

Merit Badge

Counselor

Training





**Prepared by: Robert C. Warner**  
**Piedmont District**  
**Blue Ridge Mountains Council**

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**For comments, questions or corrections, please contact Bob Warner: email: [rcwscouts@aol.com](mailto:rcwscouts@aol.com); land line: (434) 384-6306; or snail mail: 5313 Hickory Hill Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503**





# Table of Contents

<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u>
Objective	1
Reasons	2
Merit Badge Program Quiz	3
<b>The Administrative</b>	5
Merit Badge Counselors--Their Approval and Listing	6
<b>The Award</b>	8
What is a Merit Badge?	9
Career Fields	10
<b>Merit Badge Counselor Requirements</b>	11
Requirements for a Merit Badge Counselor	12
The Purpose of Scouting	13
To Achieve this Purpose	14
Religious Principles	15
Boy Scout Advancement Procedure	16
Purpose of The Review	17
What the Board of Review Learns about the Merit Badge Program	18
<b>The Merit Badge Process</b>	19
The Merit Badge Process	20
The Merit Badge Process--Group	22
Counseling Techniques	23
Merit Badge Library	24
Merit Badge Pamphlet and Merit Badge Requirement Revision Dates	27





# Objective:

**"All Merit Badge Counselors must be trained in the aims of Scouting and in advancement procedures."**

**"The district or council advancement committee should train counselors either as a group or individually."**

*Advancement Committee  
Policies and Procedures*



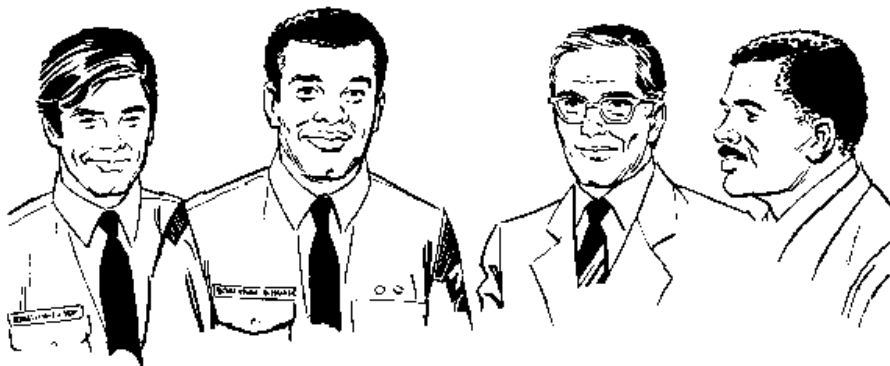
# Reasons:

**Knowledge**

**Understanding**

**Uniformity**

**Vision**





**MERIT BADGE PROGRAM QUIZ**

*[Test your knowledge of the BSA Merit Badge Counselor Program]*

1. A Merit Badge Counselor may only be a counselor for four Merit Badges. T F
2. A Merit Badge Counselor may only be a counselor for six Merit Badges. T F
3. A Merit Badge Counselor may not coach his own son or close relative (i.e., nephew) unless he is part of a group of Scouts all working on the same Merit Badge. T F
4. A Merit Badge Counselor who works only with a single unit needs only the unit committee chairman's and chartered organization representative's approval before being approved by the Scout Executive. T F
5. Persons serving as Merit Badge Counselors must be registered as a Merit Badge Counselor with the Boy Scouts of America. T F
6. Registered Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters who also serve as Merit Badge Counselor do not need to separately re-register as a Merit Badge Counselor. T F
7. A Scout may earn no more than six Merit Badges from the same Merit Badge Counselor. T F
8. Once a Scouter is approved as a Merit Badge Counselor, he is approved for life and never has to be reapproved again. T F
9. A unit Board of Review may approve the awarding of a Merit Badge in lieu of an approved Merit Badge Counselor. T F
10. A Scout must complete all the requirements for a Merit Badge within 12 months or he must start over. T F
11. A Merit Badge Counselor may take the Scout beyond the specific requirements of the Merit Badge so he may discover more about the subject and continue the learning process. T F
12. Due to the BSA policies related to child protection and two deep leadership, a Merit Badge Counselor must have another adult present during all Merit Badge Counseling sessions. T F



