

Merit Badge Counselor Basics

Gerry McGlamery

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





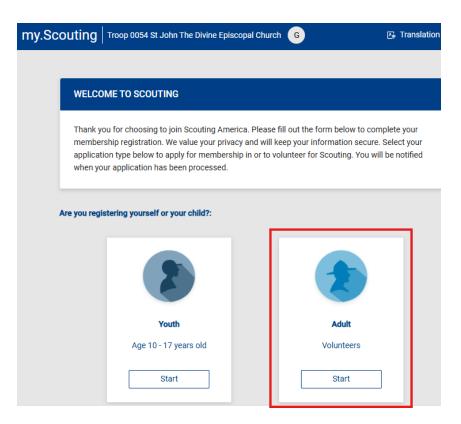
Step 1. Register as an adult volunteer with Troop 54.

Step 1. Go to My.Scouting.org and create an account.

Step 2. <u>Complete Youth</u>

<u>Protection Training</u> online.

Step 3. Complete the online <u>Scouts BSA</u> registration form (Adult) and pay fees.











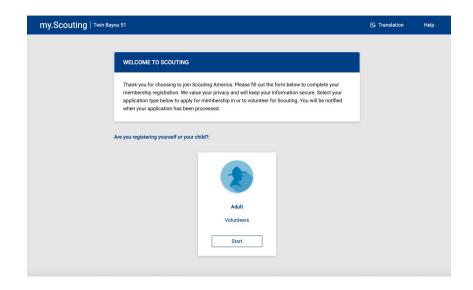
Step 2. Register as a Merit Badge Counselor Note: at this step you are already

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

https://my.scouting.org/V ES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?tu=U F-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".

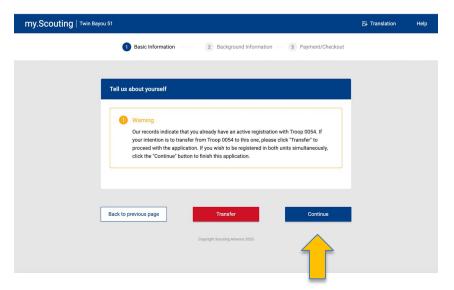


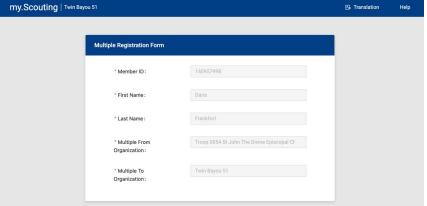






Registration, continued







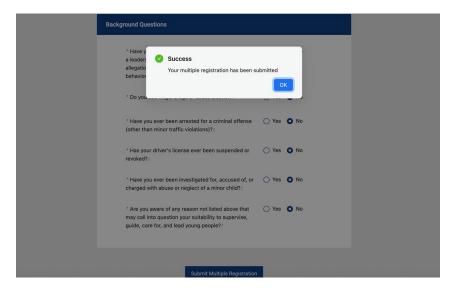






Registration, last step.

a leadership position in an organization due to allegations regarding your personal conduct or behavior?: * Do you use illegal drugs or abuse alcohol?: * Have you ever been arrested for a criminal offense (other than minor traffic violations)?: * Has your driver's license ever been suspended or revoked?: * Have you ever been investigated for, accused of, or charged with abuse or neglect of a minor child?: * 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?:	* Have you ever been removed from or asked to leave	○ Yes • No
 Have you ever been arrested for a criminal offense (other than minor traffic violations)?: Has your driver's license ever been suspended or revoked?: Have you ever been investigated for, accused of, or charged with abuse or neglect of a minor child?: Are you aware of any reason not listed above that may call into question your suitability to supervise, 	allegations regarding your personal conduct or	
(other than minor traffic violations)?: * Has your driver's license ever been suspended or revoked?: * Have you ever been investigated for, accused of, or charged with abuse or neglect of a minor child?: * Are you aware of any reason not listed above that may call into question your suitability to supervise,	* Do you use illegal drugs or abuse alcohol?:	○ Yes • No
revoked?: * Have you ever been investigated for, accused of, or charged with abuse or neglect of a minor child?: * Are you aware of any reason not listed above that may call into question your suitability to supervise,	*	○ Yes ○ No
charged with abuse or neglect of a minor child?: * Are you aware of any reason not listed above that Yes No may call into question your suitability to supervise,		○ Yes • No
may call into question your suitability to supervise,		○ Yes • No
	may call into question your suitability to supervise,	Yes O No
	Submit Multiple Registration	









Get Trained!

- Before you have your first MB counseling session with youth, complete training:
 - Merit badge counselor training (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











Basic Rules

- Remember YPT. A parent must be in attendance for any 1on-1 session.
- 2. Do not add to or modify requirements!
- 3. Take note of the **verbs** in requirements
 - 1. Explain, discuss, demonstrate, show, etc.
 - 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.





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







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







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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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 Partials" – 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
- Reg 8 research event that had positive outcome on society
- Reg 9 write down 3 or more areas outside Scouting where you can provide leadership
- Reg 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
- Reg 2b explain 2a's decision and options
- Reg 3a discuss ethical decision
- Reg 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
- Reg 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





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- 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





Merit Badge Record Keeping for Merit Badge Counselors (SB)

June 3, 2025 (in Scoutbook Legacy): <u>Steps in MBCs</u> working with Scouts in SB

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

Coming soon!



