

Merit Badges

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, develops social skills (such as talking to adults he does not know) and may develop physical strengths and hobbies that give a lifetime of healthful recreation.

How a Scout earns a Merit Badge has been outlined on the other side of this form.

The Scoutmaster's Role

1. Interview the scout to determine interest, enthusiasm and preparedness for the MB selected.
2. Approves the MB Application card the scout has filled out.
3. Help the Scout find a MB Counselor, preferably outside the scout's comfort zone.
4. Remind the scout about the buddy system.
5. Remind the scout to wear his uniform when visiting the counselor.
6. Follow up with the scout on his progress.
7. Recognize the scout and then present the MB earned at the next Court of Honor.

Troop Advancement Chairman's Role

1. Has available a copy of the available MB Counselors.
2. Collects completed MB cards and records the earned MBs in the Troop records.
3. Completes the Advancement Report and turns it into Council for purchase of Merit Badges. All reports to

Council must have the Troop copy of the MB application card attached.

4. Helps recruit MB Counselors that are qualified for their subjects of interest.

Merit Badge Counselor's Role

1. Has experience and knowledge in subjects chosen to counsel.
2. Registers and responds to the re-registration letters sent out by Council.
3. Uses the buddy system when scouts come to visit. Never meet with a scout alone in your home, or at an agreed upon location.
4. Counsels scouts who call them or if not possible at that time, has the name & number of another counselor who can.
5. Sets all dates and times with the scout to meet for consultation and approval of the MB.
6. Is helpful and encourages the Scouts.
7. Teaches the Scout and lets them practice under his/her guidance the skills necessary to complete the badge.
8. Has the most current MB Books and requires only what the MB Books ask, and keeps a record of what scouts have completed (their portion of the MB card form.)

- ✓ *** Every year in November or December a letter or post card is sent to all existing counselors. To continue as a merit badge counselor for NWSC, a response to the Council is mandatory, or you will be removed from the list of approved MB counselors.