## Merit Badge Counselor Training



13. A Merit Badge Counselor for scoutcraft areas such a Pioneering Cooking, Hiking and Camping must accompany the Scout on these activities; therefore, it is usually more appropriate for the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster to be the Merit Badge Counselor. T F
14. There is a training program for Merit Badge Counselor. T F
15. A unit Board of Review, at the option of the Advancement Chairman, may examine a Scout on any part of a completed Merit Badge. T F
16. If because of the weather, locale, or some other condition makes meeting all of the conditions of the Merit Badge requirements impractical, the Merit Badge Counselor with his greater pool of skill and knowledge in the area may substitute requirements for those stated for the Merit Badge. T F
17. Merit Badge Counselors must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old. \_\_\_\_\_
18. The four steps in the advancement and Merit Badge program are: (1)\_\_\_\_\_, (2)\_\_\_\_\_, (3)\_\_\_\_\_, and (4)\_\_\_\_\_. (1)\_\_\_\_\_  
(2)\_\_\_\_\_  
(3)\_\_\_\_\_  
(4)\_\_\_\_\_
19. The requirements for a Merit Badge on the Eagle required list has one set of requirements in the Scout's The Boy Scout Handbook, a different set in the Merit Badge Pamphlet, and a third set in the Boy Scout Requirements, current edition. What should the Merit Badge Counselor do? \_\_\_\_\_
- Use the set in the Scout's **The Boy Scout Handbook** because those are the ones in effect when the Scout joined the Boy Scouts.
  - Use the set in the Merit Badge Pamphlet since that is the official publication for the Merit Badge.
  - Create an optimum set of requirements by combining the requirements of all three publications.
  - Use the requirements as listed in the **Boy Scout Requirements**.
20. A Merit Badge Counselor must present: (1)\_\_\_\_\_, (1)\_\_\_\_\_  
(2)\_\_\_\_\_, (3)\_\_\_\_\_, (2)\_\_\_\_\_  
and (4)\_\_\_\_\_ (3)\_\_\_\_\_  
(4)\_\_\_\_\_



# The Administrative



## MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS--THEIR APPROVAL AND LISTING

The following are salient points from the **BSA's "Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures,"** Publication 33088D, 2002 Printing, relating to the approval and listing of Merit Badge Counselors. These points include BSA requirements for the District and the Council.

**"Article X. Program (Advancement)--Rules and Regulations, Clause 13:**

"The responsibility for merit badges shall rest with the merit badge counselor approved by the local council..." (p 17) *NOTE: Misprint omitted last line.*

**"Responsibilities of the Council Advancement Committee:**

"Approve merit badge counselors and publish council and/or district merit badge counselor lists." (p 5)

**"Promoting Advancement:**

"Special civic, industrial, and retail contacts can be made on a council level that could expedite recruiting counselors,...not preempt the district committee responsibilities, but rather enhance and provide the district committee and units with resources that would not otherwise be available to them." (p 7)

**"Advancement in Summer Camp:**

"The procedures should be established, in writing, by the council advancement committee in cooperation with the camp director or program director prior to the beginning of camp." (p 7)

**"What is Advancement?:**

"No council, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add or subtract from advancement requirements." (p 3)

**"Approving Merit Badge Counselors and Publishing List of Counselors:**

"The council advancement committee is responsible for approving merit badge counselors." (p 7)

"The council advancement committee reviews the district merit badge [counselors] list and has it published at least once a year by the council service center." (p 7)

**"Qualifications of Counselors:**

"Register merit badge counselors by using the basic adult registration form. All merit badge counselors must be approved by the council advancement committee." (p 13)

Merit Badge counselors"...must be approved by the committee for each specific merit badge." (added by Rev. D, 33088, p 13)

*The following is not in the current publication. However, the form (34405) is still available.*

*The Merit Badge Counselor Information sheet is used by district or council advancement committees in determining the qualifications of persons to serve as merit badge counselors.*



### **"Maintaining a Current List of Merit Badge Counselors:**

"The district or council list of counselors should be reproduced for distribution to troops... When changes are made, these should be sent promptly to the units ... so that all units have readily available the names, addresses and phone numbers of counselors. Lists are updated at least once a year, usually when councils and districts reregister. (p 13)

"Merit badge counselors (Code 42) are registered with the local council. As with all council members, their registration must be renewed annually." (p 14)

"As part of the local council charter renewal process, the council advancement committee sends a letter to existing merit badge counselors who are to continue for another year. This provides the council an opportunity, at least annually, to assure that their merit badge counselor lists are updated. This also is an excellent opportunity to not reregister those persons identified as not following the policies and procedures of the Boy Scouts of America." (p 14)

### **"Troop...Merit Badge Counselors:**

"All merit badge counselors, even those who serve only one unit, must be approved by the council and district advancement committee, and counselors must register as a merit badge counselor." (p 14)

**"Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures,"** also states that the council compiles "a monthly District Advancement Report Summar(ies)..." and includes this summarization "...on the Application for Renewal of the Local Council Charter." (p 6)

