



Merit Badge Counseling



Help a Scout Grow by Doing What You Love

A quick-start guide to becoming a merit badge counselor, a fulfilling volunteer position where you set the time commitment.

Doylestown Office—Tel: 215-348-7205

List of Merit Badges

AMERICAN BUSINESS, AMERICAN CULTURES, AMERICAN HERITAGE, AMERICAN LABOR, ANIMAL SCIENCE, ARCHAEOLOGY, ARCHERY, ARCHITECTURE, ART, ASTRONOMY, ATHLETICS, NUCLEAR SCIENCE, AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE, AVIATION , BACKPACKING, BASKETRY, BIRD STUDY, BUGLING , CAMPING, CANOEING, CHEMISTRY, CINEMATOGRAPHY, CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY, CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATION, CITIZENSHIP IN THE WORLD, CLIMBING, COIN COLLECTING, COLLECTIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, COMPOSITE MATERIALS, COMPUTERS, COOKING, CRIME PREVENTION, CYCLING , DENTISTRY, DISABILITIES AWARENESS, DOG CARE, DRAFTING , ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONICS, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, ENERGY, ENGINEERING, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE , FAMILY LIFE, FARM MECHANICS, FINGERPRINTING, FIRE SAFETY, FIRST AID, FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, FISHING, FLY FISHING, FORESTRY , GARDENING, GENEALOGY, GEOCACHING, GEOLOGY, GOLF, GRAPHIC ARTS , HIKING, HOME REPAIRS, HORSEMANSHIP , INDIAN LORE, INSECT STUDY, INVENTING , JOURNALISM , LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, LAW, LEATHERWORK, LIFESAVING , MAMMAL STUDY, MEDICINE, METALWORK, MODEL DESIGN AND BUILDING, MOTORBOATING, MUSIC , NATURE, NUCLEAR SCIENCE , OCEANOGRAPHY, ORIENTEERING , PAINTING, PERSONAL FITNESS, PERSONAL MANAGEMENT, PETS, PHOTOGRAPHY, PIONEERING, PLANT SCIENCE, PLUMBING, POTTERY, PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC SPEAKING, PULP AND PAPER , RADIO, RAILROADING, READING, REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN STUDY, RIFLE SHOOTING, ROBOTICS, ROWING , SAFETY, SALESMANSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, SCOUTING HERITAGE, SCUBA DIVING, SCULPTURE, SHOTGUN SHOOTING, SKATING, SMALL-BOAT SAILING, SNOW SPORTS, SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION, SPACE EXPLORATION, SPORTS, STAMP COLLECTING, SURVEYING, SWIMMING , TEXTILE, THEATER, TRAFFIC SAFETY, TRUCK TRANSPORTATION , VETERINARY MEDICINE , WATER SPORTS, WEATHER, WHITEWATER, WILDERNESS SURVIVAL, WOOD CARVING, WOODWORK

Find something you'd like to teach? Contact your district advancement chair or the Doylestown Scout Service Center at 215-348-7205 to get started. You'll be glad you did.

Merit Badge Instructor Checklist

- Determine which merit badge or badges to teach.
- Complete youth protection training.
- Complete an adult application.
- Contact office or district to register with district advancement chair.
- Participate in district training or review the *Bucks County Guide for Merit Badge Counselors*.

Scouting values character-building, but that doesn't mean bashing your head against the wall if you're confused or run into technical difficulties. The Doylestown Service Center is staffed by professionals who are trained to help you get the tools to deliver program to Scouts. If you have a question, ask.

Other Ways to Get Involved

I like to solve problems—Unit Commissioner. Low time commitment, mostly deal with other adults.

I want to help a group of Scouts become good citizens— Troop leadership. Variable time commit. Mostly work with youth.

I have little time, but can support Scouting financially—Friends of Scouting member.

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Becoming a Merit Badge Counselor



What's a Merit Badge?

Scouting is one of the finest and most respected activities for young men and a keystone of its program is an incredible variety of activities. Many of these programs include *merit badges*, a type of activity where a Scout learns about a hobby, skill, or profession from a practitioner or enthusiast.

There are over 100 merit badges in fields as diverse as sports, graphic arts, and even dentistry and Scouts earn merit badge patches for completing these programs. The back panel of this brochure has a complete list that is current as of 2011.

What's a Merit Badge Counselor?

Work towards a merit badge is led and reviewed by a *merit badge counselor*, a volunteer position in the Boy Scouts of America that both men and women who are 18 years of age or older can fulfill as long as they have a strong grasp of the material for the merit badge and registered adult volunteers.

What are the requirements to teach?

There are two basic requirements:

- One must be a registered adult in the Boy Scouts of America which involves a criminal background check to ensure the safety of the youth. This process is free of charge.
- One must have strong knowledge of the content for the merit badge one wishes to instruct.

Steps to Becoming a Counselor



Youth Protection Training: The first step to helping Scouts.

1. Review what you'd like to instruct (there's a list on the reverse of this pamphlet).
2. Complete Youth Protection Training at <http://bit.ly/youthprotectiontraining>. Scouting strongly emphasizes positive interaction with adults and safety, and youth protection training will help keep safe both you and the Scouts you help.

This training is done online and takes less than an hour.
3. Complete an adult application. You can get one through the Doylestown Service Center or complete the PDF application at <http://bit.ly/bsaadultapplication>
4. Contact AnnaMarie Pepper, the Council Registrar, to be connected with your local district advancement chair and to have your application reviewed.
Email: apecper@bsaemail.org
Phone: 215-348-7205 x107
5. The district advancement chair will ask you what badges you would like to teach and check your credentials to instruct those badges. Don't worry, you're not going to have to produce a diploma or take a certification exam. He or she may also ask you if you'd like to work with any local Scouts or a particular Boy Scout Troop. There's probably one near you, check at <http://www.beascout.org>.

If you are confused about any of these steps, contact the Doylestown Scout Service Center at 215-348-7205 and say you'd like to become a merit badge instructor.

Remember...

Merit badges are an introduction, not a Masters Degree program, and while you may add your own experiences always cover requirements as listed. Go to usscouts.org/meritbadges.asp to see current requirements.

Scouting uses the buddy system, so you will always be working with two or more Scouts.

You're a volunteer. If you feel that too much is being asked of you, finish your current merit badge projects and take a break.

Learn More: Read the *Bucks County Guide for Merit Badge Counselors* for more information on this wonderful way to help youth.

Bucks County Council BSA

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