

Greetings, Merit Badge Counselors,

On behalf of your Longhorn Council Advancement Committee, thank you for your service to our Scouts as a merit badge counselor! This all-important learning program could not be possible without volunteers such as yourself.

As we approach the end of the year, it is time to re-charter our registered counselors for 2023. Even if you just recently became a registered merit badge counselor, you will need to recharter – everyone does.

Here's what you need to know and do:

1. **Confirm by November 15, 2022.** This is as simple as replying to this email confirming your desire to continue serving and providing a copy of your current YPT certificate showing expiration in 2024.
2. **Ensure your YPT is valid into 2024.** Your current YPT must not expire before January 1, 2024. If necessary, please re-take the YPT online course to update your expiration date PRIOR TO the Nov 15 re-charter confirmation deadline. Anyone with YPT expiring in 2023 will not be re-chartered.
3. **Provide Certifications for Merit Badges requiring them.** Certain merit badges require certifications in order to teach/facilitate them; the Longhorn Council now requires the Merit Badge Counselors themselves to have and provide proof of these current certifications at time of registration or re-charter, so please include them in your email confirmation along with your YPT. See the attached list for merit badges and certification requirements.
4. **Want to Add or Drop Merit Badges?** This is the perfect time to do so – just provide a new Merit Badge Counselor Information Form indicating which merit badges you want to drop, or add and list your qualifications.
5. **Limit of 30 Merit Badges per Counselor.** The Longhorn Council allows a maximum of 30 merit badges that any counselor may be registered to teach at any given time. If you are currently registered for more than 30, you will need to provide a new Merit Badge Counselor Information Form indicating which merit badges you want to drop. Failure to do this will result in the Council dropping badges at its discretion to bring your total to 30.
6. **ScoutBook lists a maximum of 16 merit badges.** If you are registered for more than 16 badges, please note that only the first 16 – alphabetically – will be listed. This is a ScoutBook restriction.

Please make sure you acknowledge your desire to either continue or stop serving as a merit badge counselor for 2023 by November 15, and follow all the points listed above (YPT, certifications and maximum of 30) as applicable.

Yours in Scouting,

Ted Eadie
Lone Star Advancement