*Noted in its deletion:*

*and that the District Advancement Committee should refer "to copies of the past few council charter renewals..." to determine which "...merit badges are most popular."*



# The Award



## What is a Merit Badge?

- an award based on completing a set of specific requirements
- a small piece of khaki cloth with a colored design
- the significant interest of an adult in helping a boy
- a subject of interest to a Scout
- a subject of interest to an adult
- a subject required to reach the Eagle rank
- a craft or hobby
- an idea of service
- a vocational field



## Career Fields

- vital impact on the life of a Scout
- may involve service clubs, unions or professional societies
- professional society members can be Merit Badge Counselors
- professional societies can help recruit and train Merit Badge Counselors



# **Merit Badge Counselor Requirements**



# Requirements for a Merit Badge Counselor

- Must possess the moral, educational and emotional qualities
- Must be at least 18 years old
- May be a citizen of the USA; or a noncitizen if in the US or a territory or country under the control of the US  
[this requirement was changed in the Rules and Regulations (January 2003), Article VIII, Section 2 and on the Adult Application under Qualification]
- Subscribe to:
  - the Declaration of Religious Principles
  - the Scout Oath or Promise
  - the Scout Law
- Have unique skills and education or experience or knowledge in the subject
- Have the interest to turn a color-embroidered piece of khaki cloth into something of significance for a Scout to want to earn it.
- Must complete an Adult Application with a Position Code of "42" and the Merit Badge Counselor Information (MPCI) form
- Must be approved by:
  - the District Advancement Committee
  - the Scout Executive or his designee
  - the Council Advancement Committee



# The Purpose of Scouting

- to promote, through cooperation with other agencies:
  - the ability of youth to do things for themselves and others
- to teach youth patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues



To achieve this purpose

**emphasis is placed on:**

educational program

oaths, promises and codes

**for:**

character development

citizenship training

mental fitness

physical fitness



## Religious Principles

1. Does not define what constitutes a belief in God or the practice of religion
2. Does not require membership in a religious organization
3. Does prefer and strongly encourage membership and participation in the religious programs and activities of a religious organization
4. Respects the convictions of those who exercise their constitutional freedom to practice religion
5. The standards by which a Scout's membership in a religious body is evaluated are those of that body. Therefore, an Eagle applicant must provide a reference from his religious leader to indicate whether he has lived up to their body's expectations

Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures as an interpretation of Article IX, Section 1, Clause 1 of Charter and By Laws of the Boy Scouts of America (p 16)



# Boy Scout Advancement Procedure

1. Learning
2. Testing
3. Reviewing
4. Recognition



## **Purpose of The Review**

1. To make sure that the work has been learned and completed
2. To check to see what kind of experience the boy is having in his patrol and troop
3. To encourage the Scout to advance to the next level

## **THE REVIEW IS NOT AN EXAMINATION**

Appropriate questions:

- where did he learn his skill
- who taught him
- what value did he gain from earning this recognition



## What the Board of Review Learns about the Merit Badge Program

- Did the Scout do what he was suppose to
- What kind of experience is the Scout having
- What changes need to be made in the program
- What are the Scout's ideals and goals
- Is there a good standard of performance
- Does the Scout recognize and understand the value of Scouting in his home, unit, school and community



# The Merit Badge Process



# The Merit Badge Process

1. A Scout is guided to the requirements for a Merit Badge.
2. The Scout finds the requirements in:
  - A. **Boy Scout Requirements**
  - B. Merit Badge Pamphlet, at:
    - (1) the Troop Library
    - (2) the public library
    - (3) a friend (peer)
    - (4) a friend (adult)
    - (5) a local store stocking Scout supplies
    - (6) a Scout store or trading post
  - C. Internet
3. The Scout looks at the requirements and decides he wants to pursue the Merit Badge.
4. The Scout indicates his interest in a particular Merit Badge to his Scoutmaster, who:
  - A. gives him an interview to determine interest, enthusiasm, and preparedness
  - B. gives him a signed **Application for Merit Badge**
  - C. with the District Merit Badge Counselor List, helps the Scout locate the name and phone number of the district/council approved Merit Badge Counselor
  - D. encourages the Scout to wear his Class A uniform when he visits the counselor with his buddy
5. The Scout telephones the Merit Badge Counselor and makes an appointment.
6. The Merit Badge Counselor sets the date and time for the Scout **and his buddy** and suggests the Scout:
  - A. bring the Merit Badge Pamphlet
  - B. bring the Application for Merit Badge
  - C. prepare by reading over the requirements and start working on some of the areas
  - D. bring the work he has started or accomplished



