

Merit Badge Counselor Training



2001



Courtesy of

The Piedmont District

and

Bob Warner

Head Merit Badge Counselor



Merit Badge Counselor Training

Objective

Reasons



Objective:

“All Merit Badge Counselors must be trained in the aims of Scouting and in advancement procedures.”

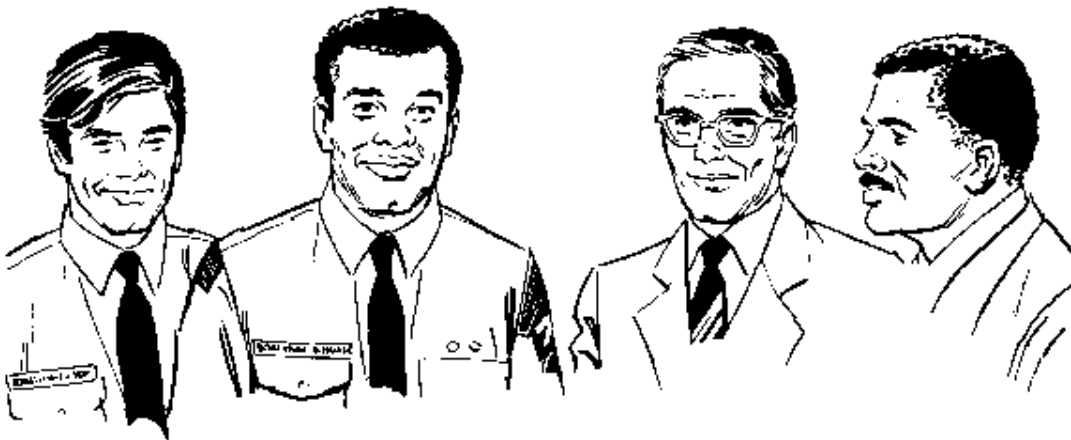
“The district or council advancement committee should train counselors either as a group or individually.”

*Advancement Committee
Policies and Procedures,
1999*



Reasons:

- Knowledge
- Understanding
- Uniformity
- Vision





ADVANCED LEARNING TECHNIQUE:

Take quiz now,
then course program,
last correct quiz.

EVERYONE SCORES
100%

The Warner Method



COURSE OUTLINE





COURSE OUTLINE

- The Administrative
- The Award
- MB Counselor
Requirements
- The Merit Badge
Process



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The Administrative

Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures, Publication 33088C:

Article X: The responsibility for merit badges shall rest with the merit badges counselor **approved by the local council...**

Responsibilities of the Council Advancement Committee: Approve merit badge counselors and publish council and/or district merit badge counselor lists.

Promoting Advancement: contacts at council level expedite recruiting counselors...**not preempt the district committee..**



The Administrative (cont'd.)

Advancement at Summer Camp: The procedure should be established, in writing, by the council advancement committee... No council, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add or subtract from advancement requirements.

Approving MB Counselors and Publishing List of Counselors: The council advancement committee:

- is responsible for approving MB counselors
- reviews the district MB counselors list and has it published at least once a year by the council service center.



The Administrative (cont'd.)

Qualifications of Counselors: The *Merit Badge Counselor Information* form is used by district or council advancement committees in determining the qualifications of persons to serve as MB counselors. All MB counselors must be approved by the council advancement committee. *Removed, but MBCI still used.*

Maintaining a Current List of MB Counselors: The district or council list of counselors should be reproduced for distribution to troops. Lists are updated at least once a year, usually when councils and districts reregister.



The Administrative (cont'd.)

Maintaining a Current List of MB Counselors:

MB counselors are registered with the local council. As with all council members, their registration must be renewed annually.

As part of the local council charter renewal process, the council advancement committee sends a letter to existing MB counselors who are to continue for another year. Provides an opportunity to assure MB counselors lists are updated. **An excellent opportunity to not reregister those persons identified as not following the policies of the BSA.**



The Administrative (cont'd.)

