

AWARDS AND KNOTS

The Boy Scouts of America offers a number of awards and recognitions for Scout leaders, in addition to those awarded by nomination from the Wright Brothers District or the Miami Valley Council. These awards can be earned by any Scouter who is eligible for them, and a Scouter can keep track of his or her own progress towards earning them.

Sources of information for this page, as well as the illustrations for the knots come from an article in the January/February 2009 issue of *Scouting* magazine, as well as Miami Valley Council and Wright Brothers District sources.

The first awards shown below are those that a Scouter can earn from his activities as a youth in Scouting.

YOUTH SCOUTING KNOTS



ARROW OF LIGHT – If you were a Cub Scout, and earned the Arrow of Light, you are entitled to wear this knot as an adult.



EAGLE – If you were a Boy Scout, and earned the rank of Eagle, you are entitled to wear this knot as an adult. You can also pin your palms on this knot, and the small eagle pin if you have been awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.



VENTURING SILVER AWARD – If you were a Venturer and earned a Silver Award, you may wear this knot on your adult uniform.



SEA SCOUT QUARTERMASTER AWARD – If you were a Sea Scout and earned the Quartermaster Award, you may wear this knot on your adult uniform.



YOUTH RELIGIOUS AWARD – If you earned one or more religious medals as a youth, you can transfer this knot from your youth uniform to your adult uniform. You can also wear a small, gold-colored device to indicate if you earned the award as a Cub Scout, a Boy Scout or as an Explorer/Venturer. You can wear multiple devices for earning several religious awards. These knots, as well as any of the three for heroism or meritorious service are the only ones that can be worn on all uniforms, by both youth and adults.

Adult Scouters can also be given a religious award, generally by nomination by a fellow Scouter, by a Scouting Religious Committee or by the Council's Interfaith Committee. Self-nominations and spouse nominations are not allowed. While the medals presented by different faiths or by Scouting groups vary in size, shape and ribbon color, all recipients are entitled to wear the knot shown below.



ADULT RELIGIOUS AWARD – Consult with www.praypub.org for information about youth and adult religious awards by faith. The Miami Valley Council also offers several awards, for which this knot can be worn.

The Adult Religious Award is presented to those Scouters who have a record of outstanding service to youth through the Scouting program and have a high caliber of leadership. They must have an active relationship with, and service in, a church or synagogue. The Scouter must be nominated by a Pastor, Rabbi, Scouter or friend of Scouting, who is active in their church or synagogue. The nominator must document the Scouter's contribution to the spiritualization of the nominee's Scouting and religious activities.

There are several religious award categories:

Roy D. Miller - Interfaith Committee on Scouting
Bronze Pelican - Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Nancy Buddendeck Award - Catholic Committee on Scouting
Shofar Award - Jewish Committee on Scouting

LIFESAVING AND MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Recognition may be given to both youth and adult member of the Boy Scouts of America where the evidence presented to the National Court of Honor shows that he or she saved or attempted to save life under circumstances that indicate heroism and risk of his or her own life.

Recognition may be given to a youth member or adult leader where the evidence presented to the National Court of Honor shows that a significant or outstanding act of service of exceptional character was performed. The action taken need not involve attempts of rescue or risk to self but must put into practice Scouting skills and/or ideals.

Recognitions are given based on nominations to the National Court of Honor, and consist of a medal presented at an appropriate ceremony, and a knot for uniform wear.



HONOR MEDAL WITH CROSSED PALMS – This medal may be awarded in exceptional cases to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated both unusual heroism and extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life at extreme risk to self.

HONOR MEDAL – This medal may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated unusual heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save life at considerable risk to self.



HEROISM AWARD – This award may be presented to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save life at minimum risk to self



MEDAL OF MERIT – The Medal of Merit may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has performed some outstanding act of service of a rare or exceptional character that reflects an uncommon degree of concern for the well-being of others.

