GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

Prepared by the

Prince George's District
Committee on Advancement
National Capital Area Council
Boy Scouts of America

July 1, 2009

This is an unofficial publication. It is intended to supplement official information published by the Boy Scouts of America. Any conflict between information in this document and official publications of the Boy Scouts of America should be resolved in favor of the official publications

The Prince George's District wishes to express thanks to the Goose Creek District for providing the information that formed the basis of these Guidelines.

Updated 4/30/09

Preface

This pamphlet is designed specifically to provide supplementary guidance to volunteer adults who agree to be Merit Badge Counselors for Boy Scouts. It provides instructions and lists references for further guidance.

Reading this pamphlet completes the Prince George's District training requirement for district merit badge counselors. Individuals should report the date they review this document to their area Merit Badge Deans so their records will be updated in the Automated District Management System (ADMS) (See below).

Merit Badge Counselors and other adult leaders are invited to offer suggestions for improving these guidelines. Please contact the Prince George's District Advancement Committee.

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Section 1 – Introduction to Merit Badge Counseling

AIMS OF SCOUTING

The scouting program is an educational program chartered by the Congress of the United States. Its aim is to teach youth character development, citizenship and mental and physical fitness. These aims of scouting are accomplished through use of eight fundamental methods. The merit badge program plays a key role in the fulfillment of this educational commitment in methods 4, 5 and 6.

1. The ideals of scouting (Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, and Scout Slogan)
2. The patrol method
3. The outdoors
4. Advancement
5. Association with adults
6. Personal growth
7. Leadership development
8. The uniform

The merit badge program plays a key role in the fulfillment of this educational commitment. As a vital part of the BSA's advancement plan, the merit badge program is one of Scouting's basic character-building tools. There are over 100 different merit badges in the program. Without dedicated volunteers who are proficient in the subject matter of the various badges, the program will not be successful.

Earning merit badges provide Scouts with more than just opportunities to advance to a higher rank. The process of earning badges gives boys the kind of self-confidence that comes only from overcoming difficult obstacles to achieve a goal. The merit badge program also provides boys a chance to learn career skills that might help them select their lifework. Many merit badges help boys develop physical fitness and provide hobbies to give a lifetime of healthful recreation. Merit badge counselors provide the means for Scouts to explore many subjects that may not be available to them otherwise. The Scout who has earned a number of merit badges gains confidence, finds greater purpose in life, and becomes a better person from his experience. This cannot happen without the service of merit badge counselors knowledgeable in particular subjects and interested in helping Scouts grow into men of character who are ready to take their place in the world of work as participating citizens.

An important aspect of the merit badge program is the opportunity for boys to widen their contacts with other adults. Meeting with adults whom they might not be acquainted provides boys a chance to develop social skills and self-confidence in situations, which initially may cause them to be uncertain and shy. Because merit badge counselors must be proficient in the subject of the badge being worked on, the boys receive highly accurate and technical instructions while being coached on the topic.

This pamphlet provides local guidance to prospective and present merit badge counselors in the Prince George's District, National Capital Area Council. Section 2 addresses basic requirements and registration procedures for merit badge counselors. Section 3 discusses the process of coaching and counseling Scouts on merit badges. Additional resources and references are included in Section 4 and in the Appendices.

Section 2 – Requirements for Merit Badge Counselors

Following are the basic requirements to qualify as a Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor:

1. Be at least 18 years old.
2. Be proficient in the merit badge subject either by vocation or avocation.
3. Be able to work with Scout-age boys.
4. Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America.

Each person who agrees to become a merit badge counselor must complete two forms and submit them for approval. The first is the standard BSA Adult Application for membership. Unlike other positions in Scouting, no fee is required for merit badge counselors. You are applying for a district job. You do not need to have the Charter Organization Representative or Troop Committee Chairman signatures. The position code is 42 and the position is Merit Badge Counselor. The Adult Application Form is submitted upon initial registration only.

