

Merit Badge Counselor Information

Have you ever thought about volunteering as a Merit Badge Counselor? If you have a skill or expertise in a particular area then all you need is the desire. You may have acquired this skill from your job, a hobby, some kind of training, books or just life in general depending on the subject. You may be qualified to be a counselor for more than one merit badge.

I encourage anyone considering becoming a Merit Badge Counselor to review the information on the following website:

<http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/GuideforMeritBadgeCounselors.aspx>

A list of all the merit badges and their requirements can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/GuideforMeritBadgeCounselors/Review/list.aspx> . Please use this as an up-to-date reference for merit badges since requirements may change each year. Once a scout begins a merit badge they need to complete those requirements. If they chose to do the new requirements when an update comes out they must start over and complete all the new requirements.

Merit badge counselors must register with the Boy Scouts of America Council for each merit badge they intend to teach on a yearly basis. This involves filling out a Boy Scout Adult Application with the code of 42 to indicate they wish to be a merit badge counselor. If they are a registered Scouter and haven't completed an Adult Application with the code of 42 they will need to fill one out. It does not cost any money to register as a Merit Badge Counselor and this form only needs to be filled out once.

Each year the counselor needs to indicate which merit badges they plan to teach that year. This form can be found at <http://crosswinds.cary.nc.us/debor/MBSignup.pdf> or from the troop's Merit Badge Coordinator. Once completed the form must be given to the troop's Merit Badge Coordinator to be forwarded to the Council office.

Once becoming a Merit Badge Counselor you are required to complete the training for **Youth Protection** which can be done online at <http://olc.scouting.org>. You will need to be a registered Scouter (i.e. completed the above Boy Scout application) and received a registration number before completing the training.

All new and existing Merit Badge Counselors who haven't had a chance to complete Merit Badge Counselors training should take some time to do so on this site: <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/trainingmodules/merit%20badge%20counselor%20instructors%20guide.aspx>

Taking a short amount of time to complete the above will insure a continuation of the quality program offered to our scouts and fulfill the requirements by Boy Scouts of America. Thank you very much for being such an important resource for the scouts in Troop 212.