## Merit Badge Counselor Training

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- E. bring any other materials he may need
  - F. bring any other documentation he may have
7. The Merit Badge Counselor verifies the current requirements for the Merit Badge.
  8. At the first meeting, the Merit Badge Counselor and the Scout decide upon:
    - A. any projects that will be required (write these out)
    - B. a tentative schedule for completing the requirements both short-term and long-term, keeping the other obligations (Scout, school, church, etc.) in mind (write these completion date goals out)
    - C. dates, times and location for future meetings
  9. The number of counseling sessions depend on the difficulty of the Merit Badge requirements and the preparation and ability of the Scout.
  10. The Scout is expected to meet the requirements for the Merit Badge as stated--no more and no less.
  11. The Scout is coached and encouraged with a buddy present. The Merit Badge Counselor may expand on the information in the Merit Badge Pamphlet based on his knowledge, experience and expertise in the subject. He is encouraged to tell about his own experiences that positively reinforce the subject matter of the Merit Badge requirements.
  12. The Merit Badge Counselor assists the Scout to meet the requirements.
  13. The Scout is always tested individually, but with a buddy present, and as each requirement is completed the Merit Badge Counselor marks it on the application.
  14. The Merit Badge Counselor certifies when the Scout has completed the requirements and hardily congratulates him on completing the requirements.
  15. When possible, the Merit Badge Counselor attends the Court of Honor when the Scout receives public recognition of his accomplishment.



## The Merit Badge Process--Group

1. Either the troop committee, the Patrol Leader Council (PLC) or the district (i.e., Merit Badge College) decides to offer a Merit Badge to the entire troop or a group of Scouts (avoid Merit Badge factories).
2. A Merit Badge Counselor is selected using the District Merit Badge Counselor List and a tentative schedule is developed in mutual accord between the counselor and the troop or district leadership.
3. The Merit Badge Counselor develops the presentations and a learning aid handout. Individual sessions should usually be limited to 30 minutes at Troop meetings. Games are useful in developing the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for the Scouts and should be liberally used.
4. The Merit Badge Counselor should go over the requirements with the Scouts at the initial meeting and define his expectations for meeting each requirement with a positive outlook (don't forget to consider the age dichotomy within the troop).
5. Some or all testing may be accomplished by written tests. Remaining requirements must be done on an individual basis.
6. Some sessions may utilize guest experts to add variety. Also visual and tactile aids help stimulate interest and attention.



# Counseling Techniques

1. Scout must feel welcome and relaxed.

Techniques:

2. Stimulate the Scout's interest by showing him something related to the Merit Badge subject (don't overwhelm the Scout--remember he's probably a beginner).
3. Start the Scout with easy skills or questions.
4. Carefully review each requirement.
5. Insist that the Scout do exactly what the requirements call for:

Show or Demonstrate

Make

List

In the field

Collect, identify and label

6. Don't increase the requirement.

Scout may undertake more activities on his own initiative (encourage without pushing him off course).

7. During testing, the Merit Badge Counselor may find the Scout needs help learning a particular area. The Merit Badge Counselor teaches the needed skill, but then retests to ensure the area has been learned.
8. Encourage practice.
9. Follow up.
10. Encourage self-evaluation (reflection).
11. Establish an atmosphere that encourages the Scout to ask for help.
12. Take a genuine interest in the Scout's projects and encourages completion.



## MERIT BADGE LIBRARY

### Merit Badge Counselor Publications

**28-501V, Adult Application**, 2003 (4 pp)

*Adult registration form used for Merit Badge Counselors and marked in upper right hand blocks "MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR" and "DISTRICT NAME" and marked with position code "42" about the middle of the page along with position "MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR" again. Consists of a cover sheet, an instruction and information sheet and a 3-copy registration form. Form was significantly revised in 2003 to accommodate criminal background screening. Required of all Merit Badge Counselors whether already a registered Scouter or not.*

**57-491, Charter & Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America**, 1976, 2003 Printing (21 pp)

*The basic document of the BSA. The requirements for approving a MB counselor, the authority of the MB counselor, and the four steps in advancement all come from this document.*

**57-492, Rules & Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America**, 1976, 2003 Printing (24 pp)

*Many of the rules & regulations were removed from the Charter & Bylaws at least 30 years ago with a note and placed in this document. This printing changed the citizenship requirement.*

**4439, Work Sheet for Building a Merit Badge Counselor List**, no edition, 1999 printing (6 pp)

*Work sheet for building a Merit Badge Counselor List; primarily for use by the District or Council staff. Available on line as a PDF form from [www.scouting.org/forms/4439.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/forms/4439.pdf).*

