

**MERIT BADGE  
COUNSELOR ENROLLMENT**

**CHAIN BRIDGE DISTRICT**  
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL  
Boy Scouts of America



Return to: CBD Merit Badge Dean  
Robert Vorthman  
1917 Westmoreland St.  
McLean, VA 22101-5529  
Or, Fax to: 703 356-6936  
For questions send e-mail to:  
bob@vorthman.com

The information obtained in this form  
is for the internal use of BSA only.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Please type or print clearly

Address \_\_\_\_\_ M  F  Business Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**To qualify as a merit badge counselor, you must:**

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

**As a merit badge counselor, I agree to:**

1. Follow the requirements of the merit badge as found in BSA's annual book of requirements, making no deletions or additions, ensuring that the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts.
2. Have two or more Scouts present at all instructional sessions.
3. Renew my registration annually if I plan to continue as a merit badge counselor.

Merit Badge Counselor Resources  
(training for what to do, how to do it,  
and up to date badge requirements)  
are available on the Internet at:  
<http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

**My special knowledge that qualifies me to counsel merit badges**

<b>Vocation</b>	<b>Avocation</b>	<b>Special Training</b>
Is this subject in line with your job, business, or profession? If yes, give brief information on the reverse side or a blank page.	Do you follow this subject as a hobby, having more than a "working knowledge" of the requirements in the merit badge pamphlet? If yes, explain.	If not, do you have any special training or other qualifications for this subject? If yes, explain on the reverse side or a blank page.

LIST MERIT BADGE SUBJECTS HERE			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

**CHECK ONE**

- I wish to work with all units.  
Note: This choice is recommended for merit badge subjects with few counselors. Your name will be marked on the district-wide listing to indicate your support for Boy Scouts in all Chain Bridge units.
- I wish to work only with unit \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: As an approved MB Counselor, you may still work with Boy Scouts in other units.

**PROVIDE BSA REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

BSA Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

BSA Registration No: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Attach a copy of the BSA Adult Registration Application if you are not currently registered. Send the BSA Adult Registration to NCAC.

**X** Signature of MB Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Training is available for new and currently enrolled Merit Badge Counselors. Check your district training schedule or look at the Merit Badge Resources on-line at <http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

**FOR ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE USE**

Counselor Data Base ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR OFFERING YOUR SERVICES TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA**

## Qualifications of Counselors

Persons serving as merit badge counselors must be registered as a merit badge counselor with the Boy Scouts of America. Men and women of good character must be:

1. Age 18 or older
2. Recognized as having skills and education in the merit badge subjects for which they are to serve
3. Able to work with Scout -age boys
4. Registered as an adult leader with BSA
5. Approved by the council and district advancement committees

The Merit Badge Counselor Enrollment form establishes your qualifications as a merit badge counselor. You may offer to counsel any of the approximately 120 merit badges offered by BSA.

However, for purposes of assigning Scouts to contact you it will be helpful to designate those subjects for which you specifically wish to be known. Please identify those subjects on the form and briefly explain your skills and education on a separate sheet of paper.

## Enrollment Procedure

Counselors must fill out a Merit Badge Counselor Enrollment Form and, if not currently registered with BSA, a BSA Adult Volunteer Leader Application. Merit badge counselors are not required to pay a fee if they are only registered as merit badge counselors. This is done by using a position code of "42". Counselors paying the registration fee will receive a Scouting Magazine subscription.

If you wish to make your services available to all troops and youth in the district, check the box marked "work with all units." You will always be able to control the number of boys you work with, and you will be helping the Scouting movement.

Your troop committee will send the Adult Volunteer Leader Application to the council and will send a copy of it with the Merit Badge Counselor Enrollment form to the district Merit Badge Dean.

The signature of the district Scouter on the Merit Badge Counselor Enrollment form approves your qualifications as a counselor, as specified in the above excerpt from BSA's 1999 "Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures" No. 33088B.

## Preparing to Counsel Scouts

It is suggested that you purchase a merit badge pamphlet for each subject you are actually called upon to counsel (though not necessarily for every one you are qualified to counsel). This pamphlet will help you establish the intended level of learning, as well as giving you insight into the BSA-intended meaning of the requirements. In any case you must have, or have access to, the current BSA booklet entitled "Boy Scout Requirements". These are published every year and contain all current requirements for each merit badge. Current merit badge requirements are also available on the Internet. One useful location is: <http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/links>

## Training of Counselors

All merit badge counselors must be trained in the three aims of Scouting:

1. Growth in moral strength and character,
2. Participating citizenship,
3. Development of physical, mental and emotional fitness,

in BSA advancement procedures for Scouts and, in youth protection guidelines. The district offers training and training materials are available on the Internet.

## Counseling Scouts

BSA's merit badge program is one of Scouting's basic character-developing tools using the method of adult association. 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 learns caring skills, develops socially, and may develop physical skills and hobbies that give a lifetime of healthful recreation.

The primary function of a merit badge counselor is to lead and encourage a Scout in his investigation of the merit badge subject. It is not necessary for the counselor to be a recognized "expert" in the field. Far better that he or she has a sustaining interest in the subject, and can pass that interest on to the Scout that may lead to a career choice or a lifetime hobby.

Merit badge counselors may be invited to address groups of Scouts at a troop meeting. While some specific training can be accomplished in such presentations, the greater value is in inspiring Scouts to begin work on the badge. Pertinent, eye-catching demonstrations can go far to pique the boys' interest. As a merit badge counselor you may contact unit leaders to offer such presentations, and you will nearly always be welcome.

"To the fullest extent possible, the merit badge counseling relationship is a counselor-Scout arrangement in which the boy 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. Group instruction and orientation are encouraged where special facilities and expert personnel make this most practical, or when Scouts depend on only a few counselors for assistance. However, this group experience should be followed by individual attention to each candidate's projects and his ability to fulfill all requirements." Remember that each boy is tested individually.



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**