**A Parent’s Guide to Becoming a Merit Badge Counselor**

Heavily lifted from various BSA websites and MBC application!

Becoming a Merit Badge Counselor (MBC) is an excellent way to start getting active in Troop 313 and working with the Scouts.

MBC must be men and women of good character, age 18 or older, and recognized as having the skills and knowledge of the Merit Badge subject matter, as well as, the ability to work with youth of Scouts BSA age. MBC are not registered to a Troop, but instead with their District. This means that you do not have to hold any other position within the Troop (though we would love to have you on our Committee!).

Troop 313 keeps a list of MBC of adults within our Troop so that we can efficiently assist our Scouts.

To become an MBC, please follow these steps.

1. Review the list of current merit badges offered by Scouts BSA. See what subject matters interest you. Read through the requirements to see if this is something you will feel comfortable to assist Scouts in. <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>
2. Take the MBC Training: <https://www.bsacac.org/training/adult-required/scouts-bsa/merit-badge-counselor-training/>
3. Fill out the MBC Application: <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34405.pdF>

Provide the Merit Badges that you would like to Counsel along with your experience

Indicate if you would like to be available for all Scouts, just Harford District Scouts, or Just Scouts in a particular Unit. It would be great if you could at least sign up for Troop 313 and Troop 1920.

1. Fill out Adult Application, pages 3, and 9, Position Code 42. Even if you have already filled out an adult application, BSA requires an application PER position.

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34405.pdF>

1. If you have not done it already, take Youth Protection Training. The training expiration date should extend through the entirety of the current year. For instance, if it is 2021, then the expiration date should have 2022 or 2023 (depending on when you take the training). <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>
2. Submit the following papers to the Committee Chair or Merit Badge Coordinator for processing:
3. MBC Application
4. Adult Application
5. Youth Protection Training Certificate

Now it is up to the Scouts! If they want to take a Merit Badge they will following the steps on their end. (Wonder what those steps are? … If there isn’t a Parent’s Guide Posted on that… stay tuned!)

The Scout, Advancement Chair, or Scoutmaster will contact you when your expertise is needed! Sometimes we offer Troop level Merit Badge classes. If so, please let the coordinator know if you are available when the time comes.

Thank you for helping to make sure the Scouts have a great program!