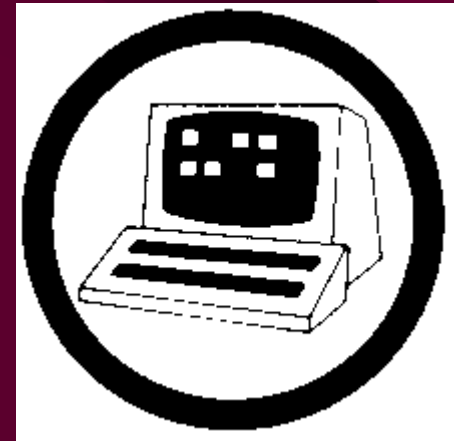


**Northwest District presents...**

**Merit Badge Counselor Orientation**

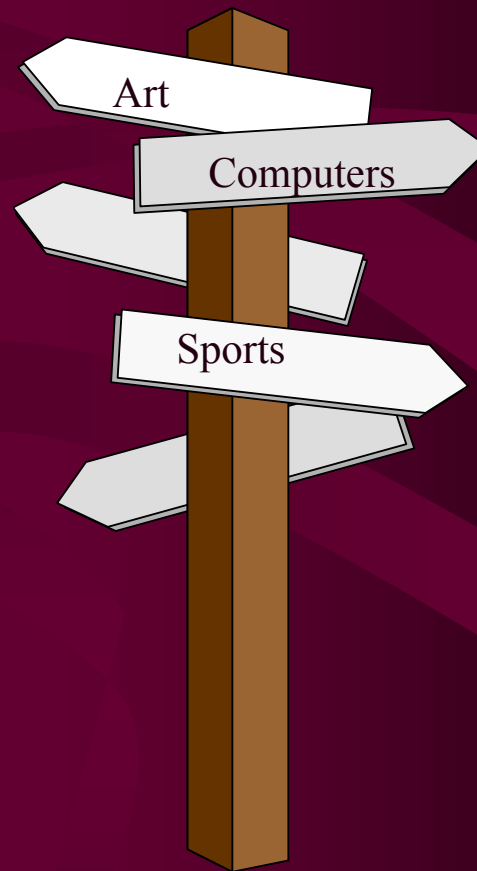
# 120 Merit Badges to choose from

Farm Mechanics - Space Exploration -  
Computers - and more



# Merit Badge Counselor

- The counselor is the key to success in the merit badge plan. They offer their time, experience, and knowledge to guide Scouts in one or more of the merit badge subjects.



# Merit Badge Counselor Qualifications

- Must be 18 years old.
- a person of good character. Art
- Have the skills/education in the subject. Computers
- Have the ability to work with boys age 11-18. Sports
- Complete an Adult Registration form. (no fees)
- Register with the Council as a Counselor.
- Agree to follow established procedures which prohibit one to one counseling between a scout and the adult.

# Guidelines for Indianhead Council Merit Badge Counselors

- Counselors should only register for 6 Merit Badges. These are merit badges for which they are qualified.
- Counsel with an individual scout for not more than 2 badges.
- Scouts should be encouraged to learn from as many adults as possible.
- Scouts are to be encouraged to learn from those outside the troop circle.
- Parents may counsel their son but it is recommended that additional scouts take part in these sessions.

# Merit Badge Orientation

- Buddy System
- Purpose
- Individual vs Group counseling
- Process
- Counselor's Role
- Techniques

# Buddy System



- ↙ Another scout working on the same badge
- ↙ A parent, guardian, or other relative
- ↙ A friend

# Purpose of Merit Badge program

- Basic character developing tools.
- Scouts learn career skills.
- Scouts develop physical fitness.
- Scouts discover new hobbies and interests.
- Scouts learn communications skills
- Enhance a Scout's self-esteem.
- Help Scouts advance in rank.

# When Group vs Individual Counseling

- Special facilities
- Expert personnel
- Remote access to counselors
  
- *Individual attention to projects*
- *Fulfillment of requirements*

# How the Scout earns a Merit Badge

- Scout gets a signed Merit Badge card from his Scoutmaster and finds a buddy.
- Scout gets a Merit Badge Pamphlet.
- Scout contacts a Merit Badge Counselor.
- Scout and buddy meet with Counselor, bringing the card and the pamphlet.
- Counselor and scout set short and long term goals for completing the requirements.
- Additional Meetings are usually necessary.
- Counselor always assesses each scout individually on each requirement--but with a buddy present .









# Partial Merit Badges

Requirement No. and letter	Date of Approval	Counselor Initial
1a	10/2/00	CQ
b		
c	10/2/00	CQ
d	10/2/00	CQ
2	10/2/00	CQ
3	10/2/00	CQ
4a		
4b	10/2/00	CQ

# Counselor's Role

## ➤ Duties as a Counselor

- interview Scout.
- set goals, follow-up and evaluate.
- Use your knowledge/experience to help the scout learn.
- Follow current requirements, no additions, no deletions.
- Follow the instructions exactly: make, list, write, collect, identify, label, etc.
- MUST have the Merit Badge pamphlet of the latest printing. ([meritbadge.com](http://meritbadge.com))

# Counselor's Role

## ➤ Duties to the Scout

- teach required skills
- teach with genuine interest and enthusiasm
- congratulate and sign off.

## ➤ Duties to the District

- renew registration annually
- follow BSA policies

# Techniques

- Ideally groups of 10 or less. If more than 4, have an assistant.
- Large groups at camporees, MB Saturdays, MB weekends
- 2 scouts and counselor (scout and buddy)
- During troop meetings/outside of troop meetings
- As part of the school curriculum
- High Adventure trips
- Others?

# Resources

- [Meritbadge.com](http://Meritbadge.com)
- [BSA.com](http://BSA.com)
- [USScouts.org/boyscouts/Mbcounseling.html](http://USScouts.org/boyscouts/Mbcounseling.html)
- Merit Badge Counseling pamphlet #34532A
- Requirements Handbook
- Website: [www.NorthernStarbsa.org](http://www.NorthernStarbsa.org)
  - Training
    - Youth protection

Congratulations  
You have  
completed  
Northwest  
District's  
Merit Badge  
Counselor  
Training!

