



Awards & Recognition Committee

North Trail District Circle Ten Council



Have you ever wondered what those colorful square patches worn above the left pocket on uniforms are for? They symbolize special awards that have been earned or awarded to Scouters for service to youth. The Boy Scouts of America overwhelmingly is a volunteer organization and we all recognize the need to acknowledge the invaluable service that the volunteers provide to our youth.

There are over 36 recognition awards which carry an emblem for uniform wear. They generally fall into one of two categories and some of the more common ones are mentioned below.

⇒ Awards that are granted after an individual has completed a prescribed course of study and completed the required performance items as specified by a particular award. Some examples are:

- Cub Scouter Award for serving two years in Cub Scouting and completing the requirements.
- Den Leader Awards for serving one year and there are awards for various positions with different age groups.
- Cubmaster Award for serving two years in a leadership role and completing the requirements for the position.
- Boy Scout Leader's Training Award with two years service as a registered leader, completion of training, and five performance items.
- Scoutmaster Key Award for completing three years registered tenure as Scoutmaster and completing the requirements including earning the National Quality Unit Award two times.
- Venturing Leader Training Award with two years as registered leader and performance requirements.
- William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award is for organizing one or more traditional BSA units (Cub-Scout-Varsity-Venturing) after March 1, 2005.

⇒ Awards that are granted an individual when their peers submit a nomination and they are selected for their distinguished service to youth. Examples are:

- Silver Beaver is a national award presented at the Council level for service to Scouting, service to youth in and out of scouting, and service to the community.
- District Award of Merit is a council award given to a registered Scouter at the District level for service to youth in a district, usually over a period of five years or more.
- Religious Emblem Awards are earned through work with the individual religious unit and the requirements are set by the church, not by BSA.

Awards that require a nomination and that are not associated with a uniform patch include:

- Henry Crown Leadership and Service Award is a national award presented at the Council level to front line unit leaders or assistants who have made a significant difference in the lives of registered BSA youth members. The recipient must have directly or profoundly impacted the lives of one or more Scouts.
- The Robert E. Little Award is exclusive to North Trail District and is presented to registered scouters who have provided long and meritorious service to the North Trail District and their units. The recipient is presented with a very handsome commemorative award.
- The Your Extraordinary Service (Y.E.S.) Award is another form of recognition exclusive to North Trail District and is for meritorious service at the unit level. There is an attractive framed certificate presented to the recipient.

These are but a few of the many awards that are available, so please visit the websites listed below for more details and the necessary forms for each award. Contact Scott Thompson if you need any help.

<http://www.boyscoutstrail.com/square-knots.asp> and http://www.northtrail-data.org/data/award_forms.htm

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