The second form that must be submitted is the Merit Badge Counselor Information form, BSA number 34405, along with the NCAC supplementary page 2 (Appendix 1). This form identifies which merit badge subjects you are applying to counsel. There are columns to indicate how you claim your proficiency in the subject – by job, business, or profession, or as a hobby or other qualification. Use the back of the form to provide sufficient justification for the District Advancement Committee to evaluate your qualifications. You should not list a merit badge to counsel without first reviewing the stated requirements of the badge. The adult Scout leader who contacted you about becoming a merit badge counselor can assist you in getting those requirements. You also can read the requirements on the World Wide Web at the National Council web site:

http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx.

Note that only seven rows are included on the Merit Badge Counselor Information form. It is the belief of the Prince George's District Advancement Committee that the objectives of the merit badge program (as briefly discussed in Section 1) can best be achieved when a scout works with many different counselors. Please limit the number of merit badges you counsel to the ones you have the most knowledge. On July 1, 2009 there will be a limit of 30 merit badges for each new counselor signing up. Counselors previously signed up with more than 30 merit badges will be Grandfathered into the program.

Some merit badge counselors must agree to fulfill the requirements as set up in the Guide to Safe Scouting that can be found at the NCAC website.

The Merit Badge Counselor Information form includes two option boxes to allow you to choose whether you will work only with boys from a particular unit that is listed or if you will work with boys from any unit in the District. We encourage you to consider working with all boys in the District, especially if you are counseling a badge that requires particularly rare or precise skills. Prince George's District's objective is for each Scout to have a counselor for every merit badge available. This objective can be achieved only if most Merit Badge Counselors agree to work with all boys.

The Merit Badge Counselor Information form and the Adult Application are submitted to your Area (Northern, Central, or Southern) Merit Badge Dean for certification and approval, see page (i) for a list of Merit Badge Deans. The forms are then forwarded to the District Executive for Prince George's District at NCAC. Four to six weeks later the deans will check to see if NCAC Advancement Committee has approved your application. You will then be notified by postcard, email, or letter that you can now start counseling scouts. Certified merit badge counselors are included in a master database maintained by the Prince George's District Advancement Committee. A roster of merit badge counselors will be published once a year and addendums published as necessary.

Each year you must be re-certified as a Merit Badge Counselor. You will be contacted by letter or email by the Merit Badge Dean of your area. Please return the letter or answer the email, making any changes necessary to update your information. If you are dropping a Merit Badge just draw a line through that Merit Badge. Failure to participate in annual re-certification process results in an individual being dropped from the Merit Badge Counselor list and invalidates any badges subsequently signed for by that former counselor. You do not need to submit an Adult Application or the Merit Badge Counselors Information sheet. If you are adding a merit badge you will be required to submit a Merit Badge Counselors Information sheet for the new merit badge/s.

Each Boy Scout adult leader and volunteer is expected to complete BSA Youth Protection training within 90 days of assuming a leadership position. This training can be done through the BSA's Online Learning Center at

http://olc.scouting.org. or http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/training.

This training course is also available at periodic training sessions conducted by the Prince George's District. Periodic training sessions are announced on the local District website. As a Merit Badge Counselor, you are to work with Scouts ***only*** when they are accompanied by a buddy: another Scout, a parent or guardian, a brother or sister, a relative, or a friend.

NEVER ONE ADULT WITH ONE BOY!

Section 3 – Counseling Procedures

MERIT BADGE PAMPHLETS

The Boy Scouts of America publish merit badge pamphlets for each merit badge. These pamphlets are prepared by committees of experts in the subject matter and reviewed thoroughly for their age appropriate content. The pamphlets also contain suggestions for projects that may be required for the badge. Counselors can obtain copies of merit badge pamphlets for those they are counseling by contacting either the Scout Shop at NCAC building at 9190 Rockville Pike Bethesda, MD 20814 or the Virginia office at 5234 Port Royal Road Springfield, VA 22151 or online at www.scoutstuff.org. Pamphlets are periodically updated. Check for updated pamphlets code numbers at http://usscouts.org/mb/mbbooks.asp.

MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements listed within the merit badge pamphlet ***may not be current***! There is a lag from when merit badge requirements change and when a pamphlet is corrected. Current requirements may be found on the BSA National Council Internet web site. The BSA National Council web site maintains updated requirements or call the Scout Shop and ask for the up-to-date merit badge number.

http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx.

Unless a new pamphlet is issued ***after*** the Requirements Book (a book published for each year with the new requirements as of January 1 of that year), the requirements listed in the Requirements Book are the controlling requirements.

If the requirements for a merit badge change ***after*** you begin working with a Scout, the Scout may decide which set of requirements to follow completely, either all the old requirements or all the new requirements. He ***cannot*** do part of the old and part of the new requirements.

Merit badge requirements ***may not be changed or modified*** by local authorities. A Scout cannot be required to do more than what is stated in the requirements. If the Scout is to collect 20 items for a collection, you cannot tell him to collect 30 items to merit your signature. However, it is acceptable for a Scout on his own initiative to exceed what the requirements state. As a counselor, you may require the Scout to repeat a demonstration or refine a project until the Scout has adequately satisfied the requirement. The Scout is expected to meet the requirements as stated – no more and no less. He is to do exactly what is stated in the requirement. If it says "show and demonstrate," that is what he must do. Just telling how to do it isn't enough. The same holds true for requirements such as "make," "list," "in the field," and "collect, identify, and label."

THE COUNSELING PROCESS

When a Scout is assigned by the Scoutmaster/Advancement Chairman to work on a merit badge you are counseling, he will obtain from his unit leader a signed merit badge application (the "Blue Card" – see page 7) and your name and telephone number. The Scout (not parent) will call you to make an appointment for him and his buddy (make sure he understands he ***must*** bring a buddy, parent, friend, etc.) to meet with you. Because this is an official Scouting activity, the Scout working on the merit badge should appear in uniform unless there are good reasons not to do so.

Where Do You Meet? If the merit badge relates to your job or profession, then your place of work might be the best place to meet with Scouts. Hobby related subjects usually are handled in your home where you will have the proper materials for use in coaching Scouts. A few subjects are more appropriately done in the field or where special equipment is at hand, such as Rowing, Rifle Shooting, Swimming, or Astronomy (although the first meeting might be accomplished indoors).

How Many Scouts at a Time? To the fullest extent possible, the merit badge counseling relationship is a counselor-scout arrangement. The scout is not only judged on his performance of the requirements, but receives maximum benefit from the knowledge, skill, character, and personal interest of his counselor. Some subjects can be taught to several Scouts at the same time. ***However, completing the requirements of all merit badges always must be done on an individual basis!*** A Scout may not qualify for a merit badge simply by just being a member of a group that is instructed in skills. A Scout must qualify by personally satisfying their merit badge counselor that he can meet all the requirements. This may be hard to do in a group. When one Scout in a group answers a question, that can't possibly prove all the other members of the group also know the answer. Each Scout learns at his own pace; no Scout should be held back or pushed ahead by his association with a group. Written tests of knowledge may not be appropriate for a Scout who does not take tests well. ***You may coach more than one Scout at a time, but only one Scout at a time can satisfy you that he has met the requirements of the merit badge!***

Can merit badge counselors' council their own family members? A counselor can council their sons or close relatives only if the young man is part of a group of scouts who are all working on the same merit badge, although this is discouraged. Remember a scout needs to work with a new adult for the full benefit of the merit badge program.

What is the Time Limit for Earning Merit Badges? There is NO DEADLINE for earning Merit Badges, except the Scout's 18th Birthday. If the Scout becomes 18 years of age before you, as the Merit Badge Counselor, examine him for satisfactory completion of the merit badge, he may not be awarded the badge! You ***should not sign*** the blue card. Once a Scout has started working on a Merit Badge (i.e., obtained a signed "Blue Card" Application for Merit Badge from his Scoutmaster, had an initial discussion with a merit badge Counselor, and started working on the requirements), he may continue using those requirements until he completes the badge or turns 18. If a Merit Badge is discontinued, Scouts already working on the badge, when it is removed from the Boy Scout Requirements booklet may continue to work toward completing the badge, and get credit for earning the badge, until they turn 18. However, it may not be possible to obtain an actual merit badge patch, once the local council's supply is exhausted.

