

Updated Merit Badge Counselor Maximum Limits

Effective January 1, 2026

Following a review of section #7.0.0.3 of the 2025 Guide to Advancement and extensive feedback regarding merit badge counseling, the Pathway to Adventure Council Advancement Committee has relaxed the previous allowance of eight (8) merit badges:

Individual merit badge counselors may now counsel up to twelve (12) merit badges, with a maximum of five (5) of those being Eagle-required merit badges.

Maintaining a limit encourages Scouts to work with a variety of adults so they can gain insight and learn from examples offered from a variety of perspectives and approaches to life. Earning a large number of merit badges from a small number of counselors, or only from counselors known to the Scout, robs the Scout of the opportunity to learn and grow (GTA 7.0.0.3).

For individuals previously counseling more than twelve badges and/or more than five Eagle-required badges, we encourage selecting the most counseled or desired badges to retain on their roster.

Exceptions may arise due to unique circumstances. Individuals seeking approval beyond this limit can submit a request to the Pathway to Adventure Council Advancement Committee at ptac.advancement@gmail.com.

In Service,

Pathway to Adventure Council Advancement Committee

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