

White River District Awards Policy

Purpose: This policy establishes the criteria and procedures for awarding district-level recognition in the White River District. All awards are based on merit, with clear eligibility and selection criteria to ensure fairness and transparency.

District Awards

Family of the Year (1 awarded annually)

Description: Recognizes a Scouting family that exemplifies the Scouting Spirit through dedicated service to their unit/district.

Eligibility:

- All members of the family must be registered and active in Scouting.
- Demonstrated involvement in district and/or unit activities.
- Contributions to the success and growth of Scouting in the district.

Selection Criteria:

- Nominated by any registered Scouter.
- Reviewed and approved by the District Awards Committee.

Heart of Gold (1 awarded annually)

Description: Honors a Scouter's spouse who has significantly supported Scouting activities and events.

Eligibility:

- Spouse of a registered and active Scouter.
- Demonstrated consistent support of Scouting activities at the unit or district levels.

Selection Criteria:

- Nominated by any registered Scouter.
- Reviewed and approved by the District Awards Committee.

Eagle in Action (1 awarded annually)

Description: Recognizes an Eagle Scout (ages 18-21) actively engaged in Scouting leadership and service.

Eligibility:

- Must be an Eagle Scout and registered in Scouting.
- Actively involved in a unit, district, or council leadership role.

Selection Criteria:

- Nominated by any registered Scouter.
- Reviewed and approved by the District Awards Committee.

Cubmaster of the Year (1 awarded annually)

Description: Recognizes a Cubmaster who provides exemplary leadership and maintains a strong and active pack.

Eligibility:

- Must be a registered Cubmaster.
- Completed Leader-Specific Training for Cubmasters.
- Demonstrated success in membership growth, retention, and program quality.
- Positive feedback from parents, leaders, and Scouts.

Selection Criteria:

- Nominated by any registered Scouter or parent.
- Reviewed by the District Awards Committee.
- If needed, a final vote will be conducted by district members, including leaders, parents, and Scouts.

Scoutmaster of the Year (1 awarded annually)

Description: Honors a Scoutmaster who fosters an outstanding troop program and youth development.

Eligibility:

- Must be a registered Scoutmaster.
- Completed Leader-Specific Training for Scoutmasters.
- Demonstrated success in youth retention, advancement, and outdoor programming.
- Positive feedback from parents, leaders, and Scouts.

Selection Criteria:

- Nominated by any registered Scouter or parent.
- Reviewed by the District Awards Committee.
- If needed, a final vote will be conducted by district members, including leaders, parents, and Scouts.

Commissioner of the Year (1 awarded annually)

Description: Recognizes a Commissioner who provides outstanding service and support to units or the district.

Eligibility:

- Must be a registered Commissioner.
- Completed Commissioner Basic Training.
- **Unit Commissioners (UC):** Conduct regular unit contacts to support and guide unit leaders.
- **Assistant District Commissioners (ADC):** Mentor and advise Unit Commissioners to ensure effective unit service.
- **Roundtable Commissioners (RTC):** Plan and lead roundtable meetings for district leaders.
- **District Commissioner (DC):** Manage and oversee all commissioner service efforts within the district.
- Positive feedback from units and district leadership.

Selection Criteria:

- Nominated by a registered Scouter from a unit the commissioner serves.
- Reviewed & approved by the District Commissioner.

Charter Organization of the Year (1 awarded annually)

Description: Recognizes a chartered organization that demonstrates exemplary support and engagement in Scouting.

Eligibility:

- Active partnership with a unit.
- Provides significant support to its Scouting unit(s).
- Encourages Scouting involvement within its organization.

Selection Criteria:

- Nominated by a registered Scouter.
- Reviewed by the District Awards Committee.
- Final voting process to be determined.

National Training & Recognition Awards

The training awards and keys are designed to recognize unit Scouters for tenure, training, and performance in their leadership roles. These awards encourage training, tenure in a position, participation, and performance of adult leaders.

District Award of Merit (# awarded based on district size)

Description: A council award presented by districts to recognize Scouters who render service of an outstanding nature at the district level.

Eligibility:

- Must be a registered Scouter.
- Must have provided noteworthy service to youth within the district, either through direct Scouting activities or contributions to youth outside of Scouting.
- Consideration must be given to the nominee's Scouting position and the corresponding opportunity to render outstanding service beyond the expectations of that Scouting position.

- The nominee's attitude toward and cooperation with the district and/or council is to be taken into consideration.
- Professional Scouters or council employees may not receive this award based on employment service but may be eligible based on separate volunteer service.

