



Glacier's Edge Council (620), BSA Advancement Committee

- ✦ Indian Trails
- ✦ Mohawk
- ✦ Wisconsin River
- ✦ Yahara

Merit Badges Requiring Counselors with Special Certifications or Training

The following merit badges have special qualifications or certifications for either the merit badge counselor or the supervisor of certain activities that may be involved. **In accordance with authority granted in the *Guide to Advancement 7.0.1.4* (see [Note](#) on last page), Glacier's Edge Council Advancement Committee will only approve Merit Badge Counselors who hold the required and recommended certification or training for these Merit Badges.**

Applicable references to the [BSA Guide to Safe Scouting](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/) (www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/) should be consulted prior to initiating each merit badge counseling event for the merit badges listed, in addition to review for Merit Badge Counselor training and approval.

All certifications listed below (in addition to YPT) must be current at the time of merit badge counseling to maintain Council authorization for signing a Blue Card or electronic recording of Merit Badge completion.

Citizenship in Society To be considered for approval by the Glacier's Edge Council Advancement Committee, proposed Merit Badge Counselors/facilitators for Citizenship in Society Merit Badge must include documented justification of the following in their application:

- 1) **complete** Merit Badge Counselor position-specific training (**SCO_471, 472, 474, and 486**): www.my.scouting.org – *previous D76 (Merit Badge Counselor Orientation) training is not a substitute.*
- 2) **complete** BSA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training (**SCO_1800**): www.my.scouting.org
- 3) **review** the Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Counselor [Guidelines](#)
 - a. be skilled in listening
 - b. be skilled in facilitating discussion, including being comfortable addressing sensitive topics and asking probing questions without interjecting their own opinions and personal beliefs
 - c. be experienced in open communication, maintaining objectivity, and promoting inclusiveness with Scout's and their parent(s)/guardian(s)
 - d. be informed on key concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion through self-guided exploration and/or specialized training (*in addition to the BSA training listed in the previous bullet*)
- 4) **review** the [BSA Scouter Code of Conduct](#) in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*
- 5) **review** the Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Counselor [facilitation guide](#)
- 6) only counsel this Merit Badge with individual scouts (following YPT requirements) or in a small group setting (**not more than 6 scouts**)

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Climbing. All climbing, belaying, and rappelling exercises and activities must be supervised by a rock climbing instructor who is a mature and conscientious adult at least 21 years old, and who is trained in BSA Climb On Safely and understands the risks inherent to these activities. Training as a BSA climbing Level 2 Instructor is highly recommended. Someone with certification in First Aid/CPR/AED from the American Red Cross (or equivalent) must be present at these activities. Current Climbing policies are published in the *BSA Guide to Safe Scouting* [see Sports and Activities: Climbing and Rappelling section] supersede any other publications or literature and must also be followed.

Snow Sports. Activities in the field must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult 21 years or older who is committed to compliance with BSA Winter Sports Safety. Current Snow Sports policies are published in the *BSA Guide to Safe Scouting* [see Winter Activities: Winter Sports Activities section] supersede any other publications or literature and must also be followed.

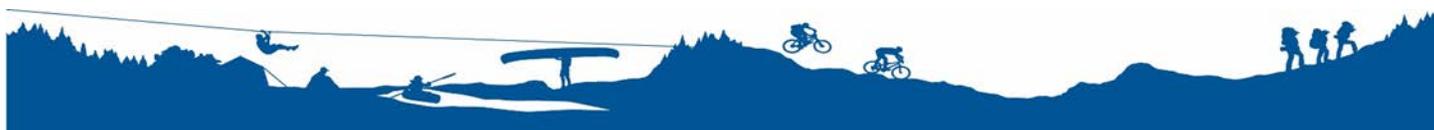
The qualifications below for aquatics-related merit badge counseling and supervision not only assist in managing risk, but also give counselors credibility. Current Aquatics policies are published in the *BSA Guide to Safe Scouting* [see Aquatics Safety] supersede any other publications or literature and must also be followed.

