

**COUNCIL MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR POLICY**

- a. Each district advancement committee shall be responsible for approving merit badge counselors and maintaining and distributing a list of registered merit badge counselors.
- b. Before approving a merit badge counselor for a specific merit badge, the district advancement committee shall determine if the individual has the requisite expertise and possesses the applicable qualifications or certifications required under National Council policy (e.g., Canoeing & Rowing).
- c. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the district advancement committee shall not have any authority to approve merit badge counselors for merit badges where the authority to do so is expressly limited to the council or council advancement committee as per National Council policy.
- d. The district advancement committee shall provide and promote training for merit badge counselors.
- e. The list of approved merit badge counselors shall be updated and distributed by the district advancement committee as needed, but no less frequently than once every 6 months.
- f. The distribution of the merit badge counselor list shall be limited to the unit leader and such other registered adult leaders who have merit badge-related responsibilities. Scouts shall not have access to the list.
- g. Merit badge counselors shall be encouraged to work with Scouts throughout their district and, as appropriate, the council.

Approved by the council advancement committee October 2011, changed and approved April 8, 2014, changed and approved January 9, 2018.