If a discontinued Merit Badge is replaced with one or more other Merit Badges covering the same or similar topics (such as Rifle and Shotgun Shooting MB which was replaced by Rifle Shooting MB and Shotgun Shooting MB), a Scout that has earned the discontinued badge may also earn the new badge or badges. If the badge is simply renamed (such as Firemanship MB which was changed to Fire Safety MB); Scouts may NOT earn the badge again. If the badge number in **BSA's numbering system** is the
same before and after the change, it is a renaming. If a new number is assigned, it is a replacement.

What is and how to handle "Partial" Merit Badges? A partial is a merit badge that is not finished. A scout could have a partial if, for example, a merit badge is not finished before moving or from Summer Camp. As you will be the counselor who will be signing verifying the scout has completed all the requirements, you have the right to review those requirements previously signed off before continuing. Usually, within a few questions, you will know whether or not the scout remembers or has even done the signed off requirements.

A Counselor is a coach. For the Scout to get the most benefit from the counseling session, he must feel welcome and relaxed. One way for the counselor to put him at ease is to ask a simple question. For example, "How long have you been in Scouting?" or "What got you interested in the astronomy merit badge?" Another way to put a Scout at ease is to ask him to do a simple skill. For example, a Woodwork merit badge counselor might say, "Would you sand this piece of wood while I get some tools ready?" At the first meeting with the Scout, the merit badge counselor should carefully review each requirement to be sure the Scout understands what he must do. When reviewing the requirements with a Scout or testing him, the merit badge counselor may find that the boy needs help in learning a particular skill. One of the jobs of a merit badge counselor is to teach the Scout the skills required. The most effective way to teach a skill is to get the Scout to practice while learning.

Although you examine a scout and determine if a requirement has been met you should do it in a way that a coach would. If a scout stumbles, help him. If he does not know the material then make that clear up front and tell him that he will have to be retested. Use the time to go over the requirements with scouts and tell them to take notes because next time he will have to do it better. Stress important points, explain the right answers. Advise him to go home, to study and to schedule an appointment **after** he has studied – avoid allowing a scout to come back the same or next day. Scouts should take initiative to try to learn the skill in advance. Never become upset that a scout shows up and does not seem prepared. He may have heard that all he has to do is show up, or he may be interested but does not know how to get started or gain access the information that he needs.

When the Scout is ready to complete some or all of the requirements for a badge, he should call the counselor again and make an appointment for him ***and his buddy*** to meet with the counselor. He should take along with him the things he has made to meet the requirements. If things he has done can't be transported, he should present you with satisfactory evidence; such as a photograph or an adult certification in writing. 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. The counselor will ask him to do each requirement to make sure he knows his stuff and has done or can do the things required.

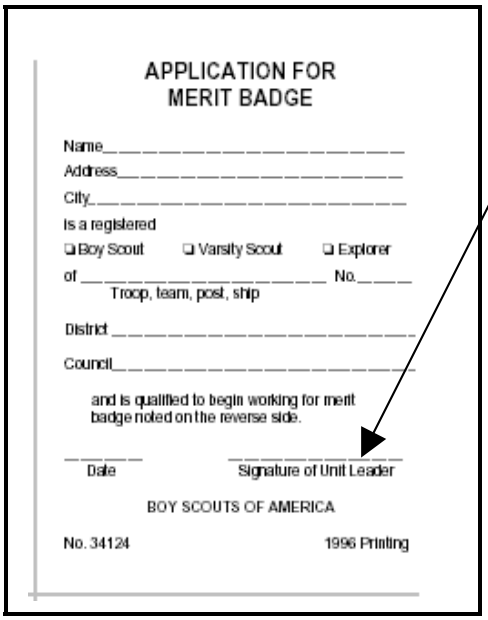
When the counselor is satisfied that the requirements have been met, he or she will sign the Application for Merit Badge, keeping the third section and returning the first two sections to the Scout. The Scout turns in both sections of the Application for Merit Badge to his Scoutmaster.

