



Merit Badge Counselor Maximums

Effective July 1, 2019

After lengthy discussion, review of section #7.0.1.4 of the 2019 Guide to Advancement, and consideration of feedback from multiple Scouters concerning merit badge counselor maximums, the Pathway to Adventure Council Advancement Committee is formally recommending that an individual merit badge counselor not counsel more than eight (8) merit badges.

The purpose and intent is to help promote a Scout to seek out a variety of individuals with specialty expertise related to each merit badge subject, and the importance of broadening horizons beyond their own families and units. Scouts will benefit from the perspectives of many “teachers” and will learn more as a result.

We recognize that there may be individuals who are already counseling more than eight (8) badges at the time of this formal recommendation. Those counselors will be allowed to continue counseling their approved merit badges, and will be considered “grandfathered-in.” Counselors will be allowed to exchange counseled merit badges and maintain their grandfathered maximum. However, they will not be allowed to add more than their current amount as of the date of this notice. Should a merit badge be discontinued, they will not be allowed to replace it.

We recognize that unique circumstances and situations will warrant exceptions to this recommended practice. If an individual would like to be considered for approval to counsel more than eight (8) merit badges, a request can be submitted for consideration to the Pathway to Adventure Council Advancement Committee at: Kathy.Frantzen@Scouting.org.

In Service,

Pathway to Adventure Council Advancement Committee

Arlington Heights Service Center
617 E. Golf Road, Suite 101
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

LaGrange Service Center
811 W. Hillgrove Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525

Robert J. Welsh Service Center
8751 Calumet Avenue
Munster, IN 46321

Steve Fossett Service Center
1218 W. Adams Street
Chicago, IL 60607

Prepared. For Life.®