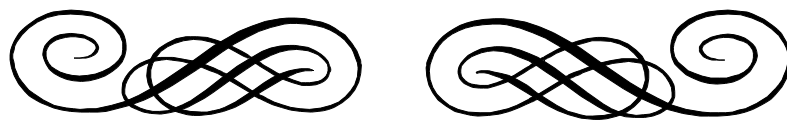
Troop...MB Counselors

All merit badge counselors...must be approved by the council and district advancement committee, and counselors must register as a merit badge counselor.

The council summarizes the monthly District Advancement Report Summaries on the annual charter renewal application.



The Administrative



SUMMARY

Merit Badge Counselors:

- Sole responsibility for merit badges
- Approved by council
- Can recruited by council
- Primarily selected by district
- For summer camp--procedure in writing
- May not change MB requirements
- Are responsibility of council advancement committee
- In annual list published by council
- Are qualified (*method no longer specific*)
- Are registered with council for one year



COURSE OUTLINE

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The Award

What is a Merit Badge?

- an award based on completing a set of **specific** requirements
- a small piece of khaki cloth with a colored design
- the significant interest of an adult in helping a boy
- a subject of interest to a Scout
- a subject of interest to an adult
- a subject required to reach the Eagle rank
- a craft or hobby
- an idea of service
- a vocational field



The Award (cont'd)

Career Fields

- valid impact on the life of a Scouts
- may involve service clubs, unions or professional societies
- professional society members can be MB counselors
- professional societies can help recruit and train MB counselors



COURSE OUTLINE

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MB Counselor Requirements

- Must possess the moral, educational and emotional qualities
- Must be at least **18** years old
- Must be a **citizen** of the USA or satisfy an **approved alternate**
- Subscribe to:
 - the **Declaration of Religious Principles**
 - the **Scout Oath or Promise**
 - the **Scout Law**
- Have unique skills and education or experience or knowledge in the subject



MB Counselor Requirements (cont'd)

- Have the interest to turn a color-embroidered piece of khaki cloth into something of significance so a Scout will want to **earn** it
- Must complete an Adult Application with a Position Code of “**42**”
- Must complete the Merit Badge Counselor Information (MPCI) form

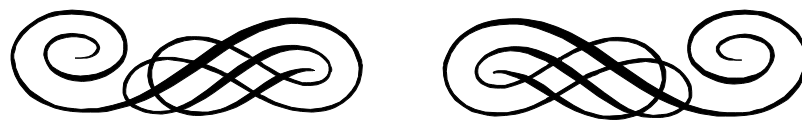


MB Counselor Requirements (cont'd)

- Must be approved by:
 - the District Advancement Committee
 - the Scout Executive or his designee
 - the Council Advancement Committee



MB Counselor Requirements

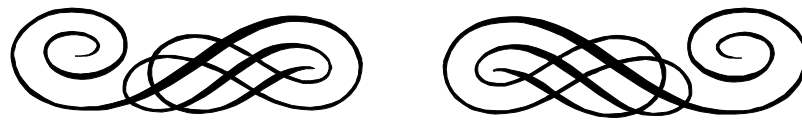


SUMMARY

- Must have the necessary **qualities**
- Must be **18**
- Must be a **citizen** (alternative)
- **Scouting**
 - Religious Principles
 - Scout Oath or Promise
 - Scout Law
- **Skills and knowledge**
- **Motional enthusiasm**



MB Counselor Requirements



SUMMARY

- Adult **Application**
- MB** Counselor **Information** form
- Must a **citizen** (alternative)
- Approval**

By Scouters not chartered
organization



MB Counselor Requirements

The Purpose of Scouting

- to promote, through cooperation with other agencies:

the ability of youth to do things for themselves and others



MB Counselor Requirements

The Purpose of Scouting

- to teach youth patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues



MB Counselor

Requirements

The Purpose of Scouting
To achieve this purpose

emphasis is placed on:

educational program

oaths, promises and codes

for:

character development

citizenship

mental fitness

physical fitness



MB Counselor Requirements Religious Principles



MB Counselor Requirements Religious Principles



MB Counselor Requirements

Boy Scout Advancement Procedure

1. Learning
2. Testing
3. Reviewing
4. Recognition



MB Counselor Requirements

Boy Scout Advancement Procedure

- 1. Learning**

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MB Counselor Requirements

Boy Scout Advancement Procedure

BOARDS OF REVIEW

Purpose of The Review

1. To make sure that the work has been learned and completed
2. To check to see what kind of experience the boy is having in his patrol and troop
3. To encourage the Scout to advance to the next rank



