

TROOP 22  **BRAINTREE**
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
OLD COLONY COUNCIL

Merit Badge Policies and Procedures

Becoming a Merit Badge Counselor (MBC)

As a merit badge counselor, your mission will be to join fun with learning. You will be both a teacher and mentor as the Scout works on a merit badge and learns by doing. Your hands-on involvement could inspire a Scout to develop a lifelong hobby, pursue a particular career, or become an independent, self-supporting adult.

- Adult notifies the Advancement Chairman or Scout Master of their interest in becoming a Merit Badge Counselor. They review what skills would be considered necessary for the particular Merit Badge(s).
- If still interested, the adult is asked to complete the following:
 - A Merit Badge Counselor application,
 - The BSA Adult application,
 - A CORI form,
 - Take the online Youth Protection Training (YPT) course.
- Either before submission of the above required forms or after approval from BSA, do the following
 - Review additional material on Merit Badge Counselor on Scouting.org,
 - Take the BSA courses on Boy Scouting recommended by the Advancement Chairman or Scout Master.
- The forms will be reviewed for completeness, the appropriate signature obtained and then delivered to the Council office.
- Upon approval by BSA;
 - The adult is added to the Troop records,
 - Announcement is made at the next Troop Meeting,
 - The new MBC is given the opportunity to speak to the Troop and introduce him/her self.

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Helpful Hints

Here are some simple tips that every merit badge counselor should keep in mind.

- Make the Scout feel welcome and relaxed.
- Stimulate the Scout's interest by showing him something related to the merit badge subject, but don't overwhelm him; remember, he is probably a beginner.
- Carefully review each requirement, start with easy skills or questions, and encourage practice.
- Insist that the Scout do exactly what the requirements specify. Many of the requirements involve hands-on activities that call for a Scout to show or demonstrate; make; list; discuss; or collect, identify, and label—and he must do just that.
- Don't make the requirement more difficult—or any easier—than stated. A Scout may undertake more activities on his own initiative, but he cannot be pushed to do so.
- During testing, the Scout might need help in a particular area or with a certain skill, and may need to be retested later to ensure the requirement has been fulfilled.
- Encourage self-evaluation and self-reflection, and establish an atmosphere that encourages the Scout to ask for help.
- Take a genuine interest in the Scout's projects, and encourage completion.