

How to Register as a Merit Badge Counselor in the San Gabriel Valley District

November 2025

Adult volunteers can play an important role in the advancement of Scouts, whether or not they have any youth of their own in the program. By serving as a merit badge counselor, you share your professional experiences and personal interests with Scouts and not only assist them with their advancement journey but may also inspire them to pursue a career or take up a hobby in that field.

All AB506 documents must be on file with GLAAC or the application will be held up until these documents are on file.

If you are not registered with a unit, there is a yearly fee of \$25.00. Please make your payment using this link: <https://greaterlascouting.org/online-registration-payments/>

To register as a new Merit Badge Counselor within San Gabriel Valley District you must complete the following steps:

1) Complete the BSA's **Merit Badge Counselor Information Form**. Please use the latest version, available here:

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

- You may apply to add ("A") up to 8 badges on one form – use additional forms if necessary (complete and sign each one).
- Please provide a short (one line) justification to show why you are qualified to counsel each merit badge.
- Some merit badges require evidence of additional training or certification before you can be

approved as a counselor **Climbing, Snow Sports, Canoeing, Kayaking, Lifesaving, Motor Boating, Rowing, Scuba Diving, Small Boat Sailing, Swimming, Water Sports, Whitewater, Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting**. These requirements are listed in Section 7.0.1.1 "Qualifications of Counselors" of the [BSA's Guide to Advancement](#).

Special note for **Citizenship in Society Merit Badge**

- Complete BSA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training
- Once you have submitted your application, you will be required to attend the SGVD Zoom training on this merit badge as well. You will receive the link to the Zoom training once you have submitted all necessary paperwork.

2) Complete the BSA's **Adult Application Form**. Please use the latest version, available here: <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-501.pdf>

- Please use “42” for the position code and “Merit Badge Counselor” for the Scouting position title.
- This form does NOT need to be signed by a unit leader or COR, only by the applicant.

3) Complete the BSA’s [Safeguarding Youth Training](#) (SYT). This training may be completed online at <https://my.scouting.org/>. For more information about SYT, please visit: [Safeguarding Youth Training](#) (SYT).

4) Complete all the required modules of the **Scouts BSA Merit Badge Counselor Training**

<https://my.scouting.org/>.

- 1) Introduction to Merit Badges
- 2) What is a Merit Badge Counselor
 - Scouters who have completed older versions of some of these classes do not have to retake the new versions, as the old versions never expire. However, if you have not completed any of the classes listed here, please complete those training courses and send me the individual completion certificates for those training courses.

Submit your completed paperwork to Wendy Cadima @ sgvmeritbadgedean@gmail.com

- Signed Merit Badge Counselor Information form (SYT must be attached)
- Signed BSA Adult Application form
- Any other badge-specific certification

Please note that it may take 3-5 days to review your application, longer if any paperwork is missing

- Please wait for approval before counseling any Scouts for a particular merit badge.

Merit Badge Counselor Resources

The BSA provides a wealth of resources for merit badge counselors online at:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/mb-counselor-guide/>

In particular, please review the *Guide for Merit Badge Counseling* before counseling youth: <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-065.pdf>

The latest merit badge requirements may be found online at:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

Please also consult the BSA's *Guide to Safe Scouting* for any particular requirements relating to your field of expertise: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/>

Questions? Comments?

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Estela Chicas at estela.chicas@scouting.org.

THANK YOU for offering this valuable service to our Scouts!