

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR APPLICATION
 CHICAGO AREA COUNCIL
 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



For Advancement committee only	
Date Recorded	Recorded By

SUBMIT TO

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

<input type="checkbox"/>	New Applicant (adult leader application required)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in Personal, Professional Data
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove My Name as a Merit Badge Counselor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adding Merit Badge to Counsel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deleting Merit Badge to Counsel

THIS FORM IS NOT COMPLETE UNLESS YOU READ THE BACK, SIGN AND DATE THIS FORM.

Personal	Last Name _____	First Name _____	MI _____
	Address _____	City _____	State _____
	ZIP+4 _____	DOB _____	
	Phone _____	Cell Phone _____	E-mail _____

Profession	Occupation _____	Work Number _____
	Company/Firm Name _____	Years Employed _____
	City _____	State _____

*If you are not currently registered as a merit badge counselor with the Chicago Area Council, B.S.A., you will also need to fill out an adult leader application. All forms are submitted to the District Advancement Chairperson from your district. If you are applying at a council level, forms should be forwarded to the council advancement committee.

If you are a registered member of the Chicago Area Council, B.S.A. please complete the following:

Where: Troop _____ Crew _____ Pack _____ District _____

Registered Position: _____

What training do you have, check all that apply:

MB Counselor Cub Scout Boy Scout WOODBADGE

OTHER specify _____

Merit Badges	Merit Badges	Qualifications (use additional paper if necessary)	ADD	DELETE	District Approval

For Advancement Committee use	
Reason for Denial _____	Council Approval _____
_____	District Approval _____
_____	_____

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Merit Badge Counselor Procedures

WHAT'S MY JOB? Your job is to satisfy yourself that each Scout who comes to you meets all the requirements for the merit badge. In this sense you are an examiner. But, your larger opportunity lies in coaching the Scout over the different hurdles of the requirements and making him aware of the deeper aspects of the subject from your knowledge and experience.

WHAT DO I AGREE TO? 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 two or more Scouts present at all instructional sessions.

Renew my registration annually if I plan to continue as a merit badge counselor.

Require Scouts to be in uniform.

EARNING A MERIT BADGE These are the steps that a Scout takes to earn a merit badge, as outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook.

Gets a signed merit badge form from his unit leader and finds a buddy who is interested in working on the same merit badge.

Gets the merit badge pamphlet on his subject. His patrol or troop may have one he can borrow so may the library. Or he may purchase one from the local council service center.

Contacts the merit badge counselor and explains that he would like to earn the badge. Along with his buddy, meets the counselor and discusses how he can get the most out of the time he spends working on the badge.

Learns and does the things that the pamphlet explains. Goes as far as he can to fulfill the requirements on his own.

When he is ready, he and his buddy make another appointment with their counselor. The counselor will spend time with him going over the important parts of the subject. A good counselor will also help him see beyond the requirements and discover ways to continue learning about the subject. If the counselor is satisfied that the Scout has completed the requirements, he will sign the merit badge form. If not, the counselor will explain what he still must do.

Gives the signed form to his unit leader. The unit leader will get the badge for him and present it to him during a troop ceremony.

HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO YOU?

1. The Scout should bring a merit badge application signed by his unit leader on his first visit to you. A buddy must accompany him.

2. The Scout contacts you, probably by phone. You may tell him what is expected of him over the phone, or you may want to make an appointment to discuss this with him face-to-face. Personal contact will make earning the badge a better experience for both you and the Scout.

3. In your discussion of what is expected, you may want to start by finding out from the Scout what he already knows, so you can spend your time on helping him learn the remaining items, or give guidance in completing projects. You can set up additional meetings with the Scout - not only for the purpose of passing him on the requirements, but rather to help him in his understanding of the subject.

4. The Scout, along with his buddy, should make another appointment with you when he thinks he is prepared to prove his ability. You set the date, time, and place.

5. This review session will be approached by the Scout with some apprehension. He is familiar with final exams in school and may look on this meeting with you as another such experience. You can help a great deal by putting the Scout at ease.

Talk with him rather than examine him. There is a big difference, yet you can find out what the Scout knows. Express honest enthusiasm for the things he has done, particularly if projects are involved. Your approval will give confidence to the Scout.

6. When he meets you, he should bring with him the projects required for completion. If the things he has done cannot be transported, he should present you with satisfactory evidence, such as a photograph of the project or adult certification. His unit leader might, for example, certify that a satisfactory bridge or tower has been built for Pioneering, or that the required meals were prepared for the Cooking merit badge. Your job, in addition to coaching, is to satisfy yourself that the requirements have been met. Question the Scout and, if you have any doubts, contact the adult who signed the statement.

7. When you are satisfied that the Scout has met the requirements, you sign his merit badge application.

You may work with many Scouts each year as they earn merit badges. However, you may only work with a few. Your contact with these Scouts is tremendously important. Your influence is measured not by how many Scouts you work with, but the effect upon the lives of those you have an opportunity to work with.

Throughout your association with the Scout, keep in mind that you are in reality assisting the unit leader, in the program of advancement which the unit leader helps each of his Scouts plan. Often, the unit leader will help the Scout select the merit badges he will earn for a particular award. Whether he does or not, he is always interested in the Scout's progress. You should feel free to discuss his work with the unit leader at any time.

MORE OR LESS?

The Scout is expected to meet the requirements; stated no more and no less. Furthermore, he is to do exactly what is stated. If it says, "show or demonstrate," that is what he must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make," "list," "in the field," and "collect, identify, and label."

On the other hand, you cannot require more of a Scout than stated. You must not, for example, say, "I want to be sure you really know your stuff, so instead of the 20 items in your collection, you must have 50 to get my signature." You can suggest, encourage, and help the Scout to get 50 things, but you must not require it.

You might wonder, then, if the requirements as stated are the limits, what is there for you to do other than help the Scout with the specifics of these requirements. Actually, you can go far beyond them in your discussions with the Scout. He probably will welcome your willingness to share with him your knowledge well beyond the requirements, and you will be making a real contribution to him by doing so. But it isn't required. That's the key. The Scout does not have to show his knowledge of those things beyond the requirements.

You might stress the fact that while knowledge is necessary, whether he can put his knowledge to work is the important thing in life. As you work with the Scout you can give him indirect career guidance. Many merit badge subjects can acquaint the Scout with valuable information on job possibilities; show him what is most interesting to you and what is difficult. The final choice the selection of what he is going to do with himself in life is up to one person. That person is the Scout himself. However, he will appreciate your help in showing him the relationship of his merit badge work to his life as he goes to school, into business or a trade, and on into adult life.

The above procedures are taken from the various Merit Badge Counseling Pamphlets.

I have read, understood, and agree to the procedures of being a Merit Badge Counselor indicated above, and all information on the reverse side is accurate to the best of my ability.

Signature

Date