Canoeing. Those supervising canoeing activities must have either BSA Aquatics Instructor or Canoeing Instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Kayaking. Those supervising kayaking activities must have formal training in kayaking and paddle craft instruction, evidenced by either BSA Aquatics Instructor or Paddle Craft Safety Instructor certification, or kayaking instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, or American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Lifesaving. Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be supervised by an adult at least 21 years old with certification in Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED or equivalent, and as a BSA Lifeguard or Aquatics Instructor or equivalent. **NOTE: Demonstration of CPR knowledge and skills, including rescue breathing, on a mannequin must be completed under the guidance of a current CPR/AED instructor trained by a nationally certified provider.**

Motor Boating. Motor boating activities must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult, age 21 or older, who has completed Safety Afloat training ([within the previous 2 years](#)). Appropriate credentials include current or previous certification by an organization (such as the National Safe Boating Council, the United States Power Squadrons, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, or the US Powerboating component of US Sailing) that meets the voluntary National On-Water Standards for Powerboating or the NASBLA national boating education standards for powerboating; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.



Rowing. Those supervising rowing activities must have either BSA Aquatics Instructor certification or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Scuba Diving. All phases of scuba instruction—classroom, pool, and open-water training—are limited to instructors trained and certified by one of the BSA’s recognized scuba agencies as found in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

Swimming. Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be conducted by a mature and conscientious adult, age 21 or older, who has completed both BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat trainings ([within the previous 2 years](#)).

Water Sports. Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be conducted by a mature and conscientious adult, age 21 or older, who has completed both BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat trainings ([within the previous 2 years](#)).

Whitewater. Those supervising whitewater activities must be certified as whitewater, canoeing or kayaking instructors by the American Canoe Association or have equivalent certification, training, or expertise.

The qualifications below for shooting sports-related merit badge counseling and supervision not only assist in managing risk, but also give counselors credibility. Current Shooting Sports policies are published in the *BSA Guide to Safe Scouting* [see Sports and Activities: Shooting Sports section] supersede any other publications or literature and must also be followed. In addition, review the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual* for further details on shooting sports.

Archery. Archery activities must be supervised by a BSA National Camping School–trained shooting sports director or USA Archery or National Field Archery Association instructor, or by someone who has been trained by one of the three; or alternatively, the activities may be supervised by someone with at least Level 1 training in the operation of an archery range from USA Archery, NFAA, or an equivalent.

Rifle Shooting. The merit badge counselor is responsible for ensuring that all instruction or other activities involving any handling of firearms or live ammunition is consistent with state and federal law and supervised by a certified BSA National Camping School (NCS) shooting sports director, or National Rifle Association (NRA) Rifle Shooting Instructor or Coach.

Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzleloaders must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/National Muzzleloader Rifle Association (NMLRA)–certified muzzleloader firearms instructor.

Shooting must be supervised by an NRA certified Range Safety Officer (RSO). If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. The supervisor and instructor may not be the same person. Note that commercial shooting ranges may provide RSOs.



Shotgun Shooting. The merit badge counselor is responsible for ensuring that all instruction or other activities involving any handling of firearms or live ammunition is consistent with state and federal law and supervised by a certified NCS shooting sports director or NRA Shotgun Instructor or Coach.

Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzle-loading shotguns must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/NMLRA certified muzzle-loading shotgun instructor.

Shooting must be supervised by an NRA-certified Range Safety Officer. If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. They may not be the same person. Note that commercial shooting ranges may provide RSOs.

Note:

In approving counselors, the local council advancement committee has the authority to establish a higher minimum, reasonable level of skills and education for the counselors of a given merit badge than is indicated in "Supervisory Qualifications and Certifications," 7.0.1.1. For example, NRA certification could be established as a council standard for approving counselors for the Rifle Shooting or Shotgun Shooting merit badges.

It is permissible for Councils to limit the number of merit badges an individual may be approved to counsel.

See *Guide to Advancement* 7.0.1.4 Approving Badges To Be Couseled