CUB SCOUT LEADER AWARDS

The Cub Scouting program offers six different knots for the six different types of leaders in that program. In order to earn these, a Scouter must hold a leadership position for one or two years (depending on the award), and must be fully trained for their position. In addition, there are a series of performance goals which must be met. You cannot use your tenure for more than one awards, such as by being registered as both a Den Leader and a member of the Pack Committee at the same time, and working towards both the Den Leader and Cub Scouter Award. It will take about nine years in a pack in order to earn all of the awards.

To earn the award, the Scouter can download an application by clicking on the links below, and filling out the dates when each requirement is met. Some Packs appoint a committee member or the Pack Trainer to keep track of all award forms. When the requirements are met, the form needs to be signed by the Cubmaster or Pack Committee Chair, and given to the District Training Chair (Mike Clinch, iclinch@woh.rr.com) for approval. These awards are usually presented at Roundtable.



[Tiger Cub Den Leader Award](#) (One year tenure as a Tiger Cub Den Leader)



[Cub Scout Den Leader Award](#) (One year tenure as a Wolf or Bear Den Leader)



[Webelos Den Leader Award](#) (One year tenure as a Webelos Den Leader)



[Cubmaster Award](#) (Two years tenure, at least one as a Cubmaster)



[Cub Scouter Award](#) (Two years of tenure as a registered leader, including members of the committee, assistant den leaders and assistant Cubmasters. It can also be earned by any Den Leader, Cubmaster or Pack Trainer after they earn their regular award, after additional service)



[Pack Trainer Award](#) (Two years of tenure as the pack trainer)

BOY SCOUT LEADER AWARDS

The Boy Scouts of America offers two knots, one for all registered Scouters and a second for Scoutmasters. To earn these, a Scouter must hold a leadership position for two years (for the Training Award) or three years (for the Scoutmaster's Key), and must be fully trained for their position. In addition, there are a series of performance goals which must be met. The three year's tenure for the Scoutmaster's Key CAN include the two years for the Training Award.

To earn the award, the Scouter can download an application by clicking on the links below, and filling out the dates when each requirement is met. Some troops appoint a committee member to keep track of all award forms. When the requirements are met, the form needs to be signed by the Troop Committee Chair, and given to the District Training Chair (Mike Clinch, jclinch@woh.rr.com) for approval. These awards are usually presented at Roundtable.

The third award is the Scoutmaster Award of Merit, which is offered by the National Eagle Scout Association. The application is available online from the link below, and is completed by the Troop Committee Chair, with the approval of the Patrol Leader's Council.



[Scouter Training Award](#)

Scoutmaster Award of Merit
[Click Here](#) to download a PDF of the application form

[Scoutmasters Key Award](#)

VENTURING LEADER AWARDS

The Venturing program also offers three knots, one for all registered leaders and two for Crew Advisors only. To earn these, a leader must hold a leadership position for two years (for the Training Award) or three years (for the Crew Advisor's Key), and must be fully trained for their position. In addition, there are a series of performance goals which must be met. The three year's tenure for the Crew Advisor's Key CAN include the two years for the Training Award.

To earn the awards, the leader can download an application by clicking on the links below, and filling out the dates when each requirement is met. Some crews appoint a committee member to keep track of all award forms. When the requirements are met, the form needs to be signed by the Crew Committee Chair, and given to the District Training Chair (Mike Clinch, jclinch@woh.rr.com) for approval. These awards are usually presented at Roundtable.

The third award is the Venturing Advisor's Award of Merit. The application is available online from the link below, and is completed by the Crew Committee Chair, with the approval and support of the crew officers.

A fourth award, the Venturing Leadership Award is given by nomination to both youth Venturers and adult Venturing Leaders.



[Venturing Leader's Training Award](#)



[Venturing Advisor's Award of Merit](#)



[Venturing Crew Advisor's Key](#)

Note – The awards for Venturing adult leaders are identical to the corresponding award for a Boy Scout leader – a knot on a khaki background. They can be distinguished from the corresponding Boy Scout awards by adding a gold-colored venturing device to the knot. There are “after market” or “spoof” versions of these three awards that consist of the embroidery on a venturing green background. These versions are not official, and will not be awarded by the Miami Valley Council, but some Venturing leaders purchase them for uniform wear because they look better on their uniforms.