Selection Criteria:

- Nominated by any registered Scouter.
- Reviewed and approved by the District Awards Committee.
- Awarded on the basis of one per 25 traditional units or fraction thereof.
- A Scouter who has previously received this award is not eligible again.

Commissioner's Key

Description: Recognizes commissioners who have demonstrated continued training, tenure, and performance in their roles. This award encourages commissioners to maintain high standards of unit service and leadership development.

Eligibility:

- A current Youth Protection Training certificate.
- Current registration as a commissioner.
- Within a 5 year period, complete 3 years as a registered commissioner
- Participate in at least two of the following continuing education/supplemental training events:
 - College of Commissioner Science
 - Commissioner Conference
 - Commissioner Workshop
 - Commissioner Retreat
 - National training conference for commissioners

These may include one continuing education/supplemental training event used to satisfy an Arrowhead Honor requirement.

Selection Criteria:

- The District Commissioner will annually review eligible Scouters' training records.
- Upon verification of completion, the required award application will be completed by the appropriate district representative.

District Committee Key

Description: Recognizes district committee members who have exhibited strong leadership, training, and tenure in their roles. This award emphasizes the importance of strategic planning and effective district operations.

Eligibility:

- Within a five-year period, complete at least three years of registered tenure as a member of a district committee as the chair of the district or chair of one of the district operating committees (*Activities & Service Chair, Advancement Chair, Camping Chair, Fund Development Chair, Membership Chair, & Training Chair*) . This can include the tenure used to earn the District Committee Training Award.
- Do the following during the tenure used for this award:
 - Complete District Committee Position Specific Training for your registered position(s).
 - Participate in at least one additional supplemental or advanced training event at the council, territory, or national level.
- Do the following during the tenure used for this award:
 - Serve in a district that achieves primary council assigned performance objectives for at least two of the years
 - Take part actively in at least twelve district committee meetings.
 - Give primary leadership in meeting an assigned district objective/goal in each year.

Selection Criteria:

- The District Training Chair will annually review eligible Scouters' training records. If the position of District Training Chair is vacant, the District Chair will assume this responsibility.
- Upon verification of completion, the required award application will be completed by the appropriate district representative.

Scouter's Training Key for District Committee

Description: Recognizes district committee members who have demonstrated a commitment to training, tenure, and performance in their leadership roles. This award encourages district volunteers to develop their skills and provide strong leadership within the district.

Eligibility:

- Complete at least two years of tenure as a member of the district committee.

- Complete Position Specific Training for District Committee members, for your registered position(s).
- Participate in at least one additional supplemental or advanced training event at the council, territory, or national level.
- Review the District Operations Handbook, and discuss your role with your operating committee chair, district chair, or district executive.
 - Do the following during the tenure used for this award:
 - Attend and participate in at least six district committee meetings each year.
 - Be a contributing member of an operating committee which meets council-approved performance objectives for at least two of the years.

Selection Criteria:

- The District Training Chair will annually review eligible Scouters' training records. If the position of District Training Chair is vacant, the District Chair will assume this responsibility.
- Upon verification of completion, the required award application will be completed by the appropriate district representative.

Council & Unit Awards Recognized at the District Level

The following awards are earned at the council or unit level but may be formally recognized or presented at the District Awards Dinner, if earned within the last year:

- Silver Beaver Award (Council Award)
- Den Leader Training Award (Unit Level)
- Cubmaster's Key (Unit Level)
- Scoutmaster's Key (Unit Level)
- Advisor's Key (Unit Level)
- Skipper's Key (Unit Level)
- Scouter's Training Award for Cub Scout Leaders (Unit Level)
- Scouter's Training Award for Scouts BSA (Unit Level)
- Scouter's Training Award for Venturing Leaders (Unit Level)
- Scouter's Training Award for Sea Scouting Leaders (Unit Level)
- Unit Leader Award of Merit (Unit Level)

- Order of the Arrow & Firecrafter Recognitions: Individuals who have sealed their membership in Brotherhood, stood their Vigil, or were crowned Minisino in Firecrafter may be recognized.
- Other awards as requested and approved on a case-by-case basis

Award Process & Administration

1. Nominations:

- Any registered Scouter may submit a nomination.
- Nominations must include a description of the nominee's qualifications.
- Deadline for submissions will be set by the District Awards Committee annually.

2. Review & Selection:

- The District Awards Committee will evaluate nominations based on the stated criteria.
- If no candidates meet the criteria for an award in a given year, the award will not be presented.

3. Recognition:

- Awards will be presented at the annual District Awards Dinner or another designated event.

Implementation: This policy takes effect immediately upon approval. The District Awards Committee will ensure compliance with these guidelines and may propose amendments as needed.

Approved by: 
Date: May 1, 2025