

HANDY GUIDE FOR RECOMMENDING TUCKALEECHEE SCOUTERS FOR THE DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT AND SILVER BEAVER AWARD JOHN “PAPPY” VEAL AWARD AND DAVID EVAN GRAHAM AWARD

INTRODUCTION

Tuckaleechee District is blessed with many outstanding leaders who have contributed significantly to the advancement of Scouting in Blount County. While they are motivated by their belief in the value of the BSA program to creating the citizen-leaders of tomorrow, recognition by their peers serves to remind them that their commitment is noticed and appreciated. Two forms of recognition are sanctioned by the BSA for rewarding particularly outstanding contributions—the District Award of Merit for work within the district, and the Silver Beaver Award for work within the council. Two other award were created by the District for recognizing outstanding leadership within District—the John “Pappy” Veal Award and the David Evan Graham Award.

Each award requires a nomination process that originates with the Scouter’s peers. One might infer from the small number of nominations in most years that there must be few Scouters worthy of this high level of recognition, but this rarely proves true. One knows intuitively that there are many worthy of consideration. Obviously, there must be factors inhibiting the submission of worthy candidates. Among the most likely factors are unfamiliarity with the requirements and a lack of confidence about how to assemble a strong nomination. This Handy Guide attempts to address both these issues by summarizing the requirements for each award and suggesting the kind of information that will best support the nomination. It is not intended to provide all the answers, but to inspire confidence that one can assemble a solid nomination package.

The best nominations are one that make it easy for the award committee to compare one candidate with another. Fortunately, there is a “tried and true” way of creating a strong nomination package that permits this to happen—through the use of “bullet statements”. Most Scouters dread having to write a long narrative that explains why their candidate deserves the award because it is time-consuming, tedious, and—let’s face it—intimidating. However, writing a series of statements that convey the information in short, concise, bite-sized chews should not be difficult for even the most word-challenged Old-Timer! If you were reading a nomination package, which of the following would be more convincing to you?

“Mr. Phadfinder helped the District by teaching a merit badge at the Merit Badge College.”

Or

“Mr. Phadfinder has volunteered to teach Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge at the Roane State Merit Badge College the last five years. During this time, 102 scouts earned an Eagle-required merit badge in an environment conducive to learning through his entertaining use of PowerPoint slides and challenging questions.”

There is a handy formula for creating the bullet statement—the “what happened?, so what?” Method. Notice that the effective bullet statement begins with a simple statement of a single accomplishment of the nominee—the “what happened?” statement, and then ends with a second statement about why the accomplishment was so important—the “so what?” statement.

The best nomination package will consist of a series of bullet statements that explain how well the nominee demonstrates the award criteria specific to the award.

DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT

Requirements. The District Award of Merit is awarded by a District to registered volunteer and professional adults for "noteworthy service to youth" in the District. The BSA, recognizing that this service might be for anything from a single plan or a series of decisions that contributed vitally to the lives of large numbers of youth or to a small group over an extended period of time, has made the requirements purposely broad. This is valuable to the District because it can tailor its choices to circumstances peculiar to itself. Perhaps the most telling recommendation is that great consideration should be given to the nominee's Scouting position and the corresponding opportunity to render

outstanding service beyond the expectations of that Scouting position. A subjective, but important, secondary consideration is the nominee's attitude toward and cooperation with the district, division, and council. It is clear that BSA expects that the Scouter's contribution works to enhance the program of the entire District, not just his or her own unit. While the award considers primarily the work with Scouts, there is an expectation that work with youth activities outside of Scouting be considered as well. Remember to include these into your nomination package, too.

Creating the Nomination. The nomination form provided by the BSA is self-explanatory, but serves more as a cover sheet to the actual justification itself. While it does provide guidelines for consideration, it does not help the nominator much to know what to say about the nominee. Perhaps the following will help.

- Noteworthy Service. Examples of noteworthy service (in bullet statement form!) should spring naturally from the Scouter's participation in the Scouting Program—camping, scouting skills, fundraising projects, troop and district community service, and many others. Leadership is very important, but a Scouter does not have to “in charge” to show leadership—attitude, perseverance, willingness to sacrifice personal time and comfort demonstrate this as well. Participation in training as both a student and a staff member demonstrates a desire to deliver the program in a skillful and appropriate way. One-time events of an unusual nature, for example, coordinating a District unit Philmont trip, are quite impressive, but longevity in service is just as important.
- Position versus Performance. Extraordinary performance of duties in a specific position relative to expectations of that position is an excellent way to differentiate candidates. For example, many troops assign an assistant scoutmaster to develop a first-year scout training program. A bullet statement that explained that Scouter used his program to help 52 out of 57 first-year scout to advance to First Class in one year would be pretty impressive, but what if he created a curriculum that he shared with three other troops that help them to increase their success in the program? Right—his performance went far beyond what was expected of his position in two ways, his troops success and the success of other troops.
- Attitude. This can be difficult to convey. Some people are friendly and outgoing, great to have around, but do contribute at a level worthy of consideration. Others don't say a whole lot, or aren't good to be around until the second cup of coffee, but demonstrate the core values of scouting by their willingness to contribute time, resources, experience in anyway necessary. So, if a Scouter developed a method of informing parents how their scouts were doing at summer camp that kept parents confident in the troop leaders, or spent a lot of time with first-year campers ensuring that homesickness would have a minimum impact on their experience, this could be used to demonstrate attitude toward the scouting program.

