



## Piedmont Council Advancement Committee

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**To:** Piedmont Council – All Districts  
**From:** Piedmont Council Advancement Committee  
**Subject:** Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Counselor Process  
**Date:** March 22, 2022

As most of you are aware, Citizenship in Society is the 14<sup>th</sup> Eagle merit badge that is now required for an Eagle Scout candidate to complete prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. There has been some confusion and misinformation regarding this new merit badge, so we would like to try to clarify this topic for all the troops in the Piedmont Council.

The Citizenship in Society MB is unique when compared to other badges scouts have typically earned. The guidance from BSA is that this badge is not to be taught, but rather have the Merit Badge Counselors facilitate a discussion with the scouts, while giving the utmost effort to not display any bias that affects the scouts' perception in any of the topics discussed. For this reason, we have tried to find MBCs that have some background in facilitation, teaching, or counseling to be the first to lead the scouts through the badge.

An Eagle Scout candidate is required to complete the Citizenship in Society MB unless they have all their paperwork submitted to the district Eagle board and are just awaiting their Board of Review by July 1, 2022.

We also recognize that there are a lot of Life Scouts that will need to earn the MB in the coming 90 days and beyond. Here are some recommendations for facilitating the sessions and an outline of the process to become a MBC for Citizenship in Society.

- It is recommended that the badge be facilitated for 6 weeks in one-hour sessions.
- It is also recommended that the sessions have at least 2 MBCs that have been trained for the badge.
- The scouts must do their research ahead of time and be prepared for the discussion when they come to the weekly sessions.

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***Process to become a MBC:(The first three training sections can be completed at my.scouting.org and the final training will be via Zoom)***

- Completed the online Merit Badge Counselor training. (75 minutes for the four sections)
- Be current on Youth Protection Training. (72 minutes)
- Completed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Scouting training. (30 minutes)
- Complete MBC application long with an updated BSA Adult application and submit to the Piedmont Council office.
  - Note: Under qualifications, please be specific and not just list “life experience” or “Scoutmaster for 3 years”.
- Once your application has been reviewed, you will be notified of your status.
- If approved, you will be scheduled for a 45 minute Zoom training session with the Piedmont Council D,E & I Chairman.

**In summary:**

There is no difference in applying to serve as a counselor for this merit badge or any other merit badge.

1. YPT is required
2. MBC training is required
3. You need to submit why you believe you are qualified to serve as a counselor for this merit badge.

**What is different about this merit badge:**

1. This is a facilitation of conversation. We are not teaching or sharing our opinions.
2. There is some additional training required due to nature of the program.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact [pcadchair@gmail.com](mailto:pcadchair@gmail.com).