

## Denver Area Council Advancement Committee, Boy Scouts of America

### Policy Limiting Merit Badge Counselors to Counseling on 15 Merit Badges

#### Issue

This policy letter is intended to formalize in writing the long-standing policy of the Denver Area Council Advancement Committee to limit the number of merit badges that an individual Merit Badge Counselor may be approved to counsel.

#### Background

The Guide to Advancement (2019), Para. 7.0.1.4, states that “[t]he National Council places no limits on the number of merit badges an individual may be approved to counsel, except to the extent a person lacks skills and education in a given subject. The intent is for Scouts to learn from those with an appropriate level of expertise.” However, the Guide to Advancement does permit Councils to limit the number of badges that a Merit Badge Counselor is approved to counsel, stating that “[i]t is permissible for councils to limit the number of badges that one person counsels. They must not do so, however, to the point where Scouts’ choices, especially in small or remote units, are so limited as to serve as a barrier to advancement.”

The Denver Area Council has had a long-standing policy limiting Merit Badge Counselors to counseling on no more than 15 merit badges. This Committee believes that this limitation serves a valuable purpose of encouraging Scouts to benefit from the perspective of many teachers.

#### Policy

Under the authority of The Guide to Advancement (2019), Para. 7.0.1.4, the Denver Area Council Advancement Committee limits the number of merit badges that an individual Merit Badge Counselor may counsel to no more than 15 merit badges. This Committee also authorizes the Chair of each District Advancement Committee to waive this limit when necessary to prevent a barrier to advancement, particularly in small or remote units where a Scout’s choices of Merit Badge Counselors and/or merit badges are limited.

This policy is effective as of February 23, 2021.

*Andre Pauka*

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Andre M. Pauka  
Denver Area Council  
Advancement Committee Chair

#### Approved by:

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