MB Counselor Requirements

Boy Scout Advancement Procedure

**THE REVIEW IS NOT AN
EXAMINATION**

Appropriate questions:

- where did he learn his skill?
- who taught him?
- what value did he gain from earning this recognition?



MB Counselor Requirements

Boy Scout Advancement Procedure

What the Board of Review
Learns about the Merit Badge
Program:

- Did the Scout do what he was suppose to?
- What kind of experience is the Scout having?
- What changes need to be made in the program?
- What are the Scout's ideals and goals?



MB Counselor Requirements

Boy Scout Advancement Procedure

What the Board of Review
Learns about the Merit Badge
Program:

- Is there a good standard of performance?
- Does the Scout recognize and understand the value of Scouting in his home, unit, school and community?



MB Counselor Requirements

Boy Scout Advancement Procedure

1. Learning

2. Testing

3. Reviewing

4. Recognition



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The Merit Badge Process

- 1. Guidance**
- 2. Finding the requirements**
- 3. Review/Decision**
- 4. SM's role**
- 5. Contact with MBC**
- 6. MBC sets date & time & content (buddy)**
- 7. MBC verifies requirements**



The Merit Badge Process

- 8. 1st meeting (buddy)
(written requirements)**
- 9. Number of meetings**
- 10. Completes the
requirements**
- 11. Coached &
encouraged (buddy)**
- 12. MBC assists**
- 13. Individually tested
(buddy)**



The Merit Badge Process

**14.MBC certifies &
congratulates**

**15.MBC at Court of
Honor**



The Merit Badge Process--Group

- 1. Decision**
- 2. MBC selected;
schedule set**
- 3. MBC develops
presentations, aids &
handout**
30 minute sessions
Games helpful
- 4. MBC reviews
requirements**



The Merit Badge Process--Group

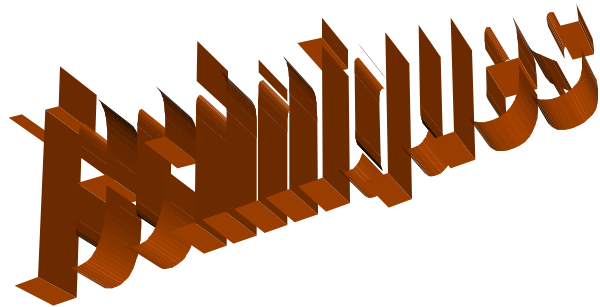
5. Testing

**6. Guest experts, visual
and tactile aids**



The Merit Badge Process

Merit Badge Counseling

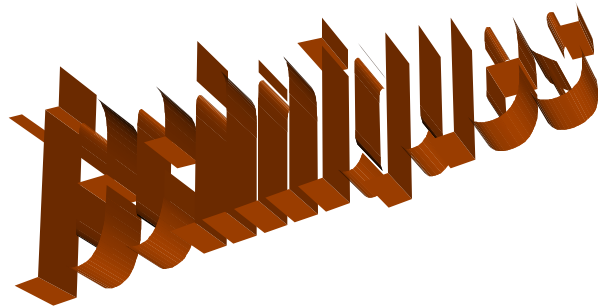


- 1. Make Scout feel warm and welcome**
- 2. Stimulate**
- 3. Easy start**
- 4. Requirements review**
- 5. Follow action words**
- 6. Overkill**



The Merit Badge Process

Merit Badge Counseling



- 7. Testing & retesting**
- 8. Encourage practice**
- 9. Follow up**
- 10. Encourage reflection**
- 11. Atmosphere for questions**
- 12. Genuine interest**



Merit Badge Library



Quiz Review



Well

That's all Folks!