

WFPS OUTREACH WEBINAR

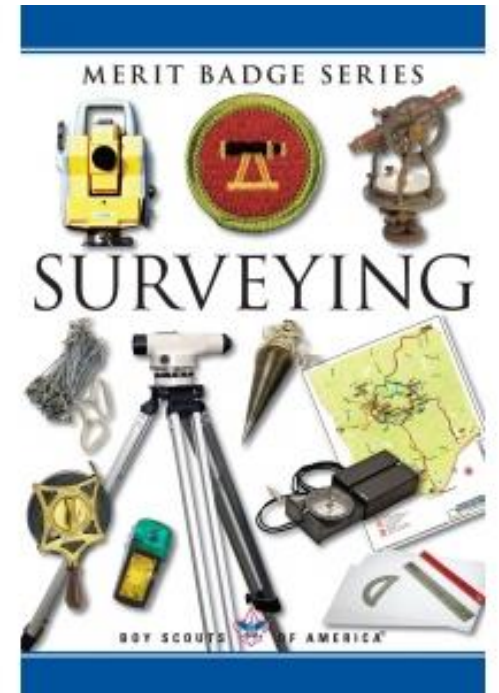
The Scouting America Surveying Merit Badge



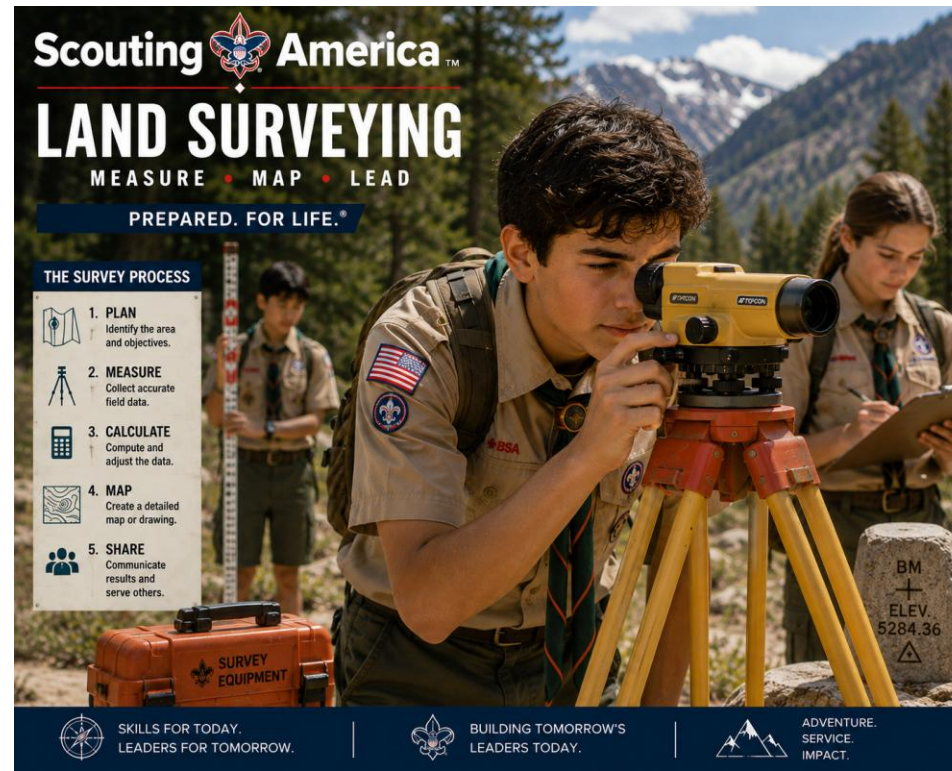
August 18, 2026

Presented By:

Kurt Lehnhardt, PLS



What we will cover:



- My background and how I got into being a Merit Badge Counselor (MBC) for Scouting America.
- The current requirements for a Scout to earn the Surveying Merit Badge.
- Steps for you to become a certified MBC with Scouting America.
- Why you should consider doing this.

My Background in Surveying:



Lyles College of
Engineering



How I got started doing this:

College of the Canyons - Valencia



Current Requirements to Earn the Surveying Merit Badge



Surveying Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor

Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.
You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed, and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.