**33009B, Scoutmaster Handbook**, 1998, Revised 2002, (188 pp)

*The Scoutmaster's primary guide. Contains a section on the merit badge program, which states that the Scoutmaster will give the Scout the name of a MB Counselor when he signs the Application for Merit Badge ("the blue card").*

**33088D, Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures**, 2002 (62 pp)

*Handbook for Scouters responsible for advancement at the Council, District and Unit levels. Contains the current BSA policies, procedures, rules and regulations as well as other information. Major change was to add Tiger Cubs to the document and revise Bobcat. Emphasis added on Merit Badge Counselors being approved for each specific merit badge.*

**33105, The Boy Scout Handbook**, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, (472 pp)

*The critical document for a Scout. Various printings contain slight differences. Provides the basic information for all facets of Scouting., including a chapter on the merit badge program. This chapter states that the Scout gets the name of a merit badge counselor from the SM, states that the MB counselor must be registered as a MB counselor, and a listing of the merit badges. MB requirements are no longer in the handbook. The handbook contains one error—it suggests that the latest requirements for a MB are in the current MB pamphlet.*



**33215F, Boy Scouts Requirements--2003**, 2003 (216 pp)

*Contains complete official requirements for each Merit Badge, advancement and special awards. Requirements in this publication may be more current than the Merit Badge Pamphlet; therefore, this publication takes precedence.*

**33414B, Merit Badge Pocket Certificate**, no edition, (1 pp)

*The Scout's official document that he has earned a merit badge. Usually presented to him at a Court of Honor.*

**34124A, Application for Merit Badge**, 1999, 2001 Printing (6 pp)

*Three panel, blue wallet-sized card that: (1) shows that the Scout has permission to start working on a particular Merit Badge; (2) records his progress; and (3), when completed, provides a separate panel record for the Scout, the Counselor and the Unit.*

**34403, Advancement Report**, no edition, (3pp)

*Formal document to report all advancement information and Board of Review results to the Council. Constitutes the Council's official record for advancement. Available on line as a PDF form from [www.scouting.org/forms/34403.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/forms/34403.pdf) as "Unit Advancement Report." Should be printed on three different colors of paper.*

**34405, Merit Badge Counselor Information**, 2001 (1 p)

*Form used to identify the Merit Badge Counselors, the Merit Badges they are willing to coach, and the necessary Counselor information; and by which the District secures the Counselor's agreement to follow the Merit Badge requirements and BSA policies. . Available on line as a PDF form from [www.scouting.org/forms/34405.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/forms/34405.pdf) as "Merit Badge Counselor Application."*

**34505B, Troop Committee Guidebook**, 1998, 2002 Printing (46 pp)

*Reduced in volume from its predecessor, #6505. Covers the Committee's duties and responsibilities. Contains specific guidelines on the Committee's responsibility in recruiting MB counselors and then submitting them to the District and Council Advancement Committees for approval.*

**34520, Merit Badge Counseling**, 1995 (8 pp)

*Pocket size, valuable booklet for all counselors and should be made available to them by the unit, district or council advancement committee. **No longer being printed.***

**34532A, A Guide for Recommending Merit Badge Counselors**, 1995 (8 pp)

*Single legal sheet folded into 4 panels; provides basic information on Merit Badges and counselors as an aid for Scouters in recruiting Merit Badge Counselors; information very closely related to information contained in **Merit Badge Counseling** above.*

**34542, Merit Badge Counselor Orientation**, 1995 (2 pp)

*An 8 1/2 x 11, pre-punched sheet of paper with the basic summary of the most critical areas of Merit Badge Counselor program and thus the Merit Badge Counselor Training. Best buy for a district to give their counselors.*



**34724A, Highlights for the District Advancement Committee...an Overview**, 1989 (12 pp)

*A brief pamphlet describing the basics of the advancement program in the Boy Scouts of America including definition of terms.*

**U4509C, The Merits of Scouting Poster**, 2002 (1 pp)

*Full color poster depicting each of the merit badges that Boy Scouts can earn (18" x 24").*

**Merit Badge Pamphlets**

*The Merit Badge Pamphlets are written for Scout-age boys; they are not necessary for either the Scout or the Counselor. It is felt that a qualified Counselor can coach the Scout through the requirements as identified in the latest issue of **Boy Scout Requirements**. The information in the pamphlet will help the Counselor to know what the Scout may be studying and the level of learning expected by the Boy Scouts of America; and the pamphlets may also contain suggestions for project or demonstrations that may stimulate the Counselor's ideas. At times, the requirements in the Merit Badge Pamphlet may lag behind the requirements in the **Boy Scout Requirements** due to editing and production delays in issuing the Merit Badge Pamphlet. The **Boy Scout Requirements** criteria take precedence. However, once a Scout has started working on a Merit Badge, he may stay with the requirements in effect when he started and shall not be required to meet newly introduced changes unless National places a time limit as was done for Physical Fitness.. The Boy Scouts of America started a program about three years ago of attempting to review each Merit Badge Pamphlet at least every five years and then updating and re-issuing them if required.*



