

This document is for adult volunteers who are thinking about becoming a merit badge counselor for the Troop. It gives a general overview of the skills you may want to have to be a counselor for a specific merit badge.

Please note: the Atlanta Area Council approves merit badge counselors, and the only required certifications are for certain merit badges listed in the document Merit Badges-special certifications.

Once you are ready to join our Merit badge counselor team, please see “how to I register as a merit badge counselor?” to guide you through the registration process.

Elective merit badges are listed in a separate document entitled “Elective Merit Badges”

Merit Badge Pamphlets are a great way to gain understanding and familiarize yourself with concepts covered in requirements.

The merit badge program is based on the Scout demonstrating the knowledge and skills needed to complete the merit badge. The merit badge counselor will:

- Assist the Scout as they plan 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.
- Follow the exact wording of the requirements of the merit badge, making no deletions or additions
- Complete a blue card (paper or in Scoutbook) after determining the Scout is qualified for the merit badge

EAGLE REQUIRED MERIT BADGE	SKILL SET
Camping	Leave No Trace Principles & Outdoor code. Familiarity with skills necessary to plan & set up a camp, cook outdoors, navigation, clothing & first aid
Citizenship in the Community	Be a member of a community, knowledge about community services/government structure
Citizenship in the Nation	Understanding the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, state and national government
Citizenship in Society	https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/diversity_equity_and_inclusion/Citizenship-in-Society-Merit-Badge-Counselor-Guide-2021.pdf
Citizenship in the World	Understanding on how to become a US citizen, world events, differences between government structures, national organizations listed in requirements
Communications	Skills and experience with how to communicate effectively

Cooking	Familiar with MyPlate, skills necessary to cook by various methods, outdoor cooking, proper nutrition
Cycling ¹	Understanding skills necessary to cycle, familiar with types and parts of bikes
Emergency Preparedness ²	Ideally work or have experience in health care, emergency response or related field, be familiar with first aid, preparing for and coping with emergency situations, Certification or courses in emergency preparedness
Environmental Science ³	Education or experience in conservation, environmental science or related field
Family Life	Understanding family life
First Aid	Ideally work or have experience in health care or related field, be familiar with first aid, or certified in First Aid
Hiking ¹	Knowledgeable with gear and skills needed for hiking, Leave no Trace Principles, first aid related to hiking, compass and maps
Lifesaving ²	certification in Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED or equivalent, BSA Lifeguard or Aquatics Instructor or equivalent
Personal Fitness	Familiarity with areas of physical fitness, proper nutrition, work in an area related to fitness or take part in fitness program
Personal Management	Understanding of finances, loans, debts, savings, investments
Sustainability ³	Educated or familiar with conservations and sustainability practices
Swimming ¹	BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat

1. Scouts must earn one of Cycling, Hiking or Swimming
2. Scouts must earn one of Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving
3. Scouts must earn one of Environmental Science or Sustainability

Additional Resources

<https://www.nega-bsa.org/files/32010/scoutbook-tutorial-for-abc's>

Merit Badge Pamphlets (purchased at the Scout store, or available online)