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## Welcome to your new adventure!

As a **merit badge counselor**, you will have the opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of a Scout. You may introduce a skill or knowledge that will lead to a future career, hobby, or a life saving opportunity! The Boy Scouts of America and the Great Salt Lake Council has the training and support to help make your opportunity simple, rewarding, and fun!

The steps below will get you started.

## Before You Counsel Your First Merit Badge

- If you have not already, register as a merit badge counselor by completing the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) adult application, and getting the proper approval from the council. Registration as a merit badge counselor does not require a fee.

As part of the process, you will have to take *Youth Protection Training*. This course is required of all adults in Scouting and will teach you the BSA's policies for safely and appropriately interacting with youth.

*Youth Protection Training* can be found online at [www.My.Scouting.org](http://www.My.Scouting.org) on your dashboard in the Training Center.

*Note: When you receive your BSA membership number (after your registration is complete you can get it from the council service center) be sure it is entered into your My.Scouting profile so you can get credit for training.*

- At the end of the course, print off the Youth Protection Certificate and letter, and turn in the certificate with your application.
- Complete the *Merit Badge Counselor Information* form found [here](#) and attach it to your application. Be sure to read the back of the form. It provides a lot of information that will help you get started. You can find more [here](#). These will give you most of the information you need to get started.
- Complete *Merit Badge Counselors* training on [www.My.Scouting.org](http://www.My.Scouting.org).

- Acquire the merit badge books for the merit badge(s) you plan to counsel.

## What Do You Invest in Scouting?

- Time for learning about how to be an effective merit badge counselor
- The cost of merit badge books
- Time with a Scout and/or Scouts helping them learn about your field of expertise

This adds up to a small investment compared to the dividends you will receive. And, of course, the more you invest, the more you will receive in return.

## What Do You Receive in Return?

- The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen the lives of youth, to prepare them for life!
- A chance to help a youth learn a skill they may use for the rest of their life - one that may lead to a future career, hobby, or a life saving opportunity
- The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of youth as they grow strong in mind and body

You will discover many other dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talent, and enthusiasm to Scouting.

All leaders bring to Scouting their own talents and skills, their own backgrounds and interests. Your key to becoming an effective merit badge counselor is to use your own abilities and interests, along with what you learn in and about Scouting, to encourage your Scouts to learn, and learn more, about your subject.

What a tremendous opportunity and challenge for you as a merit badge counselor!

Welcome!

## Quick Link

Local Support: [www.SaltLakeScouts.org](http://www.SaltLakeScouts.org)  
Great Salt Lake Council  
525 Foothill Boulevard  
Salt Lake City, UT 84113  
801-582-3663

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