## Current Merit Badge Pamphlet And Merit Badge Requirement Revision Dates

The following Table shows the latest Copyright and Revision dates for each of the Merit Badge Pamphlets currently in effect, and the date of the last change to the Requirements for each badge as compiled by the U. S. Scouting Service Project, Inc. In addition, it contains the current BSA Publication (Stock) Number for each pamphlet. The Stock Numbers are taken from the 2003 Official catalog.

There is a listing of the merit badge pamphlets and their last revision date on the inside back cover of the **Boy Scout Requirements** book each year (The 2003 edition is #33215F), but when checked carefully errors and/or omissions are frequently found in this listing. The table below has been revised to correct discrepancies in that list that have become apparent when more recent pamphlets have been found available (and from the 2003 Catalog listing). In particular, the U. S. Scouting Service Project has verified both earlier and later dates than those in BSA's listing by physical inspection of merit badge pamphlets at local Scout council trading posts or Scout Shops™.

New stock numbers appear for fifteen pamphlets issued in January 2003 plus four pamphlets issued during 2002 in the 2003 Catalog. These and the stock numbers issued in 2002 are shown in **bold** print in the table which follows, but some have not been verified in the Scout Shop™ yet, and thus the Pamphlet Copyright or Revision Dates are unknown.

When there is no date in the "Pamphlet Revision Date" column, the most recent edition date is the copyright date. These dates (Copyright and/or Revision) usually do NOT correspond to the date of the latest revision to the requirements for the Merit Badge. (The date is the date the CONTENT of the pamphlet was last updated.)

The BSA has used a number of techniques for identifying the most current edition of these pamphlets. The following descriptions all identify pamphlets that were last updated in 1985:

- **© 1969 - Revised in 1985**
- **1985 Edition**
- **1990 printing of the 1985 Edition**
- **2nd 1998 printing of the 1985 Revision**
- **1985 Revision**

If the date listed in the table below is 1985, any of them can be used by Scouts and Counselors, but the requirements page should be checked against the requirements on the U.S. Scouting Project site (<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/meritbadges.asp>), or in the current edition of the Boy Scout Requirements Book.

Note that in recent years, when the content has been updated, the stock number, like other



BSA publications, has been changed from 33123 to 33123A, 33123B, etc. If the stock number has changed, you should use the newer book, regardless of the dates listed below. Note that an initial letter is used in the catalog to designate which edition of the catalog is being used (W in 1999, X in 2000, Y in 2001, Z in 2002).

If you find a pamphlet with a later publication or copyright date or a newer stock number than I have listed below, please contact [pwolf@usscouts.org](mailto:pwolf@usscouts.org) with the Merit Badge name, BSA stock number (e.g.. 33999A, 33999B, etc.) and the exact wording of the revision description (as described above - (e.g. ©1999, 1999 Revision, 2nd 1999 printing of the 1985 Revision, etc.). If the booklet also has revised requirements, a copy of those requirements would also be appreciated so the site can be updated.

The [REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL MERIT BADGES](#) posted on the U.S. Scouting Project website are regularly updated and, as this handout is prepared, current as of March 10, 2003. If you are starting a Merit Badge, using the requirements listed on that website will provide the most correct set available. Never rely on those in the Merit Badge Pamphlet.

To add confusion, BSA sometimes has conflicting requirements published in different sources. For example, the requirements for **Personal Fitness** were revised in early 1999, subsequent to the publication of the **1999 Requirements Book**, and were in the **2000 Requirements Book** for the first time, even though the new requirements were available for use in 1999 from the BSA website and were mandatory after April 2000. In another example, BSA issued a new pamphlet for **Aviation**, with a new set of requirements, during 2000 after the publication of the **2000 Boy Scout Requirements Book**. Thus, Scouts starting the badge in 2000 could have used the old requirements until the **2001 Boy Scout Requirements Book** was issued, or they could have began work using the new requirements immediately. During 2002, four pamphlets were issued after **2002 Boy Scout Requirements** was issued: **Dentistry**, **Fishing**, **Fly Fishing**, and **Landscape Architecture**. And this is becoming a more common situation because of the following:

Several years ago, BSA embarked on a program of reviewing all the merit badge pamphlets on a scheduled basis. Their original goal was to review all 120 pamphlets in about 5 years (about 22 per year) and revise and reissue the pamphlets as appropriate. BSA then decided now to hold the publication of the revised pamphlets until January, but rather issue them as they became available. Thus, the general consensus of opinion is that Scouts will have the option of starting with the new requirements as soon as the pamphlets are issued, or they may start work using the old requirements in the current **Boy Scout Requirements** until the next edition of **Boy Scout Requirements** is issued. Once a Scout starts with a set of requirements, he continues with those requirements until he finishes the Merit Badge or decides to start over with the latest requirements. That is, UNLESS a special announcement is made by BSA, such as was done with **Personal Fitness** Merit Badge in 1999, that the new requirements became mandatory at some point.