If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show", "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found on [Scouting.org/meritbadges/](https://www.scouting.org/meritbadges/).

The requirements were last revised on January 1, 2024 • This workbook was updated in February 2024.

Scout's Name: Unit Date Started

Counselor's Name: Phone No.: Email:

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: Workbooks@USScouts.Org

Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org

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1. Show that you know first aid for the types of injuries that could occur while surveying, including cuts, scratches, snakebite, insect stings, tick bites, heat and cold reactions, and dehydration.

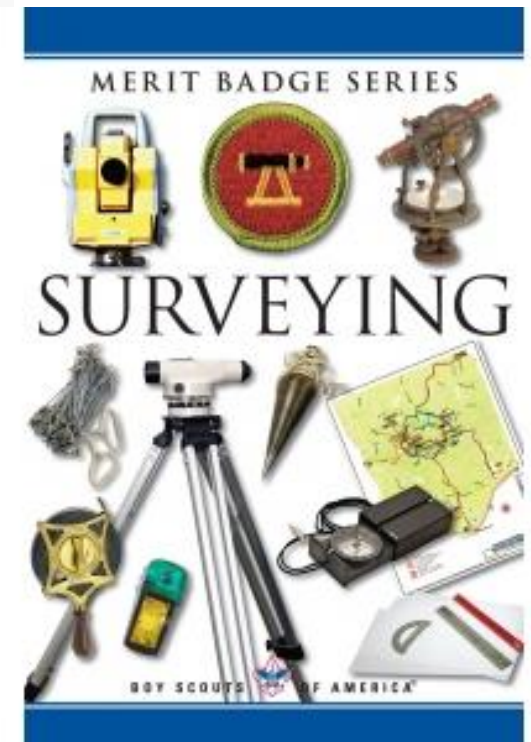
Cuts:

Eight Activities Required

Scratches:

***Downloadable
5 Page Workbook***

***Downloadable 68
Page Handbook***



Revised Feb 2024

Requirement 1. Show that you know first aid for the types of injuries that could occur while surveying, including: first aid for: cuts, scratches, snakebite, insect stings, tick bites, heat and cold reactions, and dehydration.

Discussion: Explain to your counselor why a surveyor should be able to identify the poisonous plants and poisonous animals that are found in your area.





Additionally, I speak to them about Safety issues Specific to Land Surveying.



Requirement 2. Do the following:

