



# Merit Badge Counselor Basics

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Updated August 24, 2025

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# Qualifications

1. Interest in helping Scouts advance and learn
2. Registration as an adult leader
3. Your affiliation will be with SHAC and not Troop 54
4. Youth protection training
5. Expertise, experience, or interest in subject matter
6. Availability

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# Step 1. Register as an adult volunteer with Troop 54.

**Step 1.** Go to [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) and create an account.

**Step 2.** [Complete Youth Protection Training online.](#)



**Step 3.** Complete the online [Scouts BSA registration form \(Adult\)](#) and pay fees.

my.Scouting | Troop 0054 St John The Divine Episcopal Church G Translation

**WELCOME TO SCOUTING**

Thank you for choosing to join Scouting America. Please fill out the form below to complete your membership registration. We value your privacy and will keep your information secure. Select your application type below to apply for membership in or to volunteer for Scouting. You will be notified when your application has been processed.

Are you registering yourself or your child?:

 <b>Youth</b> Age 10 - 17 years old <a href="#">Start</a>	 <b>Adult</b> Volunteers <a href="#">Start</a>
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## Step 2. Register as a Merit Badge Counselor

Step 1. Fill out the Twin Bayou 51 membership registration.

<https://my.scouting.org/VES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?tu=UF-MB-576tb51>

Step 2. Click “Continue”

Note: at this step you are already registered with Troop 54. You are adding another position to your membership of “**Merit Badge Counselor**”.

my.Scouting | Twin Bayou 51

Translation Help

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Are you registering yourself or your child?:

Adult  
Volunteers

Start





# Registration, continued

my.Scouting | Twin Bayou 51 [Translation](#) [Help](#)

1 Basic Information — 2 Background Information — 3 Payment/Checkout


### Tell us about yourself

**Warning**

Our records indicate that you already have an active registration with Troop 0054. If your intention is to transfer from Troop 0054 to this one, please click "Transfer" to proceed with the application. If you wish to be registered in both units simultaneously, click the "Continue" button to finish this application.

[Back to previous page](#) [Transfer](#) [Continue](#)

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my.Scouting | Twin Bayou 51 [Translation](#) [Help](#)

### Multiple Registration Form

\* Member ID:

\* First Name:

\* Last Name:

\* Multiple From Organization:

\* Multiple To Organization:





# Registration, last step.

### Background Questions

\* Have you ever been removed from or asked to leave a leadership position in an organization due to allegations regarding your personal conduct or behavior?: ☐ Yes ☒ No

\* Do you use illegal drugs or abuse alcohol?: ☐ Yes ☒ No

\* Have you ever been arrested for a criminal offense (other than minor traffic violations)?: ☐ Yes ☒ No

\* Has your driver's license ever been suspended or revoked?: ☐ Yes ☒ No

\* Have you ever been investigated for, accused of, or charged with abuse or neglect of a minor child?: ☐ Yes ☒ No

\* Are you aware of any reason not listed above that may call into question your suitability to supervise, guide, care for, and lead young people?: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Submit Multiple Registration

### Background Questions

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Submit Multiple Registration

**Success**

Your multiple registration has been submitted

OK





# Get Trained!

- Before you have your first MB counseling session with youth, complete training:
  - Merit badge counselor training ([my.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org))
  - Quick read: "[The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling](#)"
  - Know the written rules:
    - [A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling](#) (512-065)
    - [Guide to Advancement 2025](#) (33088)



## Scouts BSA - Merit Badge Couns Position Specific Training

Learning Plan

Total time: 34m

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# Basic Rules

1. Remember YPT. A parent must be in attendance for any 1-on-1 session.
2. Do not add to or modify requirements!
3. Take note of the **verbs** in requirements
  1. ***Explain, discuss, demonstrate, show***, etc.
  2. Try to live up to the verb
  3. A filled-out worksheet is usually not sufficient
4. **Do not reassess** passed requirements from other counselors (e.g., summer camp, HMNS)
5. Scouts can meet requirements before meeting with you.

