

Gunpowder Falls District
Baltimore Area Council
Scouts BSA



“In appreciation of excellence, leadership & service”

The awards & recognition program

Applications & Information for annual Gunpowder Falls District Awards
Recognition Dinner on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 6:30 pm at
Immanuel Baptist Church,
5041 Brooks School House Road, Baltimore, MD 21237

GUNPOWDER FALLS DISTRICT
AWARDS & RECOGNITION
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Gunpowder Falls District Awards & Recognition

One of the keystone methods of Scouting is to recognize achievements and good work. With youth and adults alike, a heartfelt “thank you” goes a long way. The District has a number of ways to show appreciation for leadership and among these are the Awards and Recognitions outlined in this guidebook. In this reference, you will find the current list of award recipients and applications for referring others to be considered for recognition of their worthy service to Scouting.

The **Vernon Bauer Memorial James E West Award** is presented in June at the District Recognition dinner. This is the District’s “Lifetime Achievement” award, and the selection committee is made up of previous recipients. We appreciate donations each year to fund this prestigious award. (see page 6 for details)

The **District Award of Merit** is the highest award that can be presented by the District to an adult scouter. The District Awards Committee makes the selection.

The **Outstanding Scout Award** is the highest award that can be presented by the District to a youth. **The District Awards Committee makes the selection.** (see page 7 for details)

The **Outstanding Unit Scouter Award** is submitted by the unit leadership to recognize their volunteers who have given outstanding service and is reviewed by the District Awards Committee. (see page 9 for details)

The **District Honor Unit Award** is based upon the criteria outlined in the application and reviewed by the District Key leaders. (see page 12 for details)

The **Den Leader Training Award** can be earned by a Cub Scout Den Leader who has completed at least one year as a registered den leader, completed required training and achieved at least five performance criteria. (see page 13 for details)

The **Scouter’s Training Award** can be earned by a registered adult leader in a Cub Scout pack, Scout troop or Venturing crew who has completed at least two years as a registered adult leader, completed training for the position and achieved certain performance activities. (see page 14 for details)

The **Unit Leader Award of Merit** can be earned by a registered Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Coach or Advisor who has been in the position for at least eighteen months, met the training requirements for that position, has a leader succession plan in place and achieved certain performance activities. (see page 15 for details)

The **Cubmaster’s Key, Scoutmaster’s Key or Advisor’s Key** can be earned by a registered Cubmaster, Scoutmaster or Venturing Advisor who has completed at least three years in the position, met the training requirements for that position and achieved certain performance activities. (see page 16 for details)

The **Silver Beaver Award** is the highest award presented by the Council. The District Silver Beaver Committee makes recommendations to the Key leadership by August 1, and with their concurrence, applications are forwarded to the Council Selection Committee by the deadline (usually October 1). Applications are also welcome directly from all units to the council.

Please forward applications and reference letters by May 15 to:

Chuck Starkey at GunpowderFallsDistrictAwards@gmail.com

Or mail to: Gunpowder Falls District Awards Committee
 c/o Chuck Starkey
 7103 Copeleigh Road
 Baltimore, MD 21212

Chuck would also welcome Silver Beaver suggestions and these need to be forwarded by June 30 so the committee can deliver a recommendation to the District Key leadership by August 1.

Thank you for helping the District to recognize worthy Scouts, Scouters and Units! Your recommendation letters provide the words to make awards very special. Often, nominees are given a package of letters after the award is presented. These can send the warm feeling of appreciation that lasts for many hours, days and years of service.

Awards & Recognition
6 Quick Steps to a Successful Application

1. Identify a worthy candidate
 - There are so many who have served faithfully!
 - Who deserves recognition?
 - Who deserves a thank you?
2. Consider when the “time is right”
 - What will others feel about the recognition?
 - What will the candidate feel about the award?
 - is there enough time to develop a good submission?
3. Select and recruit a “champion”
 - Who is the right person as advocate?
 - What network of scouters should be contacted?
 - If you are the right person, be the champion!
4. Secure or develop the candidate’s scouting resume
 - Check with the unit, a spouse or family, district leaders
 - What do you know about the candidate?
 - Does the council have information or records?
5. Distribute the resume to others to encourage support
 - Advise of the effort and provide your contact info
 - Provide the candidate’s scouting resume for info
 - Remind of confidentiality
 - Consider your own target deadline before the deadline
 - Leave time to remind again, receive and package letters
6. Send a well-crafted application before the deadline
 - An organized presentation does assist approval
 - Include reference letters from scout leaders, scouts, scout parents, community activities, religious leaders...
 - Provide your contact information for questions