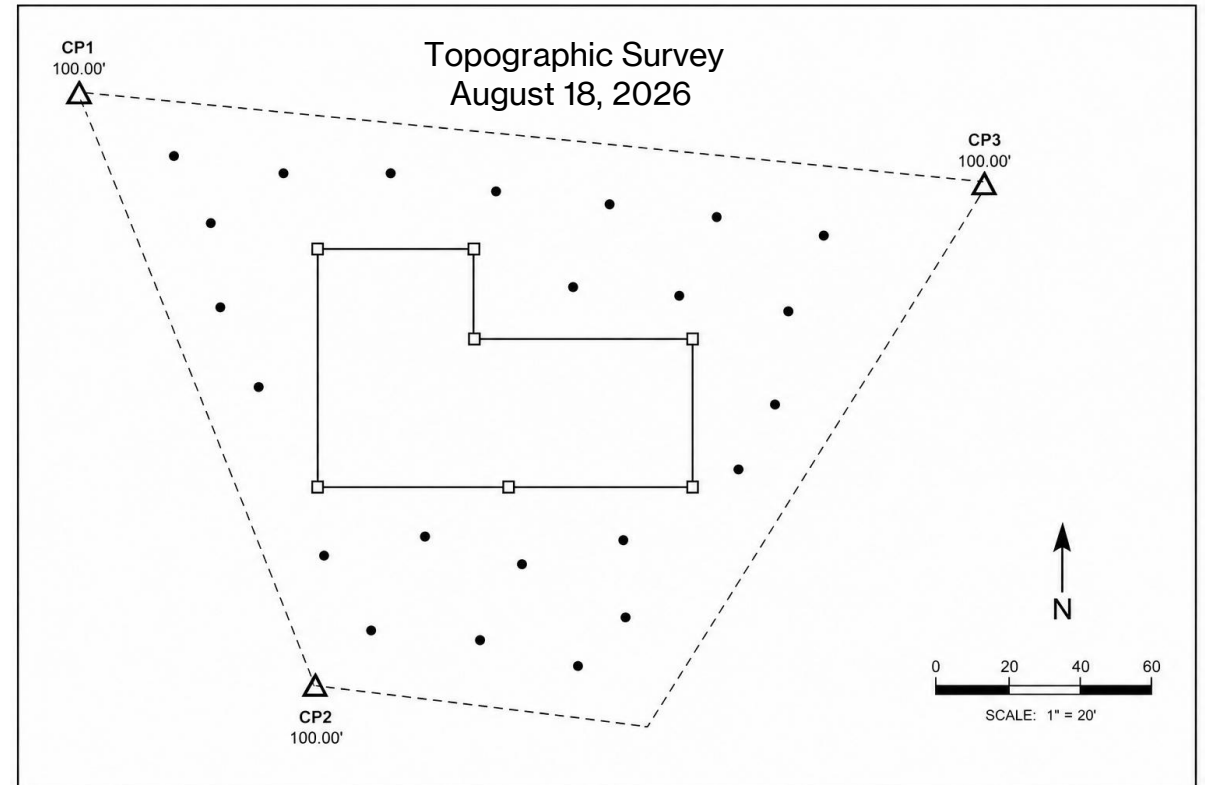
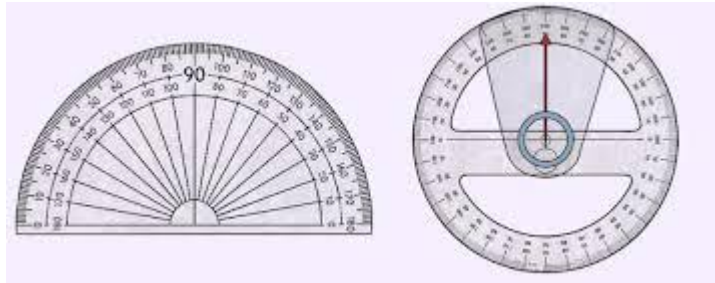
Set an instrument over one of the corners of a five-sided lot laid out by your counselor and sighting one of the other corners for reference and, using radial measurement methods, record the angle turned and the distance measured (horizontal) to each of the remaining corners, as directed by your counselor.



Record the angle and distance to (at least) five topographic features (trees, shrubs, rocks, etc.) near your work area.

Requirement 3. From the field notes gathered for requirement 2, and using a protractor and scale, plot the points you measured and draw to scale a map of your survey which includes a north arrow, scale bar, title, date and a diagram of the lot you measured.

