

Twin Bayou District Advancement Committee <http://www.twinbayou.org>

The correct procedures for registering as a Merit Badge Counselors (MBC) are:

- They must complete a BSA application, using #42 as the position code, even if they are already registered with BSA in another position (no fees charged). Troop leaders do not sign this application, the district advancement chairperson signs.
- They do not need to be register in an unit
- Complete a MB Counselor information Form
- Take Youth Protection Training (YPT) and provide a copy of their certificate
- If they have been trained as a MBC then they should submit a copy of their MBC trained card. (not required, but highly recommended)

These forms should be turned in all together to their unit leader, or at Roundtable, given to the District Executive or to the district advancement chair person.

The District Advancement chair reviews all the information, signs the BSA application and the MBC form. The MBC information is inputted into our district database and then the application is submitted to the Council office. If the forms just go straight to the council office, then normally they do not get entered in to our district database. An email will be sent out to the counselor confirming all data has been received and now registered as a merit badge counselor.

Training:

The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling

This PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes covers the required procedures for merit badge counseling, clarifies the role of counselors in the BSA advancement program, and discusses the appropriate approaches to use in working with Scouts. It is intended as an instructor-led presentation to counselors of any experience level and takes 60 to 90 minutes to complete.

The training materials are available on-line from BSA and can be conducted, preferably by an adult who has taken the training. While an individual could also download the materials and go through it individually they would not benefit from the inner-action with an experienced counselor conducting the training. For convenience, it can be downloaded at:

http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/GuideforMeritBadgeCounselors/Resources/advancement_presentations.aspx

SHAC does not currently require that a MB counselor have the Merit Badge Counselor Orientation training, but it is strongly encouraged so as to help the individual properly guide the youth through the process.

Twin Bayou District Advancement Committee chairperson contact information:

Sandy Troff sdt_houston@hotmail.com sdt_houston@hotmail.com

281.455.9419

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