Vernon Bauer Memorial James E. West Award

Each year, a Scouter is selected by the previous Award Recipients to receive a James E. West Fellowship Award in honor of the memory of Vernon Bauer, Scouter 1952 – 2002. The recognition is presented at the District Recognition dinner. Ralph Waldo Emerson observed that “an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man.” Scouting today is the “lengthened shadow” of more than three decades of the farseeing and dedicated leadership of Dr. James E. West. Like Dr. West, the selected Scouter must have likewise cast their own “lengthened shadow,” as shown by their dedication and service to Scouting contribute to the Scouting legacy for future generations of youth.

Vernon Bauer was an active volunteer for forty-three years and Scouting was a very importing part of his life. He served as Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 746 throughout his scouting career as well as an Adult Advisor in the Order of the Arrow. He worked for the District in many capacities from 1966 through 2002 and provided service to the Council as a Philmont Crew Advisor and ASM at two National Jamborees. Vernon was honored with many awards to include Outstanding Commissioner, Outstanding Unit Scouter, District Award of Merit, and the Silver Beaver. Vern was a serious advocate of Scout advancement but was never too serious not to enjoy a good time in the process.

Previous Award Recipients

John H Carpenter – 2003
James R LaVey – 2004
Alvin D Hill – 2005
Robert E Bell, Sr – 2006
Carolyn S Adamiak – 2007
Edward R Huneke, Jr – 2008
Aubrey A Palmer – 2009
Elmer J McFadden – 2010
C McKinley “Mick” Rost – 2011
David Jeffers – 2012
John “Jack” O Simons, Jr – 2013

Donald W. Smith – 2014
Douglas Littrell – 2015
Richard Shaw – 2016
Ken Mason – 2017
Bill Fleck – 2018
Richard Rost – 2019
Tom Wheatley - 2020
Edward Konig – 2022
Joe Tewey – 2023
John Heuchan - 2024

If you would like to contribute to help Gunpowder Falls to recognize a remarkable Scouter with this District “Lifetime Achievement” award, you can send a check payable to Baltimore Area Council BSA with the memo “Gunpowder Falls District Vernon Bauer Memorial James E West”. To insure proper tracking of all donations, please mail your contributions to:

Steven Shaver, Gunpowder Falls District Director
Boy Scouts of America, Baltimore Area Council
701 Wyman Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21211



Gunpowder Falls District

Baltimore Area Council, BSA

OUTSTANDING SCOUT AWARD

INSTRUCTIONS: This nomination is for a unit to recognize its most outstanding Scout, Venture or Varsity Scout. Each year, each unit in the Gunpowder Falls District unit may nominate a Scout (must be under 18 at the time of nomination) for this award. To nominate a Scout for this award, complete all the information on this form and forward it to the Gunpowder Falls District Awards Committee by May 15th. Please provide complete information for each topic (e.g. number of people served, dates and places).

Name: _____ Age: _____ Rank: _____

Street Address: _____ Unit: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Currently registered in Scouting as: _____

SCOUTING HISTORY:

Cub Scout: _____ Unit: _____ Years in Cub Scouts: _____

Highest Rank Earned: _____ Religious Award(s): _____

Scout: _____ Unit: _____ Years in Scouting: _____

Highest Rank Earned: _____ Religious Award(s): _____

Positions/Office Held: _____

List of Unit Activities/Participation: _____

Training Attended: _____

Council/District Activities/Participation: _____

Order of the Arrow: _____ Honor: _____

OA Positions/Office Held: _____

OA Activities/Participation: _____

Service in School/Church/Sports, etc. (include positions held, involvement/years/recognitions)

Others: (include positions held, involvement/years/recognitions)

Additional Comments: _____

Nominated by: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Position in Scouting: _____ Unit: _____

