

Merit Badge Counseling in Sam Houston Area Council

The Scouts BSA merit badge program is more than an opportunity to learn a skill, find a hobby, or inspire the pursuit of a career. Association with a variety of adults through the merit badge program provides a great personal growth experience. Learning the process of contacting an unknown counselor, arranging an appointment, and keeping that appointment helps develop a skill that Scouts will need and use throughout their lives. Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC) has over 2,000 registered merit badge counselors (MBC) to support our youth members.

In SHAC, volunteers who wish to serve as an MBC may register with their district to counsel up to 16 merit badges. To be approved as a counselor for more than 16 merit badges, the applicant must provide evidence that *not* being approved will act as a barrier to advancement in their home district. The application must be supported by the district advancement chair.

The authority to regulate the Merit Badge Counselor process comes from the *Guide to Advancement* (Section 7.0.1.4). Other regulations pertaining to the MBC program may be found in adjacent sections.

To become a new merit badge counselor, submit to the registrar:

- [Adult application](#) – either online using a link provided by the district executive, or via paper application and delivered in hardcopy. Please note that signatures from the unit are irrelevant since *MBC is a district position*;
- [Merit Badge Counselor Information Form](#) indicating badges the MCE wishes to counsel;
- Proof of current Safeguarding Youth Training; and
- Payment of the MBC registration fee, if not already registered and paid with another unit.

To update an existing merit badge counselor's approved list, submit to the registrar:

- New [Merit Badge Counselor Information Form](#) indicating additions or deletions, subject to review and approval by the district advancement chair.

Remember...

- An MBC cannot counsel more than 16 badges. If more are requested, a consultation with the applicant will be needed, usually by the district advancement chair.
- MBC is a *district registration* and will *not* show on a unit roster.
- Adding merit badges over 16 to support a council event offering merit badges will be considered, if needed.