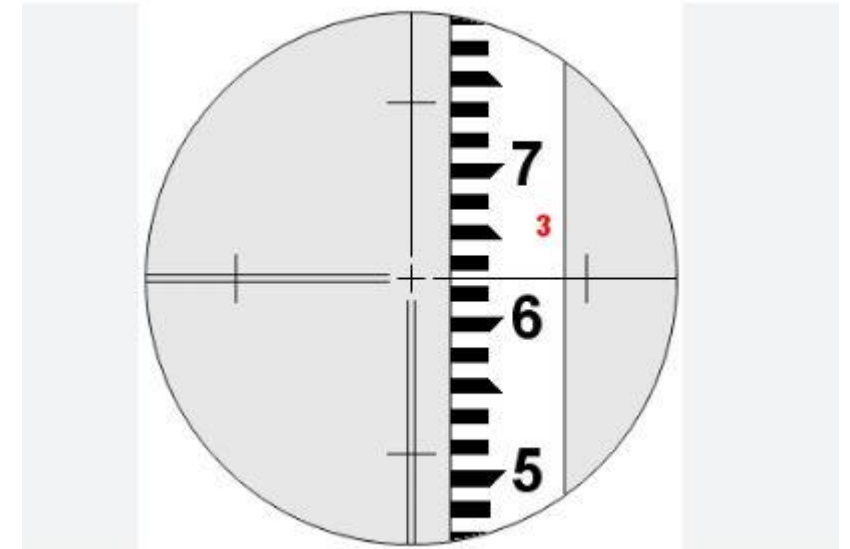
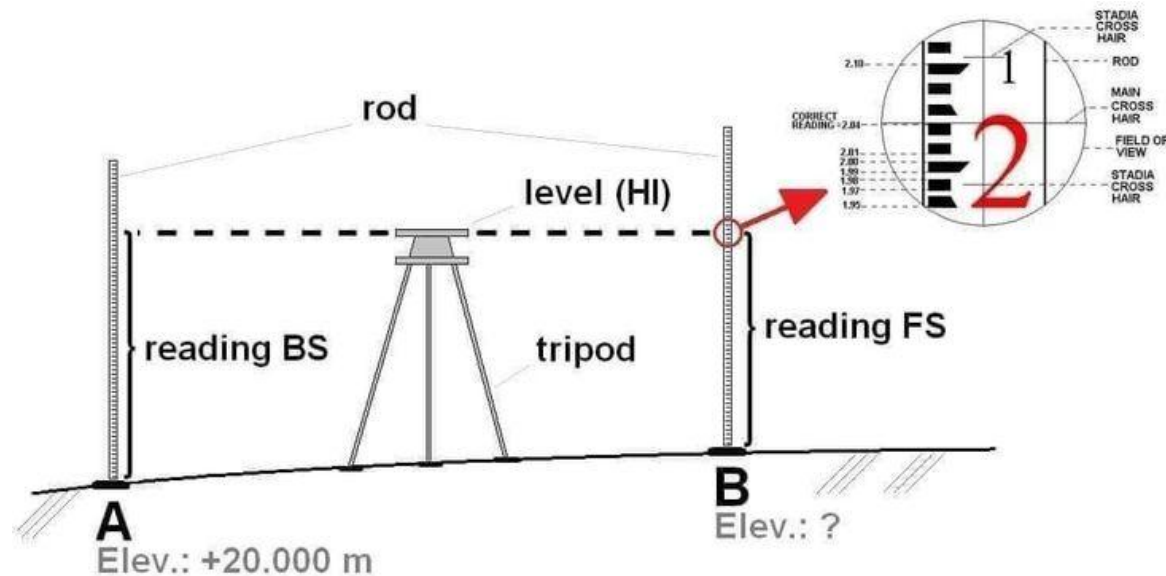
Submit a neatly drawn copy.



Requirement 4. Use one of the corner markers from requirement 2 as a benchmark with an assumed elevation of 100 feet. Using a level and rod, determine the elevation of the other four corner markers.

Corner 1 assumed elevation: 100 feet.

(They complete a closed leveling loop with a construction level and standard leveling rods and see how close they get to 100.00')

