

## **Merit Badge Counselor Registration Policy**

Each district must go through a complete merit badge counselor registration each four years. This is the year for Metro Lakes counselors, which means that by early June counselors must fill out a new Merit Badge Counselor Application (the white form) and the BSA Adult Application, just like all new merit badge counselors (who also must go through Youth Protection training).

Why? The biggest reason is so we keep our youth safe: The Council will run new criminal background checks on all merit badge counselors in our district who recharter this year.

So here's what's going on:

If you are a current MB counselor, you should have gotten the two forms in the mail in April. If you didn't get the forms, you should get them from the Council web site, fill them out, have them signed by the appropriate people, then submit them to the district through the usual process. This applies to new and current counselors.

If you are a registered Scouter in a unit but NOT an existing MB counselor, you need to fill out both forms – the Adult Leader Application and a Merit Badge Counselor Application -- because merit badge counselors are district registrants, not unit registrants.

Annually, after this year for the next three years:

- New merit badge counselors must fill out both forms, and go through Youth Protection training.
- Existing merit badge counselors who have gone through the background check will be rechartered automatically without filling out any new paperwork, unless they want to add merit badges to their portfolio of badges that they counsel. In that case, they need only to fill out the Merit Badge Counselor Application with the additional badge listed.
- Always, if merit badge counselors need to drop a badge, or wish to give up all counseling, or have changes in contact information, they should contact the district advancement chair.