Scoutmaster's Recommendation: _____



Gunpowder Falls District Outstanding Unit Scouter Award

Please note that this nomination is to be submitted to the Awards Committee and will be held in strict confidence. To avoid possible Disappointment, please do not advise the nominee in any way of your nomination on his or her behalf

Nominee Information:

Name: _____ Unit Number and Type: _____
 Address: _____ Chartering Organization: _____
 City: _____ Current Position: _____
 State, Zip: _____ Years in Scouting: _____

Unit Positions Held

Give each position held and years

Training Experience

List all training activities attended

Participation

List Unit, District or Council activities

Awards and Recognition

List any other awards, scouting or other

Statement of Nomination

Please provide some additional comments regarding the candidate and his/her nomination

Nominated By:	Other Information:
Name: _____	Please attach letters of recommendation or other pertinent to this form. Please provide as much information as possible.
Address: _____	
City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone: _____	
	Email: _____

Gunpowder Falls District Outstanding Unit Scouter

To recognize Scouters within Gunpowder Falls District who have provided outstanding service at the unit level.

Outline of the Program:

1. All registered units are invited to submit, in writing, an application for each adult within their unit who they feel have rendered outstanding service to their organization.
2. A nominee must be a registered adult Scouter or volunteer within Gunpowder Falls District and be currently serving the unit from which the nomination is received.
3. The award shall be presented at the Annual Districted Recognition Dinner each year. Recipients of the award should not be notified ahead of time, if at all possible, but should be strongly encouraged to attend the dinner.
4. Each unit may receive up to one award for every **ten** registered adult leaders or fraction thereof. The District Award Committee must approve all nominations and reserves the right to approve all, some or none of the applications it receives.
5. Two letters of recommendation regarding the Scouter are required from other adults and/or Scouts associated with the Unit

Gunpowder Falls District Honor Unit Award Application

The following Honor Unit Award requirements describe the criteria needed for a Cub Scout Pack, Scout Troop, or Venture Crew to be recognized as a Gunpowder Falls District Honor Unit. The District Committee has developed the following unit requirements for the award. The District Key 4 will review and approve all applications for the award. The award will consist of a large patch for the unit flag. Shoulder patches will be made available for purchase.

To qualify, the unit must meet or exceed the following requirements and complete the Honor Unit Award application. This award runs from May 1st through April 30th. Applications must be turned in by May 15th. The award will be presented to the unit at the annual District Recognition Dinner in June.

- ☐ Completed Charter Renewal On-Time. Date completed _____
- ☐ Qualified as a Quality Unit. Check Yes _____
- ☐ Attend at least 75% of District Roundtables/Council Venturing Roundtables % _____
- ☐ Participate in at least one annual BAC activity. List activity _____
- ☐ Participate in at least one annual District activity. List activity _____
- ☐ Conduct a service project. List project _____
- ☐ Held a Baltimore Area Council Annual Appeal (formerly Friends of Scouting) family presentation and raised a minimum of \$1,000 or a 10% growth over previous year. List amount / % increase _____
- ☐ Participate in a fundraising event that benefits both the Unit and Council/District – Event type and sales amount _____
- ☐ Pack – held a Blue and Gold Banquet. Date _____
- ☐ Qualified for the Summer-Time Pack Award. Check Yes _____
- ☐ Conducted School Night Recruiting campaign & turned in results ... # recruited _____
- ☐ Troop – qualified for National Camping Award _____
- ☐ Participated in the Spring Round-up recruiting campaign. Date _____
- ☐ Troop/Crew – participated in a long-term summer camp. Where _____
- ☐ Crew – participated in an Open House recruiting campaign. Date _____

Cubmaster/Scoutmaster/Crew Advisor:

Signature

Unit _____

Committee Chairman:

Signature

Date _____

Flexibility may be allowed on certain requirements – ask for dispensation if your unit is deserving. If you have any questions regarding requirements or qualifications, email Chuck Starkey at [Gunpowder FallsDistrictAwards@gmail.com](mailto:GunpowderFallsDistrictAwards@gmail.com)

Den Leader Training Award



Note: This award can be earned as a Tiger Cub Den Leader, Wolf Cub Scout Den Leader, Bear Cub Scout Den Leader, and Webelos Den Leader.