SILVER BEAVER AWARD

Requirements. The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award. 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. In some ways, the criteria are similar to those of the District Award of Merit, but require performance at a much higher level, service of a longer duration, and an impact on the community in a way that demonstrates the value of Scouting to the general population of the council. Preparation of bullet statements, however, promote the nominee in much the same way.

Creating the Nomination. The nomination form of the Silver Beaver Award provides space for detailing the accomplishments of the nominee, but should not be seen as restricting the number of accomplishment. If necessary, use a continuation sheet, continuing in the same bullet format while identifying which accomplishments go with which criterion on the form. The following are suggestions for considering what contributions to include.

- Record of Service. Consider this section to be a “resume of Scouting” in the same way that one would create a resume for an employment application. It should contain a list of units and positions held within the unit, primary responsibilities, and training (student and staff) over the course of the nominee's scouting career.
- Standing in the Community. The nomination form is clear about what is expected, but it should be noted that the purpose of this section is to demonstrate how this nominee has played an outstanding leadership role in the community in areas outside of Scouting. It should include offices held, awards received, and the impact of contributions to the local community. It would be particularly important to show a relationship between Scouting and the outside activity. For example, if a Scouter worked in the American Legion program that recognizes Eagle Scouts and had won its Scouting award, then this would show the close relationship between the two programs as they served American youth.

- Noteworthy Service to Youth. In this section, it is important to demonstrate the nominee’s contributions to Scouting. A good way to think about them is that they are similar to those required for the District Award of Merit, but at a significantly higher level, and to Scouts throughout the council—and beyond . Thus, since the Silver Beaver is a council award, membership on a council-level committee might be important. Selection as a Wood Badge staff member on the council level, or a member of the National Jamboree staff, would also support the award. As with the District Award of Merit, longevity becomes an important factor.

JOHN “PAPPY” VEAL AWARD

Requirements. The John “Pappy” Veal Award commemorates the life of a Tuckaleechee Scouter who was registered in Scouting in some capacity or other for over 75 continuous years. The recipient will demonstrate the same Scouting qualities of dedication to Scouting, its principles, and its young men; sufficient tenure to demonstrate these qualities over several years; and his willingness to impart its values through selfless service to the Scouting community of Tuckaleechee District. The emphasis will be on the *character* of the leadership and not the leadership *position* in Scouting, *service* rather than *accomplishments*.

Creating the Nomination. The nomination can be in a simple narrative or “bullet point” short statements (see above). Strong candidates will have a list of concrete examples of “Scout spirit in action”, but support should emphasize how the character of service demonstrates the qualities revered in “Pappy” Veal.

DAVID EVAN GRAHAM AWARD

Requirements. David Evan Graham was a devoted Cub Scout in the Tuckaleechee District. When David died in a car accident, his parents established this award in his honor because of his love for all things Scouting. The David Evan Graham Award will be awarded to a Cub Scout Leader in any position in the first two years of his or her Cub Scout tenure who best demonstrates the love and joy of “all things Scouting”.

Creating the Nomination. The nomination can be in a simple narrative or “bullet point” short statements (see above). Strong candidates will have a list of concrete examples of “Scouting joy in action”, but support should emphasize how the enthusiasm for service was translated into action that promoting Cub Scouting in Tuckaleechee District.

**Nomination Form for the
DAVID EVAN GRAHAM AWARD**

Name of Nominee: _____ Scouting Position of Nominee: _____

Unit of Registration: _____ Year of First Registration: _____

Name of Nominator: _____ Phone _____ Email: _____

Requirements. The David Evan Graham Award will be awarded to a Cub Scout Leader in any position in the first two years of his or her Cub Scout tenure who best demonstrates the love and joy of “all things Scouting”. Strong candidates will have a list of concrete examples of “Scouting joy in action”, but support should emphasize how the enthusiasm for service was translated into action that promoting Cub Scouting in Tuckaleechee District.

Dedication to Cub Scouting, its principles, and its young men.

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Examples of “Scouting joy in action”.

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Examples of How Enthusiasm for Service became Concrete Improvements for Cub Scouting.

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Nomination Form for the JOHN "PAPPY" VEAL AWARD

Name of Nominee: _____ Scouting Position of Nominee: _____

Unit of Registration: _____ Year of First Registration: _____

Name of Nominator: _____ Phone _____ Email: _____

Requirements. The John "Pappy" Veal Award commemorates the life of a Tuckaleechee Scouter who was registered in Scouting in some capacity or other for over 75 continuous years. Provide specific examples of how the nominee demonstrated the qualities exemplified by Pappy Veal, emphasizing the *character* of the leadership and not the leadership *position* in Scouting, *service* rather than *accomplishments*.

Dedication to Scouting, its **principles, and its young men**

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Sufficient tenure to demonstrate these qualities over several years

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Willingness to impart **Scouting** values through selfless service to the District **Scouting community**.

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