[Venturing Leadership Award](#) – This award is for both Venturing adult leaders and Venturers who show exceptional service to Venturing, and live the Venturing Code. The nominations can be on a council, regional or national level, and the number of awards is strictly limited, based on the number of crews in a council.

DISTRICT TRAINING AWARDS

There are additional awards available to District and Unit Commissioners, Roundtable Commissioners and staff, and District Committee members. Like all other awards listed here, they require being fully trained for the position, serving for the required time and meeting performance goals. When the requirements are met, the form needs to be signed by the appropriate supervisor, and given to the District Training Chair (Mike Clinch, jclinch@woh.rr.com) for approval. These awards are usually presented at Roundtable.

Two additional award that can be earned by a Unit Commissioner are the Doctorate of Commissioner service Award, and the Distinguished Commissioner's Service Award. Each has specific tenure, training and performance standards that involve service and performance beyond that required to earn the Unit Commissioner's Key Award.



Arrowhead Honor – earned as a step on the way to earning the Unit Commissioner Key Award, the Roundtable Commissioner Key Award or the District Commissioner Key Award. The patch is worn on the left sleeve. Requirements for earning this award are found on the corresponding Key Award forms, listed below.

[District Commissioner Key Award](#)
[Unit Commissioner Key Award](#)
[District Committee Key Award](#)
[Roundtable Staff Award](#)
[Roundtable Commissioner Award](#)



Note – The awards for Committee and Commissioner's keys are identical to the corresponding award for a Boy Scout Scoutmaster's Key or Venturing crew Advisor's key– a knot on a khaki background. They can be distinguished from the corresponding Boy Scout or Venturing awards by adding a gold-colored venturing device to the knot. If a Scouter earns multiple key awards, only one knot is worn, and the multiple award are shown with multiple devices.



Doctorate of Commissioner Science Award – earned by completing five years of tenure as a commissioner, completing required basic and advanced training, earning the Commissioner's Key and completing performance goals.



Distinguished Commissioner Service Award – awarded for five years of service as a commissioner, earning the commissioner's Key, recharting at least 90% of units in your area of service for the past two years, and assisting 90% of the units in your service area to earn the Quality Unit Award for the past two years. Slightly different performance goals exist for Roundtable Commissioners.

JAMES E. WEST AWARD

There's one final award that can be obtained by an individual Scouter – the James E. West Award, for contributing \$1,000 to the Council's Endowment Fund. Contributions to the Council's Friends of Scouting do NOT count towards this award. The award can also be given as a gift to memorialize the service of a deserving Scouter. Please contact Fred Dudding at dudfl@woh.rr.com for more information about how to participate.



James E. West Award

OFFICIAL BSA VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The Boy Scouts of America offers four awards to recognize volunteer service on the district, council, regional and national level. These awards are given by nomination only. Deadlines for nominations for the District Award of Merit and for the Silver Beaver are announced in the Scouter newsletter, and on the Council and District websites.



DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT – The District Award of Merit is the district-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the district.

The number of awards that can be awarded is based on the number of units in the district. The Wright Brothers District can give four awards each year.



SILVER BEAVER - The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council. The Silver Beaver is an award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. It is given to those who do not actively seek it.

The number of awards that can be awarded is based on the number of units in the council. The Miami Valley Council usually gives six Silver Beaver awards each year.



SILVER ANTELOPE - The Silver Antelope Award is the regional-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America and recognizes outstanding service to young people within one of the four regions of the BSA. The award is made by the National Court of Honor and the recipient must be a registered adult member of the Boy Scouts of America.

Wright Brothers District recipients of this award include Larry and Janet Horwath, Tom Spettle and Paul Stull.



SILVER BUFFALO - The Silver Buffalo Award is the national-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. It is presented for noteworthy and extraordinary service to youth on a national basis, either as part of or independent of the Scouting program. The award is made by the National Court of Honor and the recipient need not be a registered member of the BSA. The first was given to Lord Baden Powell, and the second to the unknown Scout who introduced Scouting to W. D. Boyce. There have been 674 recipients through 2008.