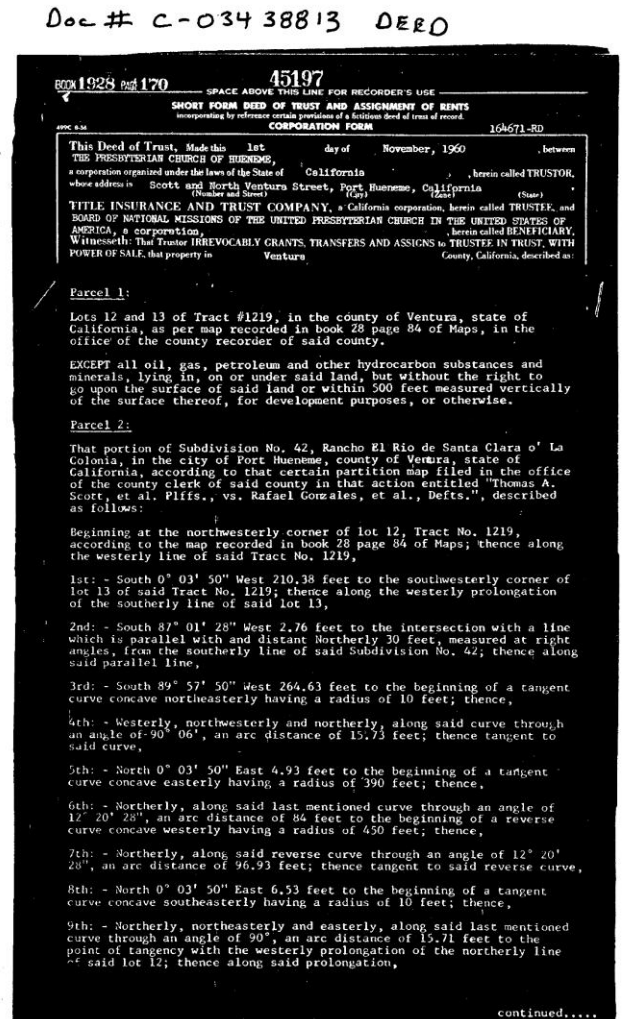


Requirement 5. Get a copy of the deed to a piece of property assigned by your counselor, from the local courthouse or title agency.

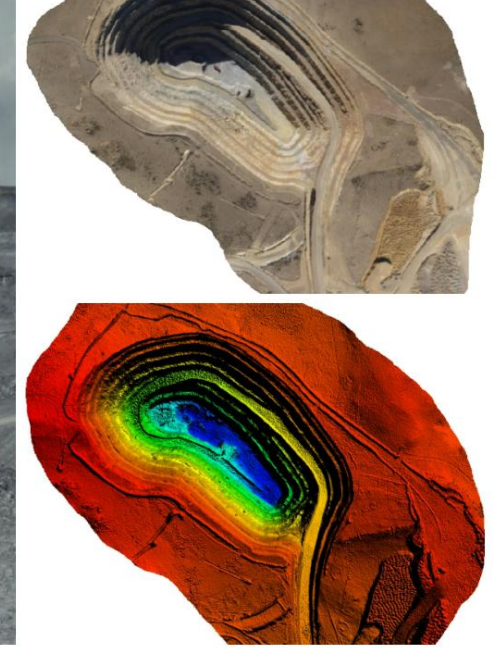
Discuss with your counselor the different parts of the deed and their importance.

Where is :

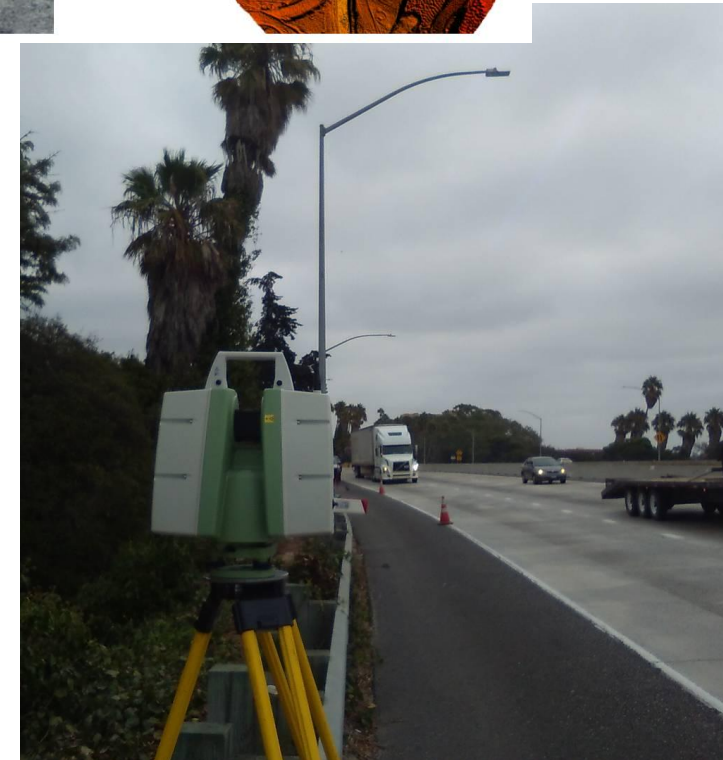
- Where is :
- the Granting Clause
 - the Property Description
 - the Grantor/Grantee info
 - the Signature
 - the Notary statement ??



