Council Boy Scout Advancement Committee Potawatomi Area Council Revised 4/9/12



Merit Badge Counselor Training Policy

As provided in the Guide to Advancement, section 7.0.1.6 Training for Counselors: "The council or district advancement committee must assure counselors understand the Boy Scouts of America's aims, methods, and mission. It is also important they know how Scouts can learn and grow through the merit badge process". Potawatomi Area Council Boy Scout Advancement Committee has decided that merit badge counselor training will be made available at the district and council levels. District Boy Scout advancement coordinators are authorized to conduct merit badge counselor training, or at their discretion, appoint another person or persons to conduct training on their behalf. No other district-level committee or coordinator or person or unit level persons are authorized to conduct merit badge counselor training. The council advancement committee may approve or deny any person for merit badge counselor training.

The council Boy Scout advancement committee is tasked with finding quality counselors who are not only knowledgeable in the merit badge subject but who also understand the role of advancement as one of the aims and methods of the Boy Scouts of America. This process will not be rushed to the point where unqualified counselors are allowed to serve.

One of the methods of Scouting is association with quality adults. Besides a Scout's parents and relatives, his schoolteachers, his religious leaders, and possibly his sports coaches, most Scout-age youth do not have much contact with many other adults or professionals. Merit badge counselors provide an excellent means for a Scout to grow through his exposure to outstanding adults who serve as examples and mentors to them. The opportunity to deal with business leaders, trained specialists, and experienced hobbyists while in the pursuit of a merit badge offers the Scout a chance for personal growth and possibly a life-altering experience. For these reasons, the Council Boy Scout Advancement committee encourages merit badge counselors to work with all scouts in the council. Troops that register as many merit badge counselors as possible to serve only their unit deprive those Scouts of the social development opportunities that arise from associating with quality adults from outside normal social experience.