It can be earned in each position, but tenure may be used only for one award.

Tenure

Complete one year as a registered den leader in the position selected.

Tiger Cub den leader's tenure can be the program year as long as it is greater than eight months.

Training

1. Complete the basic training for the selected den leader position.
2. Complete This Is Scouting training.
3. Attend a pow wow or university of Scouting (or equivalent), or attend at least four roundtables (or equivalent) during the tenure used for this award.

Performance

Do five of the following during the tenure used for this award:

1. Have an assistant den leader who meets regularly with your den.
2. Have a den chief who meets regularly with your den.
3. Graduate at least 70 percent of your den to the next level.
4. Take leadership in planning and conducting a den service project.
5. Have a published den meeting/activity schedule for the den's parents.
6. Participate with your den in a Cub Scout day camp or resident camp.
7. Complete Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO).
8. Complete Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders.
9. Participate with your den in at least one family camp; if your den is a Webelos den, participate with your den in at least two overnight camps.
10. Take leadership in planning two den outdoor activities.
11. Hold monthly den meeting and den activity planning sessions with your assistant den leaders.

Cub Scout, Scout or Venturing Leader's Training Award



Tenure

Complete at least two years of tenure as a registered adult leader in a Cub Scout pack, Scout troop or Venturing Crew.

Training

1. Complete basic training for any Cub Scout, Scout or Venturing leader position.
2. Complete This Is Scouting training.
3. Attend a Cub Scout pow wow, university of Scouting (or equivalent), or attend at least four roundtables (or equivalent) during each year of the tenure used for this award.

Performance

Do the following during the tenure used for this award:

1. Participate in an annual pack, troop or crew planning meeting in each year.
2. Serve as an adult leader in a pack, troop or crew that achieves at least the Bronze level of Journey to Excellence in each year.
The Quality Unit Award is acceptable if the tenure used is prior to 2011.
3. Give primary leadership in meeting at least one pack, troop or crew Journey to Excellence objective in each year.
4. Participate in at least one additional supplemental or advanced training event at the council, area, region, or national level during the two years

Unit Leader's Award of Merit



Background

Quality unit leadership is the key to a quality unit program—and it leads to better Scout retention. Statistics show that if young people stay engaged in the program for at least five years, the BSA's influence likely will stay with them for the rest of their lives. A quality Scouting experience will help keep Scouts in the program, and the Scouts, BSA created the Unit Leader Award of Merit to recognize the quality unit leaders who make that happen.

Requirements

The nominee must:

1. Be a currently registered Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Coach, or Advisor who has served in that position at least 18 continuous months.
2. Meet the training requirements for the registered position.
3. Distribute a printed or electronic annual unit program plan and calendar to each family in the unit.
4. Have a leader succession plan in place.
5. Effectively use the advancement method so that at least 60 percent of the unit's youth have advanced at least once during the last 12 months.
6. Cultivate a positive relationship with the chartered organization.
7. Project a positive image of Scouting in the community.

Cubmaster's, Scoutmaster's, Venturing Advisor's Key



Tenure

Within a five-year period, complete at least three years of registered tenure as a Cubmaster (or one year as a registered assistant Cubmaster plus two years as a registered), Scoutmaster or Venturing crew Advisor.

(This can include the tenure used to earn the Scouter's Training Award or the Unit Leader Award of Merit.)

Training

1. Complete basic training for Cubmasters, Scoutmasters or Advisors.
2. Complete This Is Scouting training
3. Attend a pow wow or university of Scouting (or equivalent), or attend at least four roundtables (or equivalent) during each year of the tenure used for this award.

Performance

Do the following during the tenure used for this award:

1. Achieve at least the Silver level of Journey to Excellence for at least two years. The Quality Unit Award is acceptable if the tenure used is prior to 2011.
2. Earn the National Summertime Pack Award, National Outdoor Challenge Award at least once.
3. Conduct an annual pack/troop/crew planning session and have a published pack/troop/crew meeting/activity schedule for the parents in each year.
4. Participate in at least one additional supplemental or advanced training event at the council, area, region, or national level.