

Effective June 1, 2015

Dear Fellow Scouters,

The Orange County Council Advancement Committee is very pleased to announce the new and improved Merit Badge Day policy guidelines. With this new Merit Badge Day program, the Council Advancement Committee has strived to improve the quality of all Merit Badge Days for the benefit of all Scouts who participate. The committee has taken measures to ensure that Merit Badge Day host units keep intact the ability to pay for costs and have standardized procedures so that each host unit can offer a quality event. The first thing Merit Badge Day host units will be asking is what are the changes from the old program? The major changes are as follows:

1. There will be two registered Scouters per Merit Badge Day host unit who will be designated as Merit Badge Day Coordinators.
2. Merit Badge Day Coordinators will need to complete the certification training offered by the Council prior to the unit applying to host a Merit Badge Day. The Merit Badge Day Coordinator certification training will be offered twice per year by the Orange County Council.
3. All registration will be done through the Council using CampMaster.
4. All Merit Badge Day fees will be paid through CampMaster online; the accrued fees will then be transferred to a unit's council account after the Merit Badge Day takes place. If a unit needs funds prior to its Merit Badge Day, units can request a check from the Council.
5. All Merit Badge Days will be audited by members of the Council Advancement Committee for compliance to policies and procedures.
6. Merit Badge Day participants and parents will have the ability to give feedback in terms of surveys about their experience.
7. All Merit Badge Days will adhere to a structured schedule.

There are several other changes included in the additional links found on the Council website about the new and improved Merit Badge Day Program. Please read through those materials.

The Advancement Committee will schedule the Merit Badge Day Coordinator Certification Training soon, post it on the OCBSA website, and distribute it through your district at roundtables.

Have a great Merit Badge Day!

Yours in Scouting,

Orange County Council Advancement Committee
John Nielsen Chairman