



Blue Grass Council
Council Advancement Chairman (CAC)

9 August 2022

Subject: Merit Badge Counselor Program Policy Updates

All,

Advancement Committee met on 12 July 2022 and discussed the BGC MBC's program and made observations and recommendations.

The list of Merit Badge Counselor's (MBC) list was revoked for all those located within Blue Grass Council (BGC). We would like to remind everyone according to the Guide to Advancement 2021 edition (GTA), section 7.0.1.3 p.44 states "counselors must reregister annually to continue serving". Due to the expiration of the list, we will require everyone to reapply (to be completed yearly), to become an MBC.

Additionally, to improve the MBC program we will act upon 3 key elements as outlined in GTA:

1. From this date forward, the BGC will limit the number of Merit Badges for each MBC to 8 (Electives or Eagle Required) - Reference 7.0.1.4 p. 44
2. We will no longer support Troop / District only MBC's. All MBC's in our council will support all Scouts by default - Reference 7.0.2.0 p. 45
3. For the MBC application to be processed, the MBC will have to present 4 artifacts to the BGC Office:
 - a. Copy of Adult Leader application with Background Check
 - b. Copy of the Youth Protection Training certificate – Reference 7.0.1.5 p. 44
 - c. Copy of the Merit Badge Counselor Training certificate – Reference 7.0.1.6 p. 45
 - d. MBC Application – Reference [34405.pdf \(scouting.org\)](#)
 - e. Proof of skill for MBC – 7.0.2.4 p. 46 (e.g., NRA Certifications, CAI Certification, Military Diploma, College Degree, Professional Certificate and life experience)

While these changes might not align with previous experiences as a MBC or Adult Leader, we are trying to improve the MBC program. The MBC program has grown tremendously over the last 2 years and yet our training certification numbers has diminished. It is our desire to offer our scouts a deep pool of knowledge and professional acumen to draw knowledge and skill on their particular interest. Reference 7.0.2.3 p. 46



It has been brought to the Council's attention, there are Troops adding requirements such as; holding a Board of Review on Merit Badges earned by Scouts. This action is NOT an approved procedure by the GTA or condoned by the BSA Scout Manual and should be stopped immediately. If there is an issue with an MBC (e.g., not teaching and mentoring a Scout through a Merit Badge). The Scout Master, Unit Advancement Chair or Adult Leader should contact the BGC Office and provide:

1. Form [512-800_WB.pdf \(scouting.org\)](#)
2. The MBC name
3. The Scouts name
4. The Merit Badge
5. Dates of MB Counseling

Reference 7.0.1.4 p. 44

Additionally, we perceive there may be some questions about the BGC's Summer Camp program and the use of Scouts and others who do not meet the requirements of being an MBC. Reference 7.0.1.3 p. 44 While true, we do offer Scouts the opportunity to be MBC's (assistants) at Summer Camp, this is done under the direction of an Adult Leader who is a MBC for the particular subject and has the appropriate credentials for the Merit Badge being taught. Reference 7.0.1.1 p. 42-43 & 7.0.3.2 p. 47-48. Camp McKee complies with the National Camping (NCAP) Standards. If an issue is found, it should be taken up with the Camp Director.

Yours in Scouting,



Dave Hart

Blue Grass Council Advancement Chairman