



**MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR**  
**GUIDE & APPLICATION**  
(July 1999)

**(Please keep this information for future reference)**

**WHAT'S MY JOB?**

Your job is to confirm that each Scout who comes to you meets all the requirements for the Merit Badge you are counseling. In this sense, you are an "examiner". But your larger opportunity lies in coaching the Scout with the different requirement challenges, thereby making him aware of the deeper aspects of the subject based on your knowledge & experience.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS**

The Merit Badge Program is an integral part of the **Advancement Program** of the Boy Scouts of America and is also one of its most basic character developing 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 socially and may develop physical skills and hobbies that give him a lifetime of healthful recreation.

Any adult of good moral character, who will subscribe to the principles and policies of the Boy Scouts of America and who has a specialty or is an expert professional person in a Merit Badge subject, is eligible to apply to become a Merit Badge Counselor. Anyone who signs a Scout's "Application For Merit Badge" as a Counselor must be registered as a Counselor for that subject. Requirements for Merit Badges are listed in the current "Boy Scout Requirements" (current issue) and also in the individual Merit Badge booklet. Both are available at the Council Trading Post. The Scout is expected to meet the requirements as stated – no more or 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 is not enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make", "list", "in the field" and "collect, identify and label." On the other hand, the Scouts should not be required to do more than is stated. It may be useful to go beyond the limits in your discussion with him. In fact, he may appreciate it but it is not required. He does not have to show his knowledge beyond the actual requirements of the Merit Badge.

The Merit Badge plan is based on the concept that a Counselor working closely with a Scout acquaints the boy with adult knowledgeable in one or more fields which can be an invaluable experience for a boy. It is important for every Scout to meet as many adults of good character as possible while progressing throughout the Merit Badges. Therefore, it is recommended that a maximum of five (5) Merit Badges be counseled by any one individual.



**MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR**  
**GUIDE & APPLICATION**

(July 1999)

(contd.)

The personal relationship between the Counselor and the Scout is the key to the success of the Merit Badge plan. Although it may be appropriate to work with large groups of boys where special facilities or expert personnel are required, personal attention should still be emphasized. Completion of requirements must always be done on an individual basis. Current national policy prohibits a Counselor from meeting with a Scout without a third party present. Counseling a pair of Scouts or having another adult present at the meeting will satisfy this requirement. This is for your protection as well as that of the Scout.

Again, Counselors are required to obtain a copy of the Merit Badge requirement booklet for each subject that they are counseling. Other suggested books are the "Scout Handbook" (#33105) and "Boy Scout Requirements" (current issue). Both are available at the Council Trading Post.

These are the steps that a Scout takes to earn a Merit Badge as outlined in the official "Boy Scout Handbook":

- A. The Scout gets a signed Merit Badge "blue card" from his Unit Leader.
- B. The Scout contacts and makes an appointment with the Merit Badge Counselor. He visits the Counselor (with a companion) to learn what is expected of him.
- C. The Scout obtains a Merit Badge booklet from his Unit or the Council office and accomplishes the requirements outlined.
- D. When the Scout is ready, he makes another appointment with the Merit Badge Counselor. When the Counselor is satisfied that the Scout has met all requirements, he/she signs the boy's Merit Badge "blue card".
- E. The Scout returns the signed "blue card" to his Unit Leader who will obtain the Merit Badge patch for him and arrange for an appropriate presentation.

/mej

LIST OF CURRENT MERIT BADGES

(a/o July 1999 – Subject to Change)

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

\* - Merit Badges marked by an asterisk are required for Eagle Scouts as of 4/1/99.

# - Merit Badges marked by a pound sign are in combination with other badges (see page 4).

**\*MERIT BADGE LIST CHANGES**

\*Please note – These changes have occurred since the last Council List was published in 1997.

**Discontinued Merit Badges**

- Beekeeping
- Botany
- Bookbinding
- Consumer Buying
- Firemanship
- General Business
- General Science
- Masonry
- Metals Engineering
- Rabbit Raising
- Speech

**Merit Badge Changes**

- Handicap Awareness is now **Disabilities Awareness**.
- Model & Design is now **Model Design & Building**.
- **Music & Bugling** are now 2 separate Merit Badges.
- Reptile Study is now **Reptile & Amphibian Study**.
- Skiing has been changed to **Snow Sports** and now includes Snowboarding.
- **Skating** now includes the modern sport of “Roller Blading”.
- **Eagle Scout MBs:** As of April 1, 1999 – Personal Fitness is required; Safety & Sports are no longer required (optional only); Cycling & Hiking have been added with Swimming.

**CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION OF MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS  
IN THE “SKILL” MERIT BADGES - SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION**

**Merit Badge**

**Qualifications Necessary**

Archery

Proof of archery experience in competition, in a school course, or experience as a Camp Instructor.

Canoeing

Completion of Certified Municipal Recreation Department or United States Coast Guard Training Course.

Emergency Preparedness

Fire Department Safety Officer or Civil Defense Official.

First Aid

Current Red Cross Certificate or equivalent.

Lifesaving

Certified Water Safety Instructor (WSI) or equivalent.

Motor Boating

Completion of Coast Guard Course in Small Boat Handling.

Rifle & Shotgun Shooting

NRA Instructor Certificate or equivalent.

Rowing

See Canoeing.

Small Boat Sailing

See Canoeing

Swimming

Certified Swimming Instructor.

Water Skiing

Coast Guard Training Course for Water Skiing or equivalent.

**APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR**

**DATE SUBMITTED** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:** Meghan Jones, Verdugo Hills Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1325 Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201 (818) 243-6282 (x103) **(Faxes Are Not Accepted)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(S) - (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

(Pager) \_\_\_\_\_ (Only list pager if you want to receive MB calls on it.)

**REGISTRATION**

IF REGISTERED WITH BSA: COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT # \_\_\_\_\_ POSITION(S) \_\_\_\_\_

**TRAINING RECEIVED (PLEASE CHECK ONE):**

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING \_\_\_\_\_ (Exp. Date) \_\_\_\_\_

“FAST START” \_\_\_\_\_ BASIC \_\_\_\_\_ BOTH \_\_\_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_\_\_

**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 (free of charge to MB Counselors **only**).

**As a Merit Badge Counselor you must agree to:**

- Follow the requirements for 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 your registration annually if you plan to continue as a Merit Badge Counselor.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR LIST PREFERENCE

Please check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to work with all Verdugo Hills Council Units.

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to work only with \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Unit Number(s)

\*Please note – Merit Badge Counselors who wish to work only with specific Units have been noted on the Council Merit Badge Counselor list. Beyond this notation, the Council does not keep individual Unit lists. Please contact the specific Unit for more information.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the above data is true and an accurate representation of my qualifications to be a Merit Badge Counselor. If accepted, I will counsel the subjects for which I am authorized in accordance with the requirements and spirit of Scouting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Application

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number (Day)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

DATE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE REGISTERED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE RECORDED \_\_\_\_\_

MB COUNSELOR # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCIL ADVANCEMENT APPROVAL SIGNATURE

/mej

**REMINDER – THE BSA ADULT REGISTRATION APPLICATION MUST BE ATTACHED AND FILLED OUT IN ITS ENTIRETY (ESPECIALLY DATE OF BIRTH AND TRAINING). PLEASE PRINT AND USE A BALL POINT PEN WHEN FILLING OUT APPLICATIONS.**

**MERIT BADGE SUBJECT REQUEST**

All Merit Badge Counselors must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America. Each applicant must attach a completed **Volunteer Leader Application** specifying it is for Merit Badge Counseling. You must fill out this application even if you have already filled one out as a Registered Leader. Therefore, when you apply as an MB Counselor, you will fill out 2 applications - the **BSA Volunteer Leader Application** and the **Merit Badge Counselor Application** attached here. There is no registration fee specifically for becoming a Merit Badge Counselor.

Please list the Merit Badge(s) you wish to counsel and your qualifications (occupation, hobby, special interest, etc.) in space provided. You may sign up for 5 Merit Badges. Some Merit Badges require formal certifications (weapons). A list of all current Merit Badges is enclosed with this packet. Please note – Merit Badges are subject to change without notice. Please check with Council to verify those in question. Please print in spaces provided below and on back.

<b><u>Merit Badge Subject</u></b> (limit 5)	<b><u>Vocation</u></b> Is this subject in line with your job, business or profession? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side.	<b><u>Avocation</u></b> Is this subject your hobby or do you have more than a working knowledge of the requirements? If yes, briefly describe on back.	<b><u>Special Training</u></b> Do you have any special training or other qualifications for this subject? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side.
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR INFORMATION

(contd. from reverse side)

<b>MERIT BADGE</b>	<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b> (contd. from reverse side)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

For questions regarding the Merit Badge Counselor Application process,  
Please call **Meghan Jones** at the Council office at **(818) 243-6282 (x103)**.