

The Quinnipiac District Merit Badge Counselor Registration Procedure

Revised 11/1/2023

Quinnipiac District Merit Badge Coordinator:

Donald Kaletsky, dkaletsky-bsa@yahoo.com, 203-530-5697

- ♦ The “Merit Badge Counselor” is a District position, even if the Counselor will work exclusively with a specific unit(s). Merit Badge Counselors are not part of a Troop’s Charter Renewal Process.
- ♦ All Merit Badge Counselors in the Connecticut Yankee Council are required to complete **Youth Protection Training EVERY** year.
- ♦ All Merit Badge Counselors are required to complete **Merit Badge Counselor Training** once.
- ♦ **There are no Registration Fees or Council Operations Fees for Merit Badge Counselors who are registered dues-paying adult members at the Unit, District, or Counsel level.**
All other Merit Badge Counselors must pay a National \$25.00 Registration Fee Yearly.
- ♦ All Merit Badge Counselor applications must be approved by Quinnipiac District Merit Badge Coordinator before the registration will be entered in the BSA database “SCOUT BOOK”.

How to Become a Merit Badge Counselor

Mail, or E-mail the following to Donald Kaletsky
6 South Wind Lane / Milford, CT 06460

or

dkaletsky-BSA@yahoo.com

- An **Adult Application Form** (*the Position Code for Merit Badge Counselors is 42*). Completely fill-in the form including the “Background Check Authorization” section.
(Unit Leaders or Committee Chairs **do not** sign this form. This is a District Position, not a Troop Position)
Pickup this form at the Scout office **or**
<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-501.pdf>
- The **Merit Badge Counselor Information Form**. **Read the directions on the back**
<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34405.pdf>
- Proof of **Current Youth Protection Training**. <https://my.scouting.org/>
- Proof of **Merit Badge Counselor Training**. <https://my.scouting.org/>

These 4 Modules are needed to complete

"Merit Badge Counselor Position Specific Training".

- SCO_472 Aims & Methods Of Scouts BSA
- SCO_471 Advancement
- SCO_486 What is a Merit Badge Counselor
- SCO_474 Introduction to Merit Badges

⇒ OR ⇐

Classroom Training – Merit Badge Counselor Orientation Training # D76

Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Counselors need to take specific training and to fulfill special requirements.
You may request these from Donald Kaletsky.

How to Continue to be a Merit Badge Counselor

You must complete Youth Protection Training **EVERY** year. Merit Badge Counselors who are not current with their Youth Protection Training will be removed from our list March first each year. Unlike "National", CYC is on a one year Youth Protection Training system. **YOU MUST BE CURRENT WITH YOUR YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEES.**

How to change which Merit Badges you wish to teach.

You must turn in a new Merit Badge Counselor Information Form with "**Add**" and/or "**Delete**" to the Quinnipiac District Merit Badge Coordinator.

How to stop being a Merit Badge Counselor.

You must notify the Quinnipiac District Merit Badge Coordinator, ASAP.

Online References

A Guide to Merit Badge Counseling, (booklet)

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-065.pdf>

The Merit Badge Program

<https://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/the-merit-badge-program/>

Current Merit Badge Requirements

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

Guide to Merit Badge Counselors

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/mb-counselor-guide/>

BSA National Shooting Sports Manual

https://www.scouting.org/filestore/outdoor%20program/pdf/30931_wb.pdf

The following Merit Badges have special qualifications or certifications for either the Merit Badge Counselor or the supervisor of certain activities that may be involved.

Counselors and advancement administrators should consult the merit badge pamphlets for details and to maintain awareness of changes and updates as pamphlets are revised.

Climbing. All climbing, belaying, and rappelling exercises and activities must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult rock-climbing instructor, age 21 or older, who has completed BSA Climb On Safely training and who understands the risks inherent to these activities. Training as a BSA climbing Level 2 Instructor is highly recommended. Someone with certification in First Aid/ CPR/AED from the American Red Cross (or equivalent) must be present at these activities. Current policies are found in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss08/#a and supersede any other publications or literature.