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# Eagle-required Merit Badges (1)

## Camping

Camping in a range of environments

## Citizenship in the Community

Local governmental structure

## Citizenship in the Nation

U.S. Civics 101

## Citizenship in the World

Immigration, diplomacy, international law

## Citizenship in Society

Ethics; experience in diverse environments

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# Eagle-required Merit Badges (2)

## Communications

Writing and presentations

## Cooking

Outdoor cooking

## Cycling

Mountain or road biking competence

## Emergency preparedness

Emergency responder; disaster recovery

## Environmental science

Ecology, biology, botany

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# Eagle-required Merit Badges (3)

Family life

Parenthood

First aid

Emergency responder, medical professional

Hiking

Hiking, especially at 10–20 miles

Lifesaving

**Red Cross First Aid/ CPR/AED or equivalent**

**BSA Lifeguard or Aquatics Instructor or equivalent**

Personal fitness

Access to fitness test equipment

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# Eagle-required Merit Badges (4)

Personal management

Finance, insurance, accounting

Sustainability

Ecology, engineering

Swimming

Competitive swimming

**BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat**

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# Delivery Approaches

## Self-Paced

Scout works without guidance and asks for periodic check-offs with MB Counselor. Zoom is a good option, especially for one-on-one.

## Two meetings

First Meeting - Set expectations (can be done by email instead)

Second Meeting - Approve work

## In-person Class

Multiple 60–90-minute meetings or one long meeting

Need to schedule room (go through Committee Chair for SJD requests)

Merit Badge Fair is good opportunity

**“Cleaning Up Partial”** – consider Zoom or finish in one meeting

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# Example: Citizenship in Society

## Homework

- Req 1a - research and explain terms
- Req 2 - personal definition of leadership
- Req 3b - list 3 examples of ethical decisions
- Req 4 - choose 2 of 3 scenarios and develop your response
- Req 5 - write down answers to a, b, c
- Req 6 - share with another Scout
  - a - what makes identity special
  - b - exclusion
- Req 7a - identify and interview or research DEI champion
- Req 8 - research event that had positive outcome on society
- Req 9 - write down 3 or more areas outside Scouting where you can provide leadership
- Req 11a - write down ideas to support inclusion of those with different identities
- Req 11c - write down 3 examples of harm from limiting diverse input
- Req 11d - write down 3 examples of success from diverse input

## Discussion

- Req 1b - explain terms relationship to Scout Oath and Law
- Req 2a - individual demonstrating positive leadership
- Req 2b - explain 2a's decision and options
- Req 3a - discuss ethical decision
- Req 3b - share how 3 examples align with Scout Oath and Law
- Req 3c - explain how you would apply examples to personal life
- Req 4 - Scout Oath and Law
- Req 4 - Discuss your responses to your chosen scenarios
- Req 5 - discuss your answers a, b, c with counselor
- Req 6c - discuss your answers a, b with counselor
- Req 7b - discuss DEI champion interview with counselor
- Req 8 - report to counselor what you learned
- Req 9 - discuss 3 areas where you can provide leadership
- Req 10 - discuss stereotypes
- Req 11a - describe ideas to support others with different identities
- Req 11b - explain benefits of diverse thoughts and opinions





# Observations

- Easier to work online Scoutbook than paper blue cards. (Scoutbook doesn't get lost)
- MB requirements sometimes use strange vocabulary
- Read merit badge pamphlet to better understand vocabulary
- Ages 11–17 cover a wide developmental range
  - Knowledge, focus, abstract thought, basic math
  - Consider lowest common denominator in group settings
- Scouts are squirmy. Think through how to keep them engaged
- Scouts need help in following up on long requirements.  
Example: logs

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# Merit Badge Record Keeping for Merit Badge Counselors (SB)

June 3, 2025 (in Scoutbook Legacy): [Steps in MBCs working with Scouts in SB](#)

As of August 2025, Scoutbook Legacy switched to Scoutbook Plus. Come back for newer instructions!

## Coming soon!