How Long Should It Take to Complete A Merit Badge? There is no set time that a specific merit badge should take, except that some badges do require a minimum time to complete some requirements (such as Personal Fitness or Personal Management). The time to expect Scouts to take to complete all the requirements for a Merit Badge will vary due to many factors. Some will involve the past experience of the Scout; if he previously participated in the topic of the merit badge in some other aspect of his life, then he might be able to complete the merit badge requirements quickly. If the merit badge requires relatively new skills, then he may take longer. Some badges will be difficult for younger Scouts to complete, but relatively easier for older Scouts to finish. You, the Merit Badge Counselor, must take all these factors into account.

RECORD KEEPING

Your link to the formal advancement process is BSA Form 34124, printed on blue colored card stock and folded into a trifold. Because of its color, it is commonly called "The Blue Card". It is printed front and back and may be torn apart so that after the merit badge is earned, the counselor, the Scout, and the unit may retain portions. ***Until the merit badge is completed; the card is completely retained by the Scout.*** If he transfers to another unit, this card is his record of partial achievement towards a Merit Badge. Following are images of portions of the card and instructions for completion. Counselors should keep their own records in case the scout looses the Blue Card.

The front of the Blue Card Identifies the Scout and his unit. The unit leader must sign it before the Scout Appears before the Merit Badge Counselor. (The reverse side Is the Unit record portion.)



APPLICATION FOR
MERIT BADGE

Name_____
Address_____
City_____
is a registered
❑ Boy Scout ❑ Varsity Scout ❑ Explorer
of _____ No._____
Troop, team, post, ship

District _____
Council_____

and is qualified to begin working for merit badge noted on the reverse side.

_____ _____
Date Signature of Unit Leader

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

No. 34124 1996 Printing

Information for Applicant

- A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor.
- You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.
- Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion.

Information for Counselor

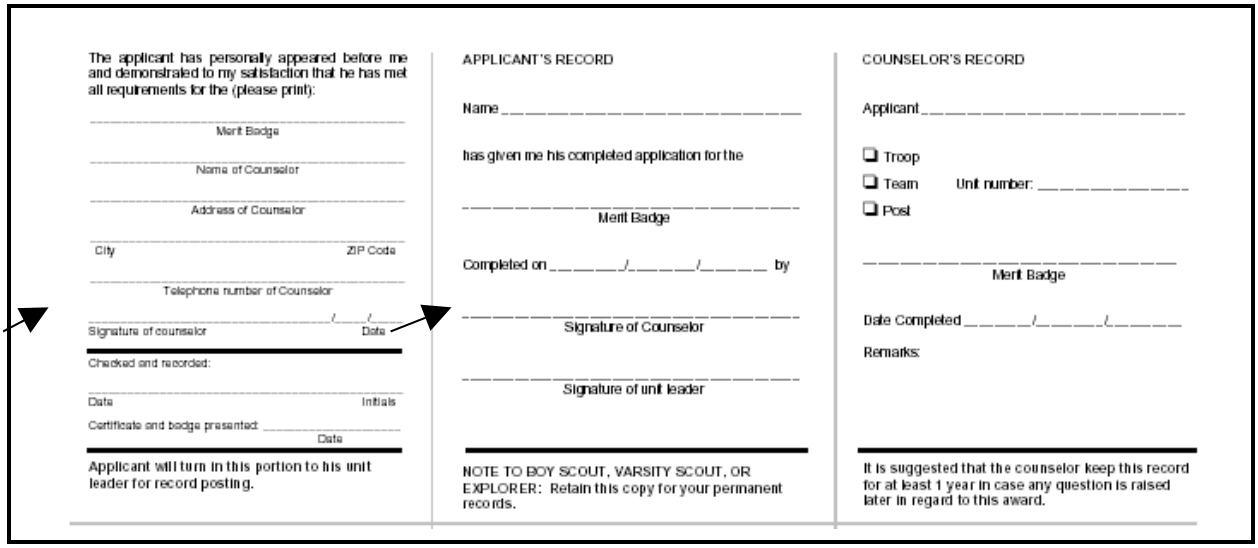
- Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.
- The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.
- You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable.

