



How to Become a Merit Badge Counselor

The merit badge counselor is a key player in the Boy Scout advancement program. Whatever your area of expertise or interest—whether it is a special craft or hobby (basketry, leatherwork, coin collecting), a profession (veterinary medicine, aviation, engineering), or perhaps a life skill (cooking, personal management, communications)—as a merit badge counselor, you can play a vital role in stirring a young man’s curiosity about that particular topic. By serving as a merit badge counselor, you offer your time, knowledge, and other resources so that Scouts can explore a topic of interest.

To qualify as a merit badge counselor, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old and of good character.
- Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America (position code 42).
- Complete Youth Protection training.
- Be recognized as having the skills and education in the merit badge subjects covered and hold any required qualifications and training as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting or the Guide to Advancement—or use others so qualified.
- Be able to work with Scout-age youth.

I’m qualified, now what?

- 1.) Fill out an adult application using “position code 42” (must be downloaded, printed, completely filled out and signed, pages 3 & 6 only) The application can be found at [here](https://www.scouting.org/resources/forms). (Scouting.org/resources/forms) The Merit Badge Counselor is not a unit position; it is a district position in order to ensure all counselors have taken youth protection and have had a background check.
- 2.) Must take Youth Protection Training (YPT) at **My.Scouting.org** if you haven’t already. Create an account to log in, and then click on the round youth protection logo to take the test. YPT is required of all registered adults and is good for 2 years at a time.
- 3.) Email Adult Application and certificate of YPT to the Cascade Pacific Council Registration department at 492.membership@scouting.org.
- 4.) Create a profile at [ScoutCommunity.com](https://www.scoutcommunity.com) (if you don’t have one already) and add/claim your merit badge counselor position. This website allows easy access for the approval and registration renewal of Merit Badge Counselors. See a how to video for the setup of your ScoutCommunity profile here. **VIDEO**.
 - Request to mentor for specific merit badges by adding them to your profile under the “My -> Merit Badges” area.
- 5.) Once all of these come together, the Merit Badge Coordinator will get a notification to approve the merit badges. If the applicant does not get an email from the coordinator (automatically generated) saying they have been approved within a couple weeks, someone should let the coordinator know so it can be tracked down. If an applicant has any trouble setting up the profile, they can either contact someone in the troop, or contact the coordinator. (Scoutmaster and Committee Chair can also look in ScoutCommunity.com to see if it is approved by running a MBC report for the troop).