

Merit Badge Counselor Instructions

Purpose:

The purpose of this list is to give Scout Troops a guide to officially approved Merit Badge Counselors in the Napa Valley District. A Merit Badge Counselor's role is to bring about learning on the part of the Boy Scout. As a coach, the counselor advises the Scout about concerning steps he should take to fulfill the requirements for the merit badge. The Counselor evaluates the Scout's performance and determines whether or not the Scout has met the prescribed objectives in the requirements.

Statement:

ALL MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS MUST REGISTER AS A MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR SEPARATE FROM THEIR PRIMARY REGISTRATION WITH A PACK OR TROOP... PLEASE HAVE ALL COUNSELORS REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!! (If not already registered from previous years). *ALL ADULTS--PLEASE REVIEW NAMES LISTED AND REMOVE FROM YOUR LIST ANY KNOWN MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS NO LONGER ACTIVE IN SCOUTING. (Also please advise Napa Valley District Advancement Chair of any changes). The merit badge program is one of Scouting's basic character-developing tools. Earning merit badges gives a boy the kind of self-confidence that comes only from overcoming difficult obstacles to achieve a goal. Through the merit badge program, a boy also learns career skills that may help him choose his life's work. Some merit badges help a boy develop physical fitness and provide hobbies that give him a lifetime of healthful recreation. Working with a merit badge counselor gives a Scout the contact with an adult with whom he may not be acquainted. This is a valuable experience. The Scout may be shy and fearful in this new situation so the Counselor must see that the counseling session is relaxed, informal and friendly.

Requirements:

- *BOY SCOUTS MAY NOT MEET WITH AN ADULT UNLESS THERE IS ANOTHER ADULT PRESENT IN THE SAME ROOM (21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER). (Child Protection Training and Two- Deep Leadership Requirements).
- *A Scout indicates his interest in a merit badge to his Scoutmaster who gives him the following:
 - *An interview to determine interest, enthusiasm and preparedness.
 - *A signed blue card merit badge application with counselor's name, address and phone number.
 - *Encouragement to wear Class A uniform when he visits a counselor.
 - *The Scout calls the merit badge counselor and makes an appointment.
 - *The Counselor sets the date and hour for the Scout to visit. The Scout should bring the Merit badge book, his blue card signed by Scoutmaster, any projects that may have been started for requirements, and any other indications of preparedness.
 - *The number of counseling sessions depends upon the difficulty of the subject, the preparation and ability of the Scout and the discretion of the Merit Badge Counselor. The Scout never visits the Counselor alone; there should always be someone else present with the Scout, either another Scout, a friend or a relative.
 - *The Scout is expected to meet the requirements as stated (no more, no less). Once the Scout is signed off he may not be tested again. The Scout may be asked questions about the merit badge but not re-tested. If the Scoutmaster is displeased with the quality of the instruction, he/she may question the Counselor or District Advancement Chair.