Miami Valley Scouters who have earned the Silver Buffalo are Charles Kettering, Edward Kohnle and Milton Caniff.

DISTRICT AWARDS

In addition to the four “official” District Award of Merit awards given each year, Wright Brothers District presents additional awards to volunteers and organizations for their support to Scouting, the district and individual units. These awards are made by nomination. Self nomination and spousal nominations are not allowed. All nominations should be made anonymously. If a nominee does not receive an award, their nominations are held over for future consideration in later years.

GROUP AWARDS OR AWARDS TO MULTIPLE PEOPLE

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| The award is a plaque (not pictured) | <p>OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION AWARD – This award, first presented in 2009 is to service or educational organizations for their support to Scouting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations can earn this award once in any four year period. • Nominations are made by any District Volunteer • In the past, organizations such as Epsilon Tau Pi have received one of the other district awards. |
| | <p>COUPLE’S AWARD – is awarded to a couple who displays high levels of leadership and service to their respective units and youth for a period of at least two years. The award is a pin showing a bicycle built for two, with a Scout sign superimposed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one member of the couple must be a registered Boy Scout leader, and the other can be registered with the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts or both. • Any registered Boy Scout leader should have completed both their basic training and their position-specific training. Scouters should have already been awarded the appropriate ‘square knot’ award for their position prior to being nominated as well. • Any registered Scouter (except for the couple themselves) can nominate a couple |

UNIT SERVICE AWARDS

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| The award is a plaque (not pictured) | <p>NEWCOMER’S AWARD – is awarded to Scouters who show high levels of service to a unit in their first or second year of service in Scouting or in a new position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The award may be earned up to four times, once each for Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting/Varsity Scouting and Venturing, and an additional time for service as a District volunteer. • Nominees should have completed their basic training (New Leader Essentials or online equivalent, Youth Protection and the appropriate Fast Start course) prior to being nominated. • Nominations for the Cub Scout, Boy Scout/Varsity Scout and Venturing awards are by unit leaders, while nominations for the District Newcomer Award are made by the District Key Three and committee chairs. |
| The award is a Scouting name tag (not pictured) | <p>UNIT LEADER AWARD – is awarded to veteran Scouters who show exceptional leadership and service to a unit for three or more years of service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The award may be earned up to three times, once each for Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting/Varsity Scouting and Venturing. Nominees should have completed their basic training (defined above) as well as their position-specific training prior to being nominated. • Nominees should have already been awarded the appropriate ‘square knot’ award for their position prior to being nominated as well. • Nominations for the Cub Scout, Boy Scout/Varsity Scout and Venturing awards are by other unit leaders. |
| | <p>OUTSTANDING UNIT SERVICE AWARD – is presented to veteran Scouters who show exceptional leadership and service to a unit for seven or more years of service as well as service to the District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The award may be earned only once. • Nominees should have completed their basic training (defined above) as well as their position-specific training prior to being nominated. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominees should have already been awarded the appropriate ‘square knot’ award for their position and their Unit Leader Award prior to being nominated as well. • Nominations for the awards are by other unit leaders or District volunteers. |
| <p>DISTRICT SERVICE AWARDS</p> | |
| <p>The award is a plaque (not pictured)</p> | <p>COMMISSIONER’S AWARD – is given to Unit Commissioners for outstanding service to the Wright Brothers District units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominees should have completed their basic and advanced Commissioner’s training. • Nominees should have earned their Arrowhead Honor and Commissioner’s key Award. • Nominations are made by other commissioners. • A single award is made each year. |
| | <p>SILVER CYCLE – is awarded to any registered Scouter who display exceptional leadership and service to their units and to the District for a period of five years or more. Scouters who do not participate in District or Council activities are generally not considered, but exceptional service to a unit can merit consideration. The award is a silver bicycle pin with a superimposed Scout sign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominees should have completed their basic training (defined above) as well as their position-specific training prior to being nominated. • Nominees should have already been awarded the appropriate ‘square knot’ award for their position and their Unit Leader Award prior to being nominated as well. • Nominations for the awards are by other unit leaders or District volunteers. • A maximum of twelve awards will be made each year. |