**How to Become a Merit Badge Counselor**

In order to become a merit badge counselor, there are certain requirements that need to be met. Like a lot of things Scouting, it’s not easy to find all of the information in one place. That is what I am trying to accomplish here.

Each of us have jobs, hobbies, talents, and passions that give us different perspectives and experiences. Becoming a counselor allows us to share this with Scouting. The list of different merit badges can be found in the Scout Handbook, [BSA website](https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/?gclid=CjwKCAjwmf_4BRABEiwAGhDfSdskRNP1ghrvIPcXAK-WqFaNyw2gW45Zm3W9GfxIPiADcn_Wva5HWRoCWBkQAvD_BwE), or [BSA Trail](https://boyscouttrail.com/boy-scouts/merit-badges.asp). However, be cautious when using outside resources that you have the most current information regarding your merit badge.

Steps:

1. Complete BSA Youth Protection. You’ve already done this if you are an adult leader.

2. Fill out and submit to your local council the [BSA Adult Application](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-501.pdf) using Position Code 42. If you are already an adult leader, you filled this out with your current position. It has to be filled out again for the merit badge counselor position. Hint: I keep a copy of the application to make it easier to fill out the next time.

3. Fill out and submit the [BSA Merit Badge Counselor Information](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34405.pdf) form.

4. Complete training on my.scouting.org for the merit badge counselor position. To do this:

* + Log on to <my.scouting.org>
  + From Menu in the upper left corner, select My Training
  + Select Training Center in the upper center
  + Select Scouts BSA
  + Select Scouts BSA Learning Plans
  + Select Merit Badge Counselor (the course is 34 minutes minus mutual courses you have already taken for either Scoutmaster or Troop Committee)

When you are done, you will be given an electronic certificate of completion.

To check your status, go to my.scouting.org, from Menu select My Profile. Your Active Positions should list you as a Merit Badge Counselor.

To determine who is a merit badge counselor in our council, log into Scoutbook.

* Select My Dashboard
* Select Troop 234
* Near the bottom of the page, select the MB Counselor List tab
* From this page, you can determine which badge or distance from a given zip code you want to find a counselor. Our default zip code is 29625 with a radius of 50 miles. I will narrow it down to 25 miles to keep the counselors in Anderson County first when I search.

Resources:

[BSA Guide for Merit Badge Counselors](https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/mb-counselor-guide/)

[A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-065.pdf)

[Bryan on Scouting blog](https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2016/10/06/step-step-merit-badge-counselor/#:~:text=The%20merit%20badge%20counselor%20is,closer%20to%20the%20next%20rank.)