Snow Sports. Activities in the field must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult 21 years or older who is committed to compliance with BSA Winter Sports Safety. Current policies are found in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss12/#b.

Aquatics-Related Merit Badges

The qualifications below for aquatics-related merit badge counseling and supervision not only assist in managing risk, but also give counselors credibility. Current policies are found at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss02 and supersede any other publications or literature

Canoeing. Those supervising canoeing activities must have either BSA Aquatics Instructor or Canoeing Instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Kayaking. Those supervising kayaking activities must have formal training in kayaking and paddle craft instruction, evidenced by either BSA Aquatics Instructor or Paddle Craft Safety Instructor certification, or kayaking instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, or American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Lifesaving. Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult, age 21 or older, with certification in Red Cross First Aid/ CPR/AED or equivalent, and as a BSA Lifeguard or Aquatics Instructor or equivalent.

Motor Boating. Motor boating activities must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult, age 21 or older, who has completed Safety Afloat training.

Appropriate credentials include current or previous certification by an organization (such as the National Safe Boating Council, the United States Power Squadrons, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, or the US Powerboating component of US Sailing) that meets the voluntary National On-Water Standards for Powerboating or the NASBLA national boating education standards for powerboating; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Rowing. Those supervising rowing activities must have either BSA Aquatics Instructor certification or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Scuba Diving. All phases of scuba instruction—classroom, pool, and open-water training—are limited to instructors trained and certified by one of the BSA's recognized scuba agencies as found in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

Small Boat Sailing. Those supervising sailing activities must have completed Safety Afloat training. They must be a mature and conscientious adult age 21 or older. Appropriate credentials include instructor certification with a recognized sailing agency or school, US Sailing, or the American Sailing Association for sailing experience with different hull types including the rig being used for instruction; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Swimming. Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be conducted according to BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat.

Water Sports. Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be conducted according to BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat.

Whitewater. Those supervising whitewater activities must be certified as whitewater canoeing or kayaking instructors by the American Canoe Association or have equivalent certification, training, or expertise.

Shooting Sports-Related Merit Badges

The qualifications below for shooting sports-related merit badge counseling and supervision not only assist in managing risk, but also give counselors credibility. Current policies are found at www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss08/#a and supersede any other publications or literature. See the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual* for further details on shooting sports.

Archery. Archery activities must be supervised by a BSA National Camping School-trained shooting sports director or USA Archery or National Field Archery Association instructor, or by someone who has been trained by one of the three; or alternatively, the activities may be supervised by someone with at least Level 1 training in the operation of an archery range from USA Archery, NFAA, or an equivalent.

Rifle Shooting. The merit badge counselor is responsible for ensuring that all instruction or other activities involving any handling of firearms or live ammunition is consistent with state and federal law and supervised by a certified BSA National Camping School (NCS) shooting sports director, or National Rifle Association (NRA) Rifle Shooting Instructor or Coach. Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzleloaders must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/National Muzzleloader Rifle Association (NMLRA)-certified muzzleloader firearms instructor. Shooting must be supervised by an NRA certified Range Safety Officer (RSO). If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. The supervisor and instructor may not be the same person. Note that commercial shooting ranges may provide RSOs.

Shotgun Shooting. The merit badge counselor is responsible for ensuring that all instruction or other activities involving any handling of firearms or live ammunition is consistent with state and federal law and supervised by a certified NCS shooting sports director or NRA Shotgun Instructor or Coach. Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzle-loading shotguns must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/NMLRA-certified muzzleloading shotgun instructor. Shooting must be supervised by an NRA certified Range Safety Officer. If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. They may not be the same person. Note that commercial shooting ranges may provide RSOs.

All certifications listed above must be current.

The required qualifications above for merit badge counseling and supervision not only assist in managing risk, but also give counselors credibility. Scouts will see them as people of importance they can look up to and learn from. A well-qualified counselor can extend a young person's attention span: More will be heard and understood, discussions will be more productive, and true interest will be developed. The conversations can lead to a relationship of mutual respect where the Scout is confident enough to offer thoughts and opinions, and to value those of the merit badge counselor. Thus it is that social skills and self-reliance grow, and examples are set and followed.