

LEARNING TO BE A MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR

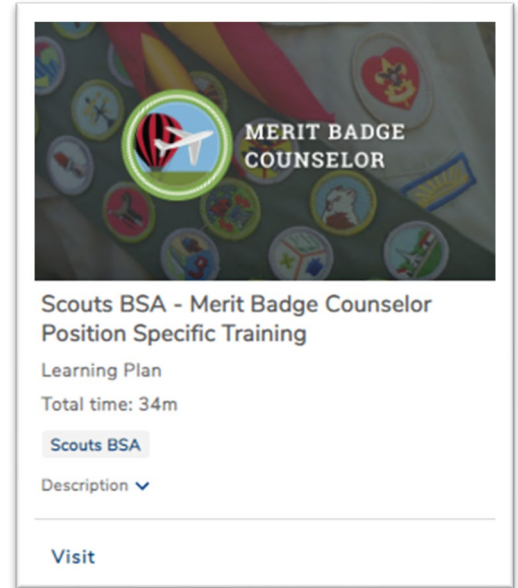
All merit badge counselors should seek training. It is important that they have a full understanding of their responsibilities and of the recommended practices for quality counseling. The presentation “[The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling](#)” has been designed for this purpose.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- [Guide for Merit Badge Counseling](#)
- [The Merit Badge Program](#)
- [Merit Badge Counselors Guide to Using Scoutbook](#)
- [Guide to Safe Scouting](#)
- [Guide to Advancement](#)

TRAINING RESOURCES:

- Merit Badge Counselor Training is available via [My.Scouting.org](#)
 - Log into [My.Scouting.org](#) → Click **Menu Button**
 - In drop-down menu: Click **My Training**
 - Click **Scouts BSA Training**
 - Click **Visit**
 - On next screen, Click **Enroll**
 - On the next screen, you will see the two training modules, Click the blue **Start** text to complete each module:
 - Module 1: *Scouts BSA – Merit Badge Counselors – Before the First Meeting*
 - Module 2: *Scouts BSA – Merit Badge Counselors – Position Trained*



INSTRUCTIONS TO COUNSELORS:

- The unit leader (Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, or Skipper) recommends and provides the name and contact information of at least one merit badge counselor to each Scout desiring to work on a merit badge. Before beginning to work with a youth, counselors should check the Scout’s merit badge application (blue card) to ensure it is signed by the unit leader.
- Every Scout must have another person with them at each meeting with a Merit Badge Counselor. This person can be the Scout’s parent/legal guardian or registered adult. No one-on-one contact is allowed between Scouts and counselors.
- Counselors may not add to or delete any merit badge requirements. Group instruction is allowed where special facilities and expert personnel make their most practical, or when Scouts are dependent on a few counselors for assistance. However, any group experience must provide attention to every individual candidate’s projects and progress and assure each has actually and personally fulfilled all the requirements. If, for example, a requirement uses words like “show,” “demonstrate,” or “discuss,” then every Scout must individually do so. It is unacceptable to award badges based on Scouts sitting in classrooms and watching demonstrations or remaining silent during discussions.
- When a Scout begins working on a merit badge, the current-year Scouts BSA Requirements book lists the official requirements in effect at that time. If requirements change after a Scout has started working on a merit badge, the requirements that were in effect when the Scout began working on the badge can still be followed unless the BSA’s National Council places a specific timeline on the implementation of new requirements.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS AND SCOUTBOOK

Registered Merit Badge Counselors are listed in [Scoutbook](#). It is up to the Merit Badge Counselor to decide if they would like to be viewable on [Scoutbook](#). Please review [Getting Started in Scoutbook](#), to set up your personal preferences within your Scoutbook profile.

[Merit Badge Counselors Guide to Scoutbook](#)

[Connect to Scouts in Scoutbook](#)

[Recording Merit Badge Progress](#)