7 30176 34124 8

Short instructions are also included on the Left outside of the Blue Card. (On the opposite side of this section is the Merit Badge Counselor's copy.)

Requirement no and letter	Date of Approval	Counselor Initial	Requirement no and letter	Date of Approval	Counselor Initial

The outside center back of the Blue Card contains rows and columns to track progress for individual requirements of the Merit Badge, identified by the outline number in the merit badge requirement. As each requirement is satisfactorily completed, you initial completion in the third column. Make sure you complete it accurately and legibly. (The reverse side is the "Applicant's Record" shown on the inside center of the card.)



The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print):

_____
Merit Badge

_____
Name of Counselor

_____
Address of Counselor

_____
City ZIP Code

_____
Telephone number of Counselor

_____/____/____
Signature of counselor Date

Checked and recorded:

_____
Date Initials

Certificate and badge presented: _____
Date

Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.

APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name _____

has given me his completed application for the

_____
Merit Badge

Completed on _____/_____/_____ by

_____
Signature of Counselor

_____
Signature of unit leader

NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR EXPLORER: Retain this copy for your permanent records.

COUNSELOR'S RECORD

Applicant _____

❑ Troop
❑ Team Unit number: _____
❑ Post

_____
Merit Badge

Date Completed _____/_____/_____

Remarks:

It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.

Note that ***you must sign in two places*** above: the unit record section and the applicant's record section. Each section of the Blue Card may be detached and kept as a record by: the Merit Badge Counselor, the Scout and the Unit.

CONCLUSION

You may work with many Scouts as they earn merit badges. However, you may work with only a few. Your contact with these Scouts is tremendously important. Your influence is measured not by the number of Scouts with whom you work, but by the effect upon the lives of those with whom you have an opportunity to work. Throughout your association with Scouts, keep in mind that you are in reality assisting the Scoutmaster, the Varsity Scout Coach, and other troop and team leaders in the advancement program. You should feel free to discuss the work of each Scout with his unit leader at any time.

As a Merit Badge Counselor, you 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 Scout and his buddy present at all instructional sessions.***
- ***Renew your registration and certification annually with the Prince Georges District Advancement Committee if you plan to continue as a Merit Badge Counselor.***

Section 4 – Other Resources and References

1. A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling, BSA pamphlet 34532A (largely incorporated herein).

2. Boy Scout Requirements, publication 33215

3. Boy Scout Handbook, publication 33105

4. Scoutmaster Handbook, publication 33009

5. Current Merit Badge Pamphlets and Merit Badge Revision dates, table: http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/mbbooks.asp.

6. Merit Badge Worksheets: http://usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/worksheets/list.asp.
also
http://meritbadge.org

[Note: As with any web site, reliable and continual access may not be possible for any of the Internet sources cited above.]

Boy Scouts of America
MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR INFORMATION

(Please type or print.)

Name _____ Age _____ Business Phone (___)_____

Address _____ Home Phone (___)_____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

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.

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 Scout and his buddy present at all instructional sessions.
*Renew my registration annually if I plan to continue as a merit badge counselor.

	Vocation Is this subject in line with your job, business, or profession? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side.	**Avocation** Do you follow this subject as a hobby, having more than a "working" knowledge" of the requirements? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side.	**Special Training** If not, do you have any special training or other qualifications for this subject? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side.
List merit badge subject here. 1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			
5. _____			
6. _____			
7. _____			

CHECK ONE:

____ I wish to work only with _____
Unit number

____ I wish to work with all units

Signature _____ Date _____

Note: The BSA Adult Registration Application must be attached.

