



Prepared. For Life.™

# Hawkeye Area Council—Boy Scouts of America MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR INFORMATION



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(Please type or print legibly)

Name\* \_\_\_\_\_ Primary phone\* \_\_\_\_\_  Home  Cell  Work  
 Address\* \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone\* \_\_\_\_\_  Home  Cell  Work  
 City/state/zip\* \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone\* \_\_\_\_\_  Home  Cell  Work  
 Email address\* \_\_\_\_\_  I do not have email Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 District \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ BSA Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Required field.** Primary phone and email address indicate how Scouts should contact you.

**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 able to work with Scout-age boys.
- ◆ Be recognized as having the skills and education in the merit badge subjects covered and hold any required qualifications and training (**badges requiring specific qualification or training listed on next page**) as outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* or the *Guide to Advancement*—OR use others so qualified.

**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 accompanied by his buddy during all instructional sessions.
- ◆ Keep my Youth Protection Training current.
- ◆ Renew my registration annually if I plan to continue as a merit badge counselor.

Merit Badges <i>For more than eight merit badges, attach additional sheets.</i>	Add (A) Drop (D)	For each merit badge, list qualification(s) that support your request <i>Qualifications could include college degrees, formal training certificates, positions held, and specific life experiences.</i>	Vocation	Hobby	Training
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					

(A) - Adding a new merit badge you would like to counsel

Vocation—Is this subject in line with your job, business, or profession?

(D) - Removing your name from the roster for this merit badge

Hobby —Is this subject a hobby, giving you an exceptional knowledge of the subject?

Training —Do you have any special training or other qualifications for this subject?

**Complete the following:**

- This is a new application (first time to register as a merit badge counselor).
- This is an update to an existing list of merit badge subjects
- I no longer wish to serve as a merit badge counselor

Youth Protection training date\* \_\_\_\_\_  
(attach copy of the current certificate)

**Council Approval:**

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to work with:

- All Scouts
  - All Scouts in these districts: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Only with Scouts in these units (*indicate whether troop, team, or crew and unit number*): \_\_\_\_\_
- Counselors are encouraged to be available to work with any Scout in any unit.**
- I plan to serve as a merit badge counselor for this event or outside organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR INFORMATION

## Specific Qualifications Required

**Archery.** Archery activities must be supervised by a BSA National Camping School-trained shooting sports director or USA Archery or National Field Archery Association instructor, or by someone who has been trained by one of the three; or alternatively, the activities may be supervised by someone with at least Level 1 training in the operation of an archery range from USA Archery, NFAA, or an equivalent.

**Canoeing.** Those supervising canoeing activities must have either BSA Aquatics Instructor or Canoeing Instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.

**Climbing.** All climbing, belaying, and rappelling exercises and activities must be supervised by a rock climbing instructor who is a mature and conscientious adult at least 21 years old, and who is trained in BSA Climb On Safely and understands the risks inherent to these activities. Training as a BSA climbing Level 2 Instructor is highly recommended. Someone with certification in First Aid/CPR/AED from the American Red Cross (or equivalent) must be present at these activities.

**Kayaking.** Those supervising kayaking activities must have formal training in kayaking and paddle craft instruction, evidenced by either BSA Aquatics Instructor or Paddle Craft Safety Instructor certification, or kayaking instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, or American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.

**Lifesaving.** Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be supervised by an adult at least 21 years old with certification in Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED or equivalent, and also as BSA Lifeguard or Aquatics Instructor or equivalent.

**Rifle Shooting.** The merit badge counselor is responsible for ensuring that all instruction or other activities involving any handling of firearms or live ammunition is consistent with state and federal law and supervised by a certified BSA National Camping School (NCS) shooting sports director, or National Rifle Association (NRA) Rifle Shooting Instructor or Coach. Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzle loaders must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/National Muzzleloader Rifle Association (NMLRA)-certified muzzleloader firearms instructor. Shooting must be supervised by an NRA-certified Range Safety Officer (RSO). If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. The supervisor and instructor may not be the same person. Note that commercial shooting ranges may provide RSOs. See the Guide to Safe Scouting and the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual, No. 30931, for further details on shooting sports.

**Rowing.** Those supervising rowing activities must have either BSA Aquatics Instructor certification or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.

**Scuba Diving.** All phases of scuba instruction—classroom, pool, and open-water training—are limited to instructors trained and certified by one of the BSA's recognized scuba agencies as found in the Guide to Safe Scouting.

**Shotgun Shooting.** The merit badge counselor is responsible for ensuring that all instruction or other activities involving any handling of firearms or live ammunition is consistent with state and federal law and supervised by a certified NCS shooting sports director or NRA Shotgun Instructor or Coach. Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzle-loading shotguns must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/NMLRA certified muzzle-loading shotgun instructor. Shooting must be supervised by an NRA-certified Range Safety Officer. If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. They may not be the same person. Note that commercial shooting ranges may provide RSOs. See the Guide to Safe Scouting and the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual, No. 420029, for further details on shooting sports.

**Snow Sports.** Activities in the field must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult 21 years or older who is committed to compliance with BSA Winter Sports Safety as defined in the Guide to Safe Scouting.

**Swimming.** Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be conducted according to BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat.

**White water.** Those supervising white water activities must be and certified as white water canoeing or kayaking instructors by the American Canoe Association or have equivalent certification, training, or expertise.

Specific qualifications are listed in the *Guide to Advancement* under 7.0.1.1 *Qualifications of Counselors*

**All certifications listed above must be current.**

The required qualifications above for merit badge counseling and supervision not only assist in managing risk, but also give counselors credibility. Scouts will see them as people of importance they can look up to and learn from. A well-qualified counselor can extend a young person's attention span: More will be heard and understood, discussions will be more productive, and true interest developed. The conversations can lead to a relationship of mutual respect where the Scout is confident to offer his thoughts and opinions and value those of his merit badge counselor. Thus it is that social skills and self-reliance grow, and examples are set and followed.

**Please list any merit badges you are requesting to counsel which require specific qualifications and the qualifications you hold, OR which others so qualified who will be assisting your instruction hold.**

<p>1. Name _____</p> <p>Qualification _____</p>	<p>Merit Badge _____</p> <p>Date of Certification _____ Current Through _____</p>
<p>2. Name _____</p> <p>Qualification _____</p>	<p>Merit Badge _____</p> <p>Date of Certification _____ Current Through _____</p>
<p>3. Name _____</p> <p>Qualification _____</p>	<p>Merit Badge _____</p> <p>Date of Certification _____ Current Through _____</p>
<p>4. Name _____</p> <p>Qualification _____</p>	<p>Merit Badge _____</p> <p>Date of Certification _____ Current Through _____</p>