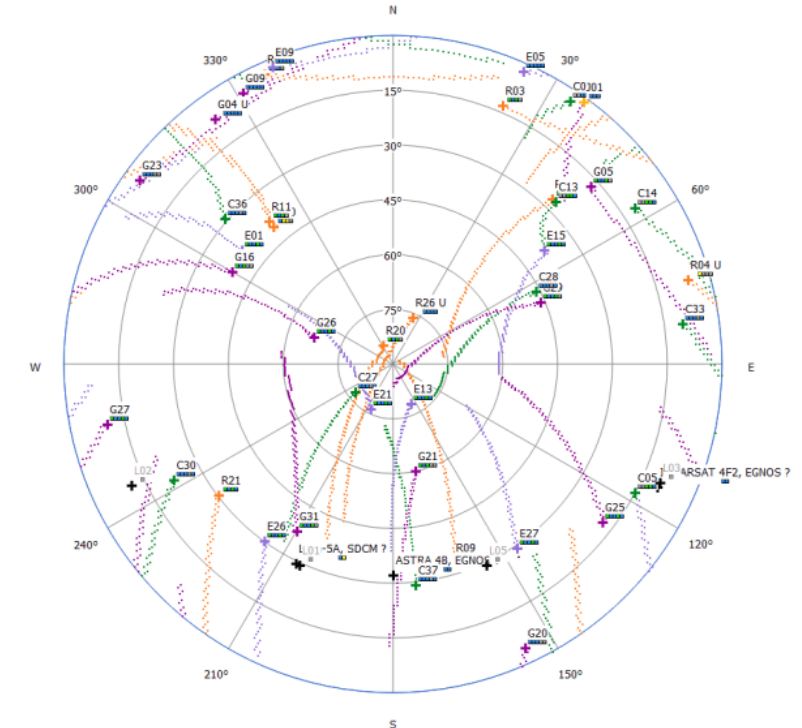
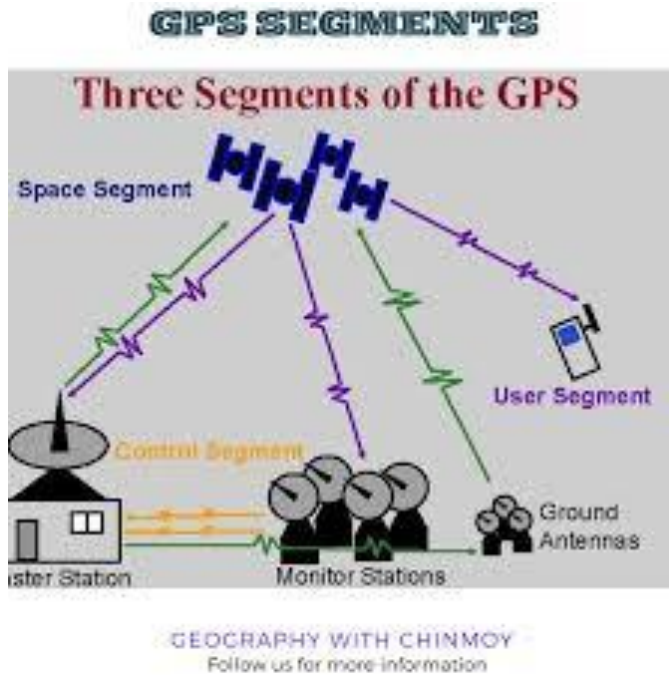
Some Current Working Drones



Requirement 6. Discuss emerging surveying technology such as drones and laser scanning and the strengths and weaknesses of each.



Requirement 7. Tell what GPS is; discuss with your counselor the importance of GPS and how it is changing the field of surveying.



Requirement 8. (LAST ONE !) Discuss the importance of surveying with a licensed surveyor.

Also discuss the various types of surveying and mapping, and applications of surveying technology to other fields.

Discuss career opportunities in surveying and related fields.

Discuss the qualifications and preparation for such a career.



Land
Surveyors
work
everywhere



Questions ?



Step-by-Step Process to Become a Certified Scouting America Merit Badge Counselor

Becoming a certified Merit Badge Counselor (MBC) in Scouting America is a straightforward process if you follow the official requirements **and local council procedures.**

Sources: Google AI, Everything you need to know about being a Merit Badge Councilor, [https://www.scouting.org › merit-badge-tips-guide › merit-badge-counselor](https://www.scouting.org/merit-badge-tips-guide/merit-badge-counselor), input from *Ventura County Council Officials.*

The first thing I would do is **locate and contact your local Scouting America Council.** 

Contact them and let them know you are interested in applying to become a certified Merit Badge Councilor for the Surveying Merit Badge and potentially other badges.

