

Resources for Merit Badge Counselors

Adult Application, No. 28-501

This adult registration form consists of a cover sheet, an instruction and information sheet, and a four-part registration form. It is used for all BSA volunteers, including merit badge counselors. Completion of the form is required of all merit badge counselors regardless of whether they are already a registered Scouter, and for each position the volunteer would like to serve. The form is available online at <http://www.scouting.org/forms/28-501.pdf>.

Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures, No. 33088

This is the handbook for Scouters responsible for advancement at the council, district, and unit levels. It contains the current BSA advancement policies, procedures, rules, and regulations as well as other information.

Application for Merit Badge (commonly known as the “blue card”), No. 34124

This three-panel, blue wallet-sized card (1) shows that the Scout has permission to start working on a particular merit badge; (2) records his progress; and (3), when completed, provides a separate record for the Scout, the counselor, and the unit.

Boy Scout Handbook, No. 33105

This is the critical document for a Scout, providing the basic information for all facets of Scouting, including a chapter on the merit badge program.

Boy Scout Requirements, No. 33215

Updated yearly, this book contains the complete, official requirements for all BSA merit badges, ranks, and special awards. Requirements in this publication may be more current than the merit badge pamphlet; therefore, the *Boy Scout Requirements* takes precedence. The complete book will be available online in 2007.

A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling, No. 34532

This folder gives potential merit badge counselors an introduction to the advancement program and the merit badge counselor’s role. It also lists all the current merit badge subjects.

Merit Badge Counselor Information form, No. 34405

When attached to the Adult Application, this document specifies the merit badge subjects a counselor wants to coach and secures the counselor’s agreement to follow the merit badge requirements and BSA policies. This form is available online as a PDF from <http://www.scouting.org/forms/34405.pdf>.

Merit Badge Pamphlet Series

The merit badge pamphlets are written for Scout-age boys. The information presented in the pamphlet will help the counselor understand what the Scout may be studying and the level of learning expected by the Boy Scouts of America. The pamphlets may also contain suggestions for projects or demonstrations that may stimulate the counselor’s ideas. At times, the

requirements presented in the merit badge pamphlet may not match those in the current edition of the *Boy Scout Requirements* book. The *Boy Scout Requirements* criteria take precedence.

Once a Scout has started working on a merit badge, he may stay with the requirements in effect when he started and is not required to meet newly introduced changes unless the national office places a specific timeline on the implementation of new requirements.

Scoutmaster Handbook, No. 33009

As the Scoutmaster's primary guide, the *Scoutmaster Handbook* contains a section on the merit badge program that includes tips on recruiting counselors and other advancement resources.