

Merit Badge Counselor Requirement Resource

All merit badge counselors must consult the Guide to Safe Scouting, the Guide to Advancement, and the appropriate merit badge pamphlets to confirm they are following all required safety policies, supervision standards, and instructional guidelines, including always maintaining the appropriate level of qualified supervision before instructing Scouts in these merit badges.

The Guide to Safe Scouting can be found here: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/toc/>

The Guide to Advancement can be found here; pay specific attention to pages 42 to 44: <https://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/>

Digital Copies of the Merit Badge pamphlets can be found here: <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>

Merit Badge	Minimum Counselor Training Requirement	Training Location	Training Length
Climbing	Climb on Safely training	My.scouting.org	13 minutes
Canoeing	Safety Afloat training	My.scouting.org	30 minutes
Kayaking	Safety Afloat training	My.scouting.org	30 minutes
Lifesaving	Swimming & Water Rescue Training	In-Person Training	8 hours
Motor Boating	Safety Afloat training	My.scouting.org	30 minutes
Rowing	Safety Afloat training	My.scouting.org	30 minutes
Scuba Diving	Scuba BSA	In-Person Training.	90 minutes
Small Boat Sailing	Safety Afloat training	My.scouting.org	30 minutes
Swimming	Safe Swim Defense training	My.scouting.org	26 minutes
Water Sports	Safety Afloat training	My.scouting.org	30 minutes
Whitewater	Safety Afloat training	My.scouting.org	30 minutes
Archery	USA Archery Level 1 Instructor	In-Person Training	4.5 - 8 hours (dependent on class size and skill level)
Rifle Shooting	NRA Rifle Instructor Training	In-Person Training	16-hour course
Shotgun Shooting	NRA Shotgun Instructor	In-Person Training	17-hour course