

Boy Scouts of America
Far East Council - Japan District

Merit Badge Counselor's Application E-mail _____

(Please Print)

1. Name _____ Age _____

2. Address _____

3. Home Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____

4. Occupation _____ Yrs. _____

5. Education _____

6. Recruited By _____

7. I request certification as a counselor for the following Merit Badges:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| A. _____ | B. _____ |
| C. _____ | D. _____ |
| E. _____ | F. _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

8. My qualifications and experience are: (Use other side if necessary)

(Please provide relevant data regarding your professional, academic, and /or personal training and experience. Also indicate experience relating to youth.)

9. I have read the BSA publication, Merit Badge Counseling (BSA No. 6517) and understand the responsibilities of a Merit Badge Counselor. Should I be certified, I agree to do my best to fulfill the requirements of this position as a representative of the Far East Council, BSA. I will teach and counsel Scouts in accordance with the requirements in the current Merit Badge pamphlets.

Applicants Signature _____ Date _____

10. As required by the National Council Boy Scouts of America, I am a registered Adult Scout Member (Location/Position _____).
Or, I have attached a current Leader Application. (No fee for Counselor only applications)

Applicants Signature _____ Date _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: Until this form and Adult Application are reviewed and approved, you are not certified as a Merit Badge Counselor.

Merit Badges

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

Bold italic = Required

Merit Badge Counseling (BSA No. 6517)

The merit badge program is part of the advancement plan of the Boy Scouts of America. It has guided the interests and energies of Boy Scouts for almost 90 years and is one of the most unusual educational programs ever devised. A merit badge is an award that is presented to a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout when he has completed the requirements for one of more than 100 subjects in a wide variety of art, craft, hobby, sport, trade, profession, agribusiness, service, or self-improvement areas.

The badge is only a small piece of cloth with a design embroidered in color - but its significance is as large as the interest of the merit badge counselor who helps a Scout earn it.

This could not have happened without the service of thousands of merit badge counselors - like yourself - expert in a particular subject and interested in helping Scouts grow into men of character, ready to take their place in the world of work as participating citizens. You're probably saying, "That's all great, but what do I do, and how do I do it?"

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 - helping 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 a buddy present with each Scout at all instructional sessions.
- * Renew my registration as a merit badge counselor annually if I plan to continue serving as a merit badge counselor.

EARNING A MERIT BADGE

These are the steps that a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout takes to earn a merit badge, as outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook.

- * Gets a signed merit badge form from his Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach and finds a buddy who can attend the merit badge counselor meetings with him. (His buddy can be another Scout, a parent or guardian, a brother or sister, or a relative or friend.)

- * Gets the merit badge pamphlet on his subject. His patrol, troop, or team 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.

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* Gives the signed form to his Varsity Scout Coach or Scoutmaster. The Varsity Scout Coach or Scoutmaster will get the badge for him and present it to him during a troop or team ceremony.

The details of the process are explained in an article entitled "Introduction to Merit Badges" in the current Boy Scout Requirements book, (No. 33215C).

HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO YOU?

1. The Scout should bring a merit badge application signed by his Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach on his first visit to you. He must be accompanied by a buddy.

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 boy 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 boy at ease. Talk with him rather than examine him. There is a big difference, yet you can find out what the boy 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 Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach 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 Scoutmaster, the Varsity Scout Coach, and other troop and team leaders in the program of advancement which the Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach helps each of his Scouts plan. Often, the Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach 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 Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach at any time.

MORE OR LESS?

The Scout is expected to meet the requirements as 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 there is for you to