Step 1. Meet the Basic Requirements

- Be **at least 18 years old** and of good character. (Be able to pass a background check.)
- Be **registered with Scouting America** (position code 42). This is primarily done online.
- Complete **Safeguarding Youth Training** (S.A.F.E. Guarding Youth). (currently required to retake every year)
- Have the **skills, education, or experience** in the merit badge subject(s) you wish to counsel.
- Be willing and able to work with Scout-age youth and follow all advancement standards (explained in your MBC online training).

CALIFORNIA STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS YOUTH VOLUNTEERS



Upload Certification



Live Scan
Background Check

WWW.CALIFORNIASCOUTING.ORG

California's AB 506 Requirements

In addition to the Safeguarding Youth Training

If you will be working with kids for:

- 16 hours in a month
- 32 hours total in a year

California **Requires** the completion of a two hour Mandatory Reporter Training (on line).

Plus, you must get the Live Scan finger printing (Background Check). **+/- \$70.**

My local Scouting Council has not required me to do this as my hours have not yet reached that level.

Always consult with your local Scouting Council for their policy.

Step 2. Choose the Merit Badge(s) You'll Counsel

- Select subjects you are passionate about and qualified to teach.
- You can counsel for more than one badge, but each must be reviewed for qualifications and local needs.
- This approval process may vary by Scouting Council.

Step 3. Complete the Application

- **Option 1 (Paper/PDF Adult Application):**
 - Download and complete the **Adult BSA Application form**.
 - Add **position code 42** for Merit Badge Counselor.
 - Include background check consent.
- **Option 2 (Online Registration):**
 - Create a **my.scouting.org** account.
 - Complete the district registration process, indicating you are a merit badge counselor.
 - If new, pay the **\$25 annual fee** (if not already registered in a unit position).

Step 4. Submit Required Documents and Fees

- Send the completed application, background check consent, and fees (mine were \$25) to your **local council registrar**.
- Some councils require mailing or emailing all documents together.
- Keep a copy for your records.

Step 5. Complete Position-Specific Training

- Some badges require **instructor-level certifications** (see Section 7 of the Guide to Advancement). (I did not have to do this for the Surveying Merit Badge)
- Complete online MBC training courses. These are only required to be completed once but are available to review anytime. You will learn basics about Scouting America, your role and responsibilities as an MBC.
- Complete any badge-specific training modules available through Scouting America's online systems. Does not currently apply to the Surveying Merit Badge.

Step 6. Be Approved and Listed

- Once your application is processed, your council will add the Merit Badge Counselor position to your profile.
- You can then select the badges you wish to counsel in the council's Merit Badge Counselor Management System.

Last Steps !!

Step 7. Renewal

- Renew your position **annually** on the anniversary of registration.
- Ensure your **Safeguarding Youth training** is current.
- Follow the council's renewal instructions in my.scouting.org.

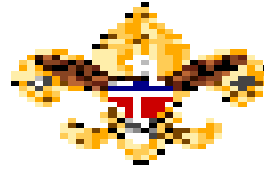
Step 8. Support and Resources

- Use Scouting America's **Guide to Advancement** and digital merit badge pamphlets for curriculum and activity ideas.
- Work with Scouts under the guidance of their unit leaders and with proper supervision.

Questions ??



Why should I do this ???



The **Scout Law** defines the character traits a Scout should embody:

- **Trustworthy:** Honest and dependable
- **Loyal:** Faithful to family, friends, and country
- **Helpful:** Willing to assist others without reward
- **Friendly:** Kind and understanding toward all
- **Courteous:** Polite and respectful
- **Kind:** Gentle and considerate
- **Obedient:** Follows rules and laws responsibly
- **Cheerful:** Maintains a positive attitude
- **Thrifty:** Uses resources wisely and helps others
- **Brave:** Faces challenges with courage
- **Clean:** Maintains personal and environmental cleanliness
- **Reverent:** Faithful in religious duties and respectful of others' beliefs scoutingbsa.org.



Aren't these all pretty good traits for a new surveyor ? !

PRESENTATION FINISHED



...ANY QUESTIONS?

makeameme.org