



"In appreciation of excellence, leadership & service."

Applications & Information

Annual Gunpowder Falls District Awards Recognition Dinner

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

St. Isaac Jogues Church
9215 Old Harford Road, Parkville MD, 21234

Doors open: 6:15 pm Dinner Served: 7:00 pm Awards Ceremony: 7:45 pm

GUNPOWDER FALLS DISTRICT
AWARDS & RECOGNITION
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Gunpowder Falls District Awards & Recognition Summary	3
District Application 2025 Contact Info	4
Six quick steps to successful application	5
Vernon Bauer Memorial James E. West	6
Outstanding Scout Award	7
Outstanding Unit Scouter Award	9
Honor Unit Award	11

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 pages 7-8 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 27 to:

Tobi Louise Kester at GunpowderFallsDistrictAwards@gmail.com

Or mail to: Gunpowder Falls District Awards Committee
c/o Tobi Louise Kester
309 Sherwood Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030

The Gunpowder Falls District Awards Committee 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 important 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	Donald W. Smith – 2014
James R LaVey – 2004	Douglas Littrell – 2015
Alvin D Hill – 2005	Richard Shaw – 2016
Robert E Bell, Sr – 2006	Ken Mason – 2017
Carolyn S Adamiak – 2007	Bill Fleck – 2018
Edward R Huneke, Jr – 2008	Richard Rost – 2019
Aubrey A Palmer – 2009	Tom Wheatley - 2020
Elmer J McFadden – 2010	Edward Konig – 2022
C McKinley “Mick” Rost – 2011	Joe Tewey – 2023
David Jeffers – 2012	John Heuchan - 2024
John “Jack” O Simons, Jr – 2013	

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 – Scouting America with the memo “Gunpowder Falls District Vernon Bauer Memorial James E West”. To ensure proper tracking of all donations, please mail your contributions to:

Gunpowder Falls District Director
Scouting America, Baltimore Area Council
701 Wyman Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21211



Gunpowder Falls District

Baltimore Area Council, Scouting America

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 27th. 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 <small>Give each position held and years</small>	Training Experience <small>List all training activities attended</small>
Participation <small>List Unit, District or Council activities</small>	Awards and Recognition <small>List any other awards, scouting or other</small>
Statement of Nomination <small>Please provide some additional comments regarding the candidate and his/her nomination</small>	
	Other Information: <small>Please attach letters of recommendation or other pertinent to this form. Please provide as much information as possible.</small>
	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 27th. 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:

_____ Unit _____
Signature

Committee Chairman:

_____ Date _____
Signature

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 Tobi Louise Kester at GunpowderFallsDistrictAwards@gmail.com