

MERIT BADGES WITH SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Reference: 7.0.1.0 Merit Badge Counseling Risk Management and Quality Control 7.0.1.1 Supervisory Qualifications and Certifications – Pg 42-43, Guide to Advancement 2021

Counselors for the following merit badges must meet the specific requirements and must submit proof of qualification with their application. Current BSA policies are found in the Guide to Safe Scouting at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ and supersede any other publications or literature.

Aquatics-Related Badges: Current policies are found at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss02 and supersede any other publications or literature.

Canoeing:	Must hold one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BSA Aquatics Instructor. 2. American Canoe Association Canoeing Instructor, American Red Cross Canoeing Instructor or equivalent.
Kayaking:	Must hold one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BSA Aquatics Instructor certification. 2. Paddle Craft Safety Instructor certification. Kayaking Instructor certification from American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, or American Red Cross.
Lifesaving:	Must be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certified in Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED or equivalent. 2. Certified as BSA Lifeguard or Aquatics Instructor or equivalent. 3. At least 21 years of age or older.
Motor Boating:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motor boating activities must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult. 2. Must be 21 years of age or older. 3. Must have completed BSA Safety Afloat training. Appropriate credentials include current and previous certification by an organization such as the National Safe Boating Council, the United States Power Squadrons, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or the US Powerboating component of US Sailing, that meets the voluntary National On-Water Standards for Powerboating or the NASBLA national boating education standards for powerboating, or local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.
Rowing:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must be a BSA Aquatics Instructor or equivalent, or local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.
Scuba Diving:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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.
Small Boat Sailing:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those supervising sailing activities must have completed BSA Safety Afloat training. 2. Must be 21 years of age or older. 3. Hold appropriate credentials including instructor certification with a recognized sailing agency or school, US Sailing, or the American Sailing Association for sailing experience with different hull types including the rig being used for instruction; or local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.
Swimming:	Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be conducted according to BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat.
Water Sports:	Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be conducted according to BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat.
Whitewater:	Those supervising whitewater activities must be certified as whitewater canoeing or kayaking instructors by the American Canoe Association or have equivalent certification, training, or expertise.

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(Continued)

Shooting Sports-Related Badges

Current policies are found at <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss08/#a> and supersede any other publications or literature. See the Guide to Safe Scouting and the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual for further details on shooting sports.

Archery:	<p>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 must hold one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BSA National Camping School-trained Shooting Sports Director OR a USA Archery or National Field Archery Association Instructor, or training by one of the three. 2. Be a minimum of Level I Trained in the operation of an archery range from USA Archery, NFAA or an equivalent.
Rifle Shooting:	<p>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.</p> <p>Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzleloaders 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.</p>
Shotgun Shooting:	<p>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.</p> <p>Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzle-loading shotguns must be supervised by an NCS Shooting Sports Director or NRA/NMLRA-certified Muzzleloading 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.</p>

General Badges

Counselors for the following merit badges must meet the specific requirements and must submit proof of qualification with their application. Current BSA policies are found in the Guide to Safe Scouting at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ and supersede any other publications or literature.

Citizenship in Society:	<p>Must complete the BSA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) volunteer training that can be found at www.My.Scouting.org.</p>
Climbing:	<p>Must be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trained in <i>BSA Climb on Safely</i> 2. At least 21 years of age <p>NOTE: Training as a BSA Climbing Level 2 Instructor is recommended. An American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED trained volunteer must be present at all climbing activities. Current policies: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss08/#a</p>
Snow Sports:	<p>Must be at least 21 years of age and committed to BSA Winter Spots Safety (Guide to Safe Scouting). Current policies: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss12/#b.</p>