The "Requirements Revision Date" in the table below reflects the date the revision first appeared in **Boy Scout Requirements**. Note that Music and Bugling, while separate Merit Badges, with separate requirements, are covered in one pamphlet—Music and Bugling.



## Current Merit Badge Pamphlet And Merit Badge Requirement Revision Dates

Merit Badge Name	Pamphlet Stock Number	Pamphlet Copyright Date	Pamphlet Revision Date	Requirements Book Revision Date
<a href="#">American Business</a>	<b>33325A</b>	<b>?</b>		<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">American Cultures</a>	33399	1995	.	1995
<a href="#">American Heritage</a>	33398	1976	.	pre 1982
<a href="#">American Labor</a>	33326	1987	1993	1987
<a href="#">Animal Science</a>	33395A	2000		2001
<a href="#">Archaeology</a>	35000	1997	.	1997
<a href="#">Archery</a>	33259	1986	1993	1987
<a href="#">Architecture</a>	33304	1995	.	1995
<a href="#">Art</a>	<b>33320A</b>	<b>2001</b>	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Astronomy</a>	33303	1971	1995	pre 1982
<a href="#">Athletics</a>	33324	1964	1983	pre 1982
<a href="#">Atomic Energy</a>	33275	1983	1994	pre 1982
<a href="#">Auto Mechanics</a>	33241A	2000		2001
<a href="#">Aviation</a>	33293A	2000	.	2001
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Backpacking</a>	<b>33232B</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Basketry</a>	33313	1968	1994	pre 1982
<a href="#">Bird Study</a>	33300A	1999	.	1999
<a href="#">Bugling</a> (Music and Bugling Pamphlet)	33341	1994	.	1999
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Camping</a>	33256A	1999		2000
<a href="#">Canoeing</a>	33305A	1989	1998	1998
<a href="#">Chemistry</a>	33382	1992	1996	1991
<a href="#">Cinematography</a>	<b>33238A</b>	<b>2001</b>	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Citizenship in the Community</a>	33249	1984	1993	1984
<a href="#">Citizenship in the Nation</a>	33248	1984	1993	1984
<a href="#">Citizenship in the World</a>	33260	1995	.	1993
<a href="#">Climbing</a>	35001A	1999	.	2000
<a href="#">Coin Collecting</a>	33390	1975	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Collections</a>	33242	1991	.	1991
<a href="#">Communications</a>	33258A	1997	.	1999
<a href="#">Computers</a>	33246	1993	.	1993
<a href="#">Cooking</a>	<b>33349A</b>	<b>2001</b>	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Crime Prevention</a>	33400	1996	1997	1996
<a href="#">Cycling</a>	33226	1996	.	1998
.	.	.	.	.



# Merit Badge Counselor Training



<a href="#">Dentistry</a>	<b>33394B</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Disabilities Awareness</a>	33370	1993	.	1993
<a href="#">Dog Care</a>	33289	1984	.	pre 1982
<a href="#">Drafting</a>	33262	1993	.	1993
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Electricity</a>	33408A	1999	.	1987
<a href="#">Electronics</a>	35003	1996	.	1999
<a href="#">Emergency Preparedness</a>	33368A	1995	.	pre 1982
<a href="#">Energy</a>	33335	1978	.	1987
<a href="#">Engineering</a>	33376A	2000	.	2001
<a href="#">Entrepreneurship</a>	35008	1998	.	1998
<a href="#">Environmental Science</a>	33363A	1998	.	1999
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Family Life</a>	33243	1991	.	1991
<a href="#">Farm Mechanics</a>	33346B	1997	.	1998
<a href="#">Fingerprinting</a>	33287	1983	.	pre 1982
<a href="#">Fire Safety</a>	33318	1995	.	1995
<a href="#">First Aid</a>	<b>33301B</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Fish and Wildlife Management</a>	33307	1990	.	1987
<a href="#">Fishing</a>	33231A	2002	.	2002
<b>Fly Fishing</b>	<b>33283</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Forestry</a>	33302	1984	.	1984
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Gardening</a>	<b>33240A</b>	<b>?</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Genealogy</a>	33383	1988	1994	1985
<a href="#">Geology</a>	33284	1985	.	1985
<a href="#">Golf</a>	<b>33397A</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Graphic Arts</a>	33374A	1998	.	1999
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Hiking</a>	<b>33407C</b>	1999	<b>2002</b>	2000
<a href="#">Home Repairs</a>	<b>33247A</b>	<b>?</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Horsemanship</a>	33298	1986	1994	1987
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Indian Lore</a>	33360	1996	.	1995
<a href="#">Insect Study</a>	<b>33353A</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Journalism</a>	33350A	1999	.	1999
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Landscape Architecture</a>	<b>33355A</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Law</a>	<b>33389A</b>	<b>2003</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Leatherwork</a>	<b>33310A</b>	<b>?</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Lifesaving</a>	33297B	2001	.	2001
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Mammal Study</a>	33271	1972	.	pre 1982
<a href="#">Medicine</a>	<b>33244A</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Metalwork</a>	<b>33312B</b>	<b>2001</b>	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Model Design and Building</a>	33280	1993	.	pre 1982