Council Approval by _____ Date _____

#34405

E-Mail Address: _____ PID#_____

Please list your qualifications for each merit badge you wish to counsel:

Merit Badge	Qualifications

District Advancement Committee Approval _____ Date _____
District Name _____ District # _____ Council _____

Processing this Application:
Merit Badge Counselors MUST register as adult Scouters and be approved by the District Executive. A Merit Badge Counselor does not have to pay a registration fee, but must completely fill out a new Adult Application indicating a Code 42 and this Merit Badge Counselor Information form. Both forms MUST be submitted to the Troop Advancement Chair if associated with a Troop or District Merit Badge Dean if applying through District.. The District Dean reviews and approves/disapproves the MBC Enrollment form and forwards the Adult Application to the District Executive (as appropriate). The District Executive will review and approve/disapprove the Adult Application and forward to NCAC (as appropriate). The Scout Executive approves/disapproves the Adult Application and updates Scout Net (as appropriate).

FORMS **WILL NOT** BE PROCESSED IF SENT DIRECTLY TO THE COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER.

All Merit Badge Counselors are expected to complete BSA Youth Protection 90 days of approval by the District Executive.

All Merit Badge Counselors MUST confirm their registration annually. Any changes must be documented using this form. An Adult Application is only required when registering as a Merit Badge Counselor for the first time or after letting their registration lapse.

You may choose to limit your role to counseling only in an affiliated unit or make yourself available to other units in the District. NCAC encourages you to make yourself available to other units since the expertise for some merit badges is not present within many individual units. You will always be able to limit the number of scouts you work with at any one time. Please remember to check the box on the front of this form that indicates your choice.

APPENDIX 3

Boy Scouts of America
This is to certify that

_____

Has completed training for
Merit Badge Counseling
In Prince George's District
NCAC
On _____ (date)

By reading the Guidelines
and Recommendations
for Merit Badge Counselors

Please notify your Merit Badge Dean of this completion by sending a copy of the certificate to

Merit Badge Dean Committee

Northern Area – Patricia Walker - walkerscouts@verizon.net
619 10th St., Laurel, MD 20707
301- 498-3071

Central Area – Craig Snider - craigsnider@verizon.net
13439 Idlewild Dr., Bowie, MD 20715
301- 805-4640

Southern Area – Linda Nosalik – Nosalik@comcast.net
9727 Green Apple Turn, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
301-868-6826

Please send a copy of your Youth Protection Training Card to the same Merit Badge Dean.
Merit Badge Counselors Training is one time training and Youth Protection Training is taken every two years.

Thank you for your service to Scouting!

Merit Badge Name	Old Stock Number	New Stock Number
American Business	33325A	35850
American Cultures	33399A	35851
American Heritage	33398A	35852
American Labor	33326A	35853
Animal Science	33395A	35854
Archaeology	35000A	35855
Archery	33259A	35856
Architecture and Landscape Architecture	**33304A**	**35857**
Art	33320B	35858
Astronomy	33303A	35859
Athletics	33324A	35860
Automotive Maintenance	**33241A**	**35861**
Aviation	33293B	35862
Backpacking	33232C	35863
Basketry	33313A	35864
Bird Study	33300B	35865
Camping	33256B	35866
Canoeing	33305B	35867
Chemistry	33382A	35868
Cinematography	**33238A**	**35869**
Citizenship in Community	33249A	35870
Citizenship in Nation	33248A	35871
Citizenship in the World	33260A	35872
Climbing	35001B	35873
Coin Collecting	**33390A**	**35874**
Collections	**33242B**	**35875**
Communications	33258B	35876
Composite Materials	33252	35877
Computers	33246A	35878
Cooking	33349B	35879
Crime Prevention	33400A	35880
Cycling	33226A	35881
Dentistry	3394C	35882

