social Security Number (REQUIRED): _____

Address: _____ Birthdate: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

If you are a **new counselor**, or wish to counsel in a new subject, please explain why you feel you are qualified to be a counselor for **each** merit badge.

MERIT BADGE

EXPLANATION OF YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ |
| 6. _____ | _____ |

_____ I am a new Merit Badge Counselor. I AM NOT registered with the BSA, but an adult application form is attached. **(No registration fee required.)**

_____ I am a new Merit Badge Counselor. I AM currently registered with the Boy Scouts of America. Position _____ Unit # _____

I am at least 18 years of age and meet all current requirements of the Boy Scouts of America for Merit Badge Counselors.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Troop or Team Committee Approval:

Signature _____ Date: _____
(Troop or Team Committee Chair or Designee)

District Committee Approval:

Signature _____ Date: _____
(District Advancement Chair)

THE MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR AND THE BOY 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 Boy Scout. The counselor introduces the Boy Scout to subjects that may lead to a career or to a lifetime hobby.

QUALIFICATIONS AND POLICIES RELATED TO MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

Counselors must meet the following requirements:

- A. Be 18 years of age.
- B. Be a person of good character.
- C. Have skills and/or education in the subject chosen to counsel.
- D. Have the ability to work with Scout-age boys.
- E. Register with the BSA by completing an adult application, and a *Merit Badge Counselor Application*. Registration must be renewed annually. ***Effective April 1, 2003 Social Security numbers are required for adult registrations. By submitting this application you are authorizing a criminal background check of yourself. This check will be made from public record sources.**
- F. Counselors agree to follow the established procedures to counsel Scouts for merit badges, including following established youth protection policies **which prohibit one-to-one counseling sessions between an adult and a Scout.**

The merit badge program encourages Scouts to develop not only the skills related to the badge's requirements, but also social skills (i.e. making appointments, conversing with adults) that are part of the process. With that in mind, the council's advancement committee offers the following **GUIDELINES**:

- A. Counselors should not register for more than six merit badges. These should be badges for which the counselor is especially qualified.
- B. Counselors should counsel with the same Scout for not more than two merit badges except for circumstances when enough counselors are not available.
- C. Scouts should be encouraged to earn as many merit badges as possible from outside the troop circle of leaders and committee members.
- D. PARENTS may counsel their son; however it is recommended that additional Scouts take part in a merit badge session involving a parent-son relationship.
- E. The troop or team, with the assistance of the district advancement committee should train merit badge counselors individually or in groups. The booklet "Merit Badge Counseling" is available to all counselors.

Thank you for your interest in helping boys grow through Scouting's Merit Badge Program!