

## Why we need to update our Merit Badge List

Every few years, our district Merit Badge Counselor List needs to be cleaned and updated. It has been over 5 years since we have done a good cleaning of our list. Since that time several things have occurred that requires us to do so.

1. Many applications did not get entered into the system during Councils experiment of going without a Registrar.
2. Many names were taken off the list due to lack of youth protection clearances. As the deadline drew near, I used the current YPT list for our district to purge our list. Many of our folks had turned in their YPT information to Council, but at the time the information may not have been entered into the database.
3. The vast majority of us have not taken the required training. I know the argument: "I have been teaching Scouts for x amount of years, why do I suddenly need training?" All volunteers need to be trained for their position. Remember that last year you could not recharter an individual without them being position specific trained, that applies to counselors as well. Yes, even those of us who have been around for longer than we like to recall, still need to take the online course.
4. It's just good policy to renew the list every few years. Folks come and go from the program all the time. They never get stricken from the list since there is no way to know they are not still involved.
5. It enables us to continue to provide a quality program to our youth.

### So here is what you need to do.

1. Go to [www.my.scouting.org](http://www.my.scouting.org), log on and take the training. Click on the training link on the right, click on Boy Scouts, then take the courses listed under the Merit badge Counselor heading. When you are done, print out your certificate.
2. Fill out the counselor form. You can find it here: [https://www.lhcscouting.org/sites/lhcscouting.org/files/lhc\\_merit\\_badge\\_application\\_2014.pdf](https://www.lhcscouting.org/sites/lhcscouting.org/files/lhc_merit_badge_application_2014.pdf)
3. Fill out an adult application. The position code to use is 42. You can find it here: <https://www.lhcscouting.org/sites/lhcscouting.org/files/524-5011.pdf> Remember that there is no fee for being a counselor.
4. Make sure your Youth Protection Training is up to date and submit proof that it is. A copy of your certificate or a copy of your training page from my.scouting.org will do. *\*\*Please note that Youth Protection training now needs to be renewed on a yearly basis.*
5. Submit copies of your Pennsylvania State Clearances.
6. Get this all to me. You can scan and email it to me at: [mbrigode@comcast.net](mailto:mbrigode@comcast.net), mail it to me at: Mike Brigode, 823 Meadow Avenue, Charleroi, PA 15022, or drop it off at roundtable.
7. Please get this to me by October 15, 2017

Thank you for your continued service to our youth here in the Mon Valley. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Mike

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