

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR APPLICATION

The counselor is the key to success in the merit badge plan. They offer their time, experience, and knowledge to guide Scouts in one or more merit badge subjects. The counselor's job is to:

- ◆ Assist the Scout as he plans the assigned projects and activities to meet the merit badge requirements.
- ◆ Coach the Scout through interviews and demonstrations on how to do the required skills of his own craft, business, or hobby.
- ◆ Certify the Scout after determining if he is qualified for the merit badge.

Merit badge counselors are listed by the Scouting organization, so that Scouts may call for appointments.

The number of Scouts requesting help is usually no burden to the counselor, since the number of counselors is normally determined by the popularity of the badge. The counselor makes appointments at his or her convenience.

AS A MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR I AGREE TO:

- ◆ Follow the requirements in the Merit Badge pamphlet, ensuring that the advancement standards are FAIR AND UNIFORM for all Scouts.
- ◆ Make sure that the Scout has a Merit Badge Application card SIGNED by his unit leader.
- ◆ Require that the Scout does EXACTLY what is stated – NO MORE and NO LESS. If it says “show or demonstrate” that is what he must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same holds true for “make”, “list”, “in the field”, “collect”, “identify”, “label”.
- ◆ If counseling more than one Scout at a time, each Scout must be TESTED INDIVIDUALLY.
- ◆ Without changing the requirements, make the Scout aware of the DEEPER aspects of the subject from my knowledge and experience.
- ◆ Require the Scout to bring a buddy (another Scout, friend, or parent) at all instructional sessions.
- ◆ Keep my registration current if I plan to continue as a counselor.

For more information, read the BSA pamphlet No. 34520, “Merit Badge Counseling”

THE MERIT BADGE PROGRAM IS ONE OF SCOUTING'S BASIC CHARACTER-BUILDING TOOLS

- ◆ This is accomplished by putting the boys in contact with as many different counselors, with whom they may not be acquainted, as possible. (REMEMBER – the Scout must bring a buddy)
- ◆ Counselors should be ACTIVELY involved in each Merit Badge subject through work or hobby.
- ◆ You may add or delete Merit Badges that you wish to counsel at any time by contacting your District Advancement Committee Chair in writing.
- ◆ Child abuse is a serious problem. Guidelines have been established to protect both the youth and the adults involved in the program. As a counselor, you must give each Scout individual attention; however, you must not work alone with him. A Scout MUST have a buddy with him (another Scout, friend or parent), and it is recommended that the counselor have a member of his or her family visibly present at all times.

Applicant's Signature: _____