

# Troop 71

## Merit Badge Counselor

Keith Everly gave this presentation during the 11 October 2011 Troop 71 Parents' Meeting.

This briefing is part of the troop's efforts to update the Merit Badge Counselor listing. The primary goal is to maintain a roster of merit badges, available counselors, and their contact information. A secondary goal is to keep the troop's roster in sync with that kept by Tecumseh Council. As such, actions include cleaning up the current listing, explaining responsibilities of a counselor, recruiting new counselors, and periodically reconciling the Troop's and Council's listings.

# Merit Badge Training

- Qualifications of a Merit Badge Counselor
- Fast Facts for the Merit Badge Counselor
- What is a Merit Badge ?
- What is a Merit Badge Counselor?
- Merit Badge Counselor Registration Process
- Merit Badge Counselor Agreement
- Merit Badge Process
- Blue Cards
- Questions & Answers

# Troop Advancement Chair

- Keith Everly is Troop 71's Advancement Chair
- He is responsible for EVERYTHING pertaining to Adult and Scout advancements, training, certifications, etc. while involved in the BSA
- His records MUST match Council's official records
- Any changes to home address, phone numbers, etc. NEED TO GO THRU KEITH

# Qualifications of a Merit Badge Counselor

- Be at Least 18 Years Old
- Be proficient in the merit badge subject by vocation or avocation
- Be able to work with Scout age boys
- Be registered with the BSA, and approved by the Council

# Fast Facts for the Counselor

- A merit badge counselor can counsel any Scout, including his own son—although this is discouraged in order to offer a Scout the chance to meet a diverse group of outstanding adults.
- A counselor may be certified in unlimited merit badge subjects, but he or she must be approved for each one.
- There is no limit on the number of merit badges that a counselor may counsel with one Scout. However, the Scout will benefit the most from working with a variety of outstanding adults.

# Fast Facts for the Counselor...

- A merit badge counselor may limit his or her services to one or more than one unit but still must be approved.
- Scoutmasters and assistant Scoutmasters are not automatically approved as merit badge counselors (they register like everyone does).
- Group instruction is acceptable, but each Scout must be tested and passed individually.
- There is no time limit for completion of merit badges, but all work on merit badges must be completed before the Scout's 18th birthday.

# What is a Merit Badge?

- There are more than 120 merit badges a Scout may earn. The subject matters range from vocational and careers introduction to personal development, hobbies, sports, high adventure, citizenship, and life-skills development.
- Every merit badge is designed to teach the Scout new skills while outwardly encouraging him to challenge himself and have fun in the process. Merit badges offer a range of difficulty over a breadth of subject matters, and a Scout is free to pursue any merit badge he wishes.

# What Is a Merit Badge Counselor?

A merit badge counselor is both a teacher and a mentor to the Scout as he works on the merit badge. Merit badge counselors should be satisfied that each Scout under their guidance meets all the requirements set forth for the merit badge. In this sense, a merit badge counselor is an examiner. In a larger sense, the real opportunity for a counselor lies in coaching—helping Scouts over the different hurdles of the requirements and helping make them aware of the deeper aspects of the subject from their knowledge and experience.



# What is a Merit Badge Counselor...

- The merit badge counselor may help a Scout by providing instruction and guidance on the subject matter. However, the counselor must not complete the Scout's work on the requirements. The counselor needs to test the Scout to ensure that he has completed all the required work but ***may not modify the merit badge requirements*** in the process. This standard ensures that the advancement requirements are fair and uniform for all Scouts.

# Merit Badge Counselor Registration

- Complete BSA Adult Registration Form
- Complete BSA Merit Badge Counselor Form
- Complete Youth Protection Training
- Can be a counselor for just Troop 71 or for a scout in any unit within Chillicothe District, Tecumseh Council, or just the Merit Badge Trail Drives.

# Merit Badge Counselor Agreement

- Follow requirements, making no deletions or additions
- Ensure advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts
- Have at least 3 persons present at all instructional sessions
- Renew your registration annually if you plan to continue as a MB counselor – [Reply to Council](#)
- Update Youth Protection Training (YPT) every 2 years.



# Merit Badge Process

- Scout decides to work on a merit badge. He meets with ASM or SM and obtains a signed blue card.
- Scout contacts a merit badge counselor to make an appointment . He should READ the book!
- He should bring his merit badge book, worksheet and blue card. NO ONE-ON-ONE contact!
- Counselor and Scout go over requirements, expectations, etc.



# Merit Badge “Blue” Cards

- Scouts must fill in information and get a signature prior to giving to the counselor.
- Counselor will annotate on the back the requirements that have been done and sign off when complete. Keep a copy for your records

# Questions & Answers

- Keith Everly – Advancement Chair for T71  
– Email: [KeithEv@aol.com](mailto:KeithEv@aol.com)

# Merit Badge Trail Drive - 2012

## February 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & March 3<sup>rd</sup> \*

- Art
- Chemistry
- Chess
- Cinematography
- Cit in the Community
- Cit in the Nation
- Cit in the World
- Coin Collecting
- Collections
- Communications
- Computers
- Drafting
- Electricity
- Electronics
- Emergency Prep
- Engineering
- Family Life
- Fire Safety
- First Aid
- Genealogy
- Graphic Arts
- Indian Lore
- Medicine
- Model Design
- Music
- Personal Management
- Photography
- Plumbing
- Robotics
- Scout Heritage
- Space Exploration
- Weather
- Wood Carving

\* Expect Registration before Thanksgiving