



Merit Badge Counselor Registration Renewal for 2017-2018

By Susan McCaughan, Council Registrar

Did you know...It's Merit Badge Counselor registration renewal time again? Here are some things to know when it comes to renewing registration for this position:

1. Merit Badge Counselors are registered for 1 year at a time and need to be renewed every year.
2. Merit Badge Counselors are a District Position and, like the other district leaders, have a registration period that is from May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018.
3. If you haven't already taken the Merit Badge Counselor Orientation (either online or in a classroom setting), go to www.mountbakerbsa.org, click on the word "Advancement" from the menu (do not click on anything from the drop-down menu); scroll down until you see "The-Essentials-of-Merit-Badge-Counseling" and click on it.
 - a. Read through the PowerPoint presentation. To receive credit for completing *Merit Badge Counselor Orientation Training*, please email 606training@scouting.org to inform the Mount Baker Council that you have viewed and completed this training. Your training profile will then be manually updated to reflect completion of *Merit Badge Counselor Orientation Training (D76)*.
 - b. Thank you in advance for becoming a TRAINED Merit Badge Counselor." This training is needed in order to be "Fully Trained" as a Merit Badge Counselor.
 - c. Who knows, you may learn something new or be reminded of something that you have forgotten.
 - d. *Note: This training is not available through your my.Scouting account.*
4. Remember, in the Mount Baker Council, Youth Protection training is required to be taken annually, rather than every two years as indicated in some publications.
 - a. So, if you have taken Youth Protection training sometime between May, 2016 and April, 2017, then you're good to go.
 - b. Youth Protection training can be taken online through your my.Scouting account or in a classroom (a training report will need to be turned into the Everett Scout Service Center so that it can be manually entered into your training profile).
5. If you are currently registered as a Merit Badge Counselor, you will be contacted by your District Advancement Committee with a phone call, email, etc. to see if you want to renew.
 - a. The sooner you respond to them saying that you want to renew (or don't want to), the easier you make it for them. Their time is valuable, too.
 - b. Let them know if you want to drop any Merit Badges.
 - c. If you want to add any Merit Badges, you will need to complete a Merit Badge Counselor application form and include why you are qualified to be a Counselor for that particular Merit Badge. The District will decide then if you are approved.
 - d. Remember to read through the requirements for a merit badge before signing up for it. You may think that you are qualified just by hearing the name of the merit

badge, but ask yourself, “Am I really capable of helping a Scout earn this merit badge?”

- e. Check out the requirements for the new “Exploration” merit badge.
6. By signing up to be a Merit Badge Counselor in the Mount Baker Council, you are saying that you are willing to help any Scout when he asks you to be his Merit Badge Counselor.
 - a. This is not a “Troop only” position.
 - b. Keep in mind, a Scout is going out of his comfort zone by contacting a Counselor who he does not know. This should indicate that he really wants to earn that merit badge.
 - c. There may be times when you may not be able to say yes when asked. Be sure to let the Scout know in a timely manner that you are not able to help rather than not responding to him at all.
 7. Some merit badges have special qualifications needed in order to be approved as a Counselor. For instance, in the Mount Baker Council the Rifle Shooting and Shotgun Shooting Counselors need to be NRA instructor certified or be National Camp School certified. (See Guide to Advancement 2015, section 7.0.1.1 for qualifications of Counselors.)
 8. If you have never been a Merit Badge Counselor before or it has been more than a year since you have been one:
 - a. Complete a BSA Adult application along with the Merit Badge Counselor form (it has been updated), and attach your Youth Protection training certificate. Since this is a District position and not a Unit position, the signatures of the Committee Chair and Chartered Organization Representative are not needed on the adult application.
 - b. You can download the forms by going to www.mountbakerbsa.org, in the menu tab click on the words, “About Us” (not the drop down menu); scroll down until you see “Useful Scouting Forms” and click on it; on the right side you will find the adult application and the Merit Badge Counselor application.
 - c. Drop it off or mail it to one of the Mount Baker Council Service Centers.
 - d. Your application will be reviewed by your District’s Advancement Committee. If approved, your name will go on the approved Merit Badge Counselor list for your District.

For making a positive impact in a Scout's life...Thank you!

Role of a Merit Badge Counselor

Mentoring:

- ✦ Establish a relationship, taking a genuine interest in the Scout's projects.
- ✦ Spark curiosity.
- ✦ Go for the deeper dive.
- ✦ Encourage long term goal-setting.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Prepared. For Life.