## Merit Badge Counselor Training



<a href="#">Motorboating</a>	33345	1992	1997	1998
<a href="#">Music</a> (Music and Bugling Pamphlet)	33341	1994	.	1998
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Nature</a>	33285	1991	.	pre 1982
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Oceanography</a>	33306	1983	1993	1995
<a href="#">Orienteering</a>	33385	1992	1995	pre 1982
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Painting</a>	<b>33372A</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Personal Fitness</a>	33286A	1999	.	1999
<a href="#">Personal Management</a>	35002	1996	2000	1998
<a href="#">Pets</a>	33281	1984	.	1995
<a href="#">Photography</a>	33340	1983	1994	1995
<a href="#">Pioneering</a>	33377	1993	1997	1993
<a href="#">Plant Science</a>	33396	1983	.	pre 1982
<a href="#">Plumbing</a>	33386A	1989	1999	pre 1982
<a href="#">Pottery</a>	<b>33314A</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Public Health</a>	33233	1996	.	1996
<a href="#">Public Speaking</a>	<b>33373A</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Pulp &amp; Paper</a>	33343	1982	1993	pre 1982
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Radio</a>	<b>33361A</b>	<b>2001</b>	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Railroading</a>	33292A	1992	.	1993
<a href="#">Reading</a>	33378	1993	.	1991
<a href="#">Reptile and Amphibian Study</a>	33288	1993	.	1993
<a href="#">Rifle Shooting</a>	<b>33330A</b>	<b>2001</b>	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Rowing</a>	33404A	1993	1998	1999
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Safety</a>	33347A	1997	.	1998
<a href="#">Salesmanship</a>	33351	1987	1997	pre 1982
<a href="#">Scholarship</a>	33384	1988	.	pre 1982
<a href="#">Sculpture</a>	<b>33322A</b>	<b>2002</b>	.	<b>2003</b>
<a href="#">Shotgun Shooting</a>	33331	1989	.	1987
<a href="#">Skating</a>	35006A	1999	.	1999
<a href="#">Small Boat Sailing</a>	33356	1995	1997	1999
<a href="#">Snow Sports</a>	33365A	1999	.	1999
<a href="#">Soil and Water Conservation</a>	33291	1968	1995	1996
<a href="#">Space Exploration</a>	33354	1983	1995	1984
<a href="#">Sports</a>	35007	1996	.	1996
<a href="#">Stamp Collecting</a>	33296B	2000	.	2001
<a href="#">Surveying</a>	33327	1992	.	1991
<a href="#">Swimming</a>	<b>33352D</b>	2000	.	<b>2002</b>
.	.	.	.	.
<a href="#">Textile</a>	33344	1999	.	1985
<a href="#">Theater</a>	33328A	1999	.	1999
<a href="#">Traffic Safety</a>	<b>33391A</b>	2001	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Truck Transportation</a>	33371	1973	.	pre 1982



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<a href="#">Veterinary Medicine</a>	35004	1996	.	1995
<a href="#">Waterskiing</a>	33348A	1999	.	1999
<a href="#">Weather</a>	33274A	1992	1999	1987
<a href="#">Whitewater</a>	33405A	1989	1998	1998
<a href="#">Wilderness Survival</a>	<b>33265A</b>	<b>2001</b>	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Wood Carving</a>	<b>33309A</b>	<b>2001</b>	.	<b>2002</b>
<a href="#">Woodwork</a>	33316	1970	1982	pre 1982