Merit Badge Name	Old Stock Number	New Stock Number
Disabilities Awareness	33370A	35883
Dog Care	33289A	35885
Drafting	**33262**	**35885**
Electricity	33408 B	35886
Electronics	35003A	35887
Emergency Preparedness	**33368B**	**35888**
Energy	33335A	35889
Engineering	**33376A**	**35890**
Entrepreneurship	35008A	35891
Environmental Science	33363B	35892
Family Life	33243A	35893
Farm Mechanics	**33346B**	**35894**
Fingerprinting	33287A	35895
Fire Safety	33318A	35896
First Aid	33301C	35897
Fish & Wildlife Management	33307A	35898
Fishing	33231A	35899
Fly Fishing	33283	35900
Forestry	33302A	35901
Gardening	33240A	35902
Genealogy	33383A	35903
Geology	33284A	35904
Golf	33397A	35905
Graphic Arts	33374B	35906
Hiking	33407D	35907
Home Repairs	33247A	35908
Horsemanship	33247A	35909
Indian Lore	33360A	35910
Insect Study	**33353A**	**35911**
Journalism	33350B	35912
Law	33389A	35913
Leatherwork	33310A	35914
Lifesaving	**33297B**	**35915**
Mammal Study	33271A	35916

Merit Badge Name	Old Stock Number	New Stock Number
Medicine	33244A	35917
Metalwork	33312C	35918
Model Design & Building	33280A	35919
Motorboating	**33345**	35920
Music & Bugling	33314A	35921
Nature	33285A	35922
Nuclear Science	33275A	35923
Oceanography	33306A	35924
Orienteering	33385A	35925
Painting	**33372A**	**35926**
Personal Fitness	33286B	35927
Personal Management	35002A	35928
Pets	33281A	35929
Photography	33340A	35930
Pioneering	33377A	35931
Plant Science	33396A	35932
Plumbing	33386B	35933
Pottery	**33314A**	35934
Public Health	33233A	35935
Public Speaking	33373A	35936
Pulp & Paper	33343A	35937
Radio	**33361A**	35938
Railroading	33292A	35939
Reading	33378A	35940
Reptile & Amphibian	33288A	35941
Rifle Shooting	33339A	35942
Rowing	33404B	35943
Safety	33347B	35944
Salesmanship	33351A	35945
Scholarship	33384A	35946
Sculpture	33322B	35947
Shotgun Shooting	33331A	35948
Skating	35006B	35949
Small Boat Sailing	33356A	35950
Snow Sports	33365B	35951

Merit Badge Name	Old Stock Number	New Stock Number
Soil & Water Conversation	33291A	35952
Space Exploration	33354A	35953
Sports	35007A	35954
Stamp Collecting	33296C	35955
Surveying	33327A	35956
Swimming	**33352D**	35957
Textile	33344A	35958
Theater	33328B	35959
Traffic Safety	33391B	35960
Truck Transportation	33371A	35961
Veterinary Medicine	35004A	35962
Water Sport (Old waterskiing)	**33348B**	**35963**
Weather	33274B	35964
Whitewater	33405B	35965
Wilderness Survival	33265B	35966
Wood Carving	33309B	35967
Woodwork	33316A	35968

All of the MB pamphlets were reissued, with new stock numbers, on 8/1/08. In many of them, the only changes were the addition of color, while others have had major or minor changes to the text and/or requirements. Where the OLD Stock Number is in **RED** the old pamphlet should **NOT** be used. In the rest of the cases, the old and new pamphlets are interchangeable. **GREEN** denotes changes since the publication of the 2009 Boy Scout Requirements

Scouts have the option of starting with the new requirements as soon as the pamphlets are issued, or they may start work using the old requirements until the next edition of Boy Scout Requirements is issued. If a scout starts work after the next edition of Boy Scout Requirements is issued, he must use the new requirements. In any case, once a boy starts with a set of requirements he can continue using them until be completes the badge or turns 18. If he started using the old requirements, he has the option of switching to the new requirements (which may in fact mean starting over in some cases). So long as he meets all the requirements (either old or new).