

Merit Badge Counseling

Gateway Council

Scouts and Merit Badges

- What do we want?
 - Fun and interesting for scouts
 - Fulfill scout interests
 - Meet advancement needs!
 - Use scouting methods in groups
 - Apply scouting volunteers efficiently

Scouting Merit Badges Ideals

- Meet safety requirements
- Meet youth protection needs
- Use merit badge qualified counselors
- Use scouting oriented/youth oriented leaders to engage scouts

What do merit badges do?

- Each MB is a focused study, accelerating scout learning
- MBs use hands–on learning to engage scouts and make learning real
- MB counselors are necessary to guide scouts and interact, making learning effective

When do merit badges get done?

1. Merit Badges pursued by Scout alone
2. Merit Badge conducted within Troop
3. Merit Badge requested by scout
4. Merit Badge council organized events
5. Merit Badges at Summer Camp

Each circumstance has unique challenges!

MB Counselor Training

- Training helps counselors meet all goals
- Counselor Training applied to MB
 - 2 Deep Leadership; trained and registered adult leader
 - Youth Protection Training
 - Merit Badge Counselor Training- MB methods
 - Special- “Citizenship in Society” MB Training
 - MB Subject Materials; MB Booklets
 - MB safety related needs

Special Requirements

The following merit badges have special qualifications or certifications for either the merit badge counselor or the supervisor of certain activities that may be involved as safety and proper techniques are involved.

This includes general safety training(see GUIDE TO ADVANCEMENT for details) as well as specifics for the activity:

- **Climbing**
- **Snow Sports**
- **Canoeing**
- **Kayaking**
- **Lifesaving**
- **Motor Boating**
- **Rowing**
- **Scuba Diving**
- **Small Boat Sailing**
- **Swimming**
- **Water Sports**
- **Whitewater**
- **Archery**
- **Rifle Shooting**
- **Shotgun Shooting**

GAC Practices

- MB Booklets available through Scout office
- All Counselor training available online
- Council has MB counselor registration list
 - Strongly uses registered trained counselors for summer camp and events
 - Encourages training and registration of all MB counseling
 - Supports best MB practices through leader training and registration

Resources

- BSA Guide to Advancement (33088)