

# Occoneetchee Council Merit Badge Counselor Policy

Adopted 20150828 – Revised 20230401

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- Occoneetchee Council renews Merit Badge Counselors (code 42), annually in April of each year. Registration for this Council position will be from May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year to April 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. Counselors are required to be individually responsible for submitting their own renewal requirements. Merit Badge counselors must be at least 18 years old and of good character.
- Effective April 1, 2023 – Occoneetchee MB Counselor may register for a maximum total of 20 unique merit badges annually. Additionally once you are approved, you cannot replace them with different badges, except during the annual renewal, in the month of April.
- Effective April 1, 2023 – The former merit badge selection form, has been superseded by the new Occoneetchee [MB counselor registration survey](#). ← click to register

## Merit Badge Counselor Registration or Renewal Requirements

- New, 1<sup>st</sup> time Occoneetchee MB counselors must submit a fully completed [BSA Adult application](#). MB Counselors are Council level positions (code 42) and need only the approval signature of a District Executive, or their District Advancement Chair. Unit level approval signatures are not valid. There is no fee for MB counselors.
- New or renewal MB counselors must complete the new Occoneetchee [MB counselor registration survey](#). **Do not use or submit BSA form 34405**. This survey form is new for 2023.
- MB Counselors who have no other current Scouting registered positions, shall submit the [additional disclosures and background check authorization form](#). This is required since 2020, only one submission is required.
- A Youth Protection training completion certificate must be submitted annually, with all registrations or renewals. YPT training date should be on or after May 1, 2022 to be registered or renewed.
  - Online mandatory YPT training is here: <https://training.scouting.org/learning-plans/1179>  
Online training is available in the BSA Learn center at [My.Scouting.Org](#) (use Google Chrome browser)
- MB counselor position specific training must be complete. One of the following three options are allowed:
  - Classroom Merit Badge Counselor Orientation (D76) -or-
  - Online MB Counselor training: SCO\_402, SCO\_403, SCO\_407, SCO\_415, SCO\_416, and SCO\_417 -or-
  - Online MB Counselor training: SCO\_431, SCO\_433, SCO\_430, SCO\_435, SCO\_448, and SCO\_434 -or-
  - **CURRENT** MB Counselor training: [SCO 471](#), [SCO 472](#), [SCO 474](#), and [SCO 486](#)  
Online training is available in the BSA Learn center at <https://training.scouting.org> – Choose the Merit Badge Counselor Position Specific Training from the catalog. (use Google Chrome browser)  
Any one, of the four training options above, are acceptable to be a trained MBC.

### Important requirements:

- 14 Merit badges, require certifications that must be certified, to be registered for that badge. See the [Guide to Advancement](#), section 7.0.1.1, on the BSA national website, for details on the required certifications for each of these badges. Counselors who do not submit the required supporting certifications, will not be registered for that badge. You will be able to upload these items with your survey.
- **NEW** Effective March 23, 2023, merit badge counselors YPT training must not expire before April 30, the following year. Therefore you must ensure your YP training is current for the entire annual registration period.
- Be recognized as having the skills and education in the merit badge subjects covered and hold any required qualifications and training as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting or the Guide to Advancement—or use others so qualified. You will be prompted to list your qualifications for every badge you request approval to counsel.