



August 15, 2017

Mandatory Merit Badge Counselor Training

In support of the ongoing effort to provide our youth with the safest and best quality programs possible, the Cradle of Liberty Council Advancement and Training Committees, comprised of volunteer leadership from throughout our council, have determined it is in the best interest of our youth to ensure that all Merit Badge Counselors in our council are fully trained for their position by January 1, 2019.

Those who are not fully trained by December 31, 2018, will not be re-registered in that position. At that time, all new Merit Badge Counselors will need to provide evidence of being fully trained before they can register and begin their service to Scouts.

Why the Change?

As set by the national organization, Merit Badge Counselors had to have taken both Youth Protection Training and Merit Badge Counselor Orientation to be considered trained in their position. However, these individuals were not previously required by the Cradle of Liberty Council to be fully trained in their position.

In June of this year, Merit Badge Counselor Training became available for the first time online, through the learning center at www.my.scouting.org. This made the training much more accessible than the previous classroom in-person version.

The requirement to be trained in one's position continues the Council's efforts that started in 2011 to have all leaders fully trained. Until the online training became available, it was impractical to ask all Merit Badge Counselors to complete the Merit Badge Counselor Orientation since the course was only offered once each year in our council. With the accessibility of online training, it is now possible to require this training of all Merit Badge Counselors.

To assist in the implementation of this training requirement, the following page shares additional information on what is required to be fully trained as a Merit Badge Counselor, and how to obtain the needed training.

Thank you to all our Merit Badge Counselors for your service and commitment to continue to offer great experiences to our Scouts!

Yours in Scouting,

Arland Hotchkiss, Chair
Cradle of Liberty Council Advancement Committee

George Witmayer, Chair
Cradle of Liberty Council Training Committee





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Frequently Asked Questions

What is “Fully Trained”?

A fully trained Merit Badge Counselor must complete:

Youth Protection Training – (Required of all volunteers since 2011)

Merit Badge Counselor “Position Specific Training,” which is fulfilled by one of the following two options:

- A) Merit Badge Counselor Orientation, D76 (in-person, classroom course)
- B) Merit Badge Counselor Online Training, consisting of six modules:

Module Name	Code	Duration (mm:ss)
Aims & Methods of Scouting	SCO_402	7:41
Ideals & Beliefs of Boy Scouting	SCO_403	8:29
Merit Badge Counselors for Boy Scouting	SCO_416	9:45
Intro to Merit Badges for Boy Scouting	SCO_415	11:36
Merit Badge Counselor Sign Up	SCO_417	5:05
Advancement for Boy Scouting	SCO_407	9:46
		Total: 53 Min.

Note: A key benefit of the “module” structure is that most of these are the same ones required for other positions, and many volunteers who have completed their training online have already taken them. For example, a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster who took their position specific training online, needs only to complete the module “Merit Badge Counselor Sign Up” as they have already completed the other modules. Similarly, the Troop Committee Member who has taken the online modules for that position, needs only to complete “Merit Badge Counselor Sign Up” and “Merit Badge Counselors for Boy Scouting,” as they have already completed the other modules.

How can I take these trainings?

All online training is available through the Boy Scouts of America’s training site – www.my.scouting.org. Once logged in, click “BSA Learn Center” on the right, then Boy Scouting under Program Specific Training, and choose “Merit Badge Counselor” to start the training program.

Periodically, classroom Merit Badge Counselor Orientation course will be offered. These courses will be posted on the online calendar, located at www.colbsa.org.

How do I update my training records?

If taking training through www.my.scouting.org, and you have updated your profile to include your BSA ID#, then your records will automatically update as you complete training. If you have a training card or other evidence of training, please forward to the council registrar to have your record updated. You can view your training records at anytime at www.my.scouting.org.

