



## Getting Started

The Silver Beaver Award is the highest award that a local council can bestow upon a registered volunteer for noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth. You are to be commended for wanting to make the effort to submit an application to recommend that particular volunteer for such a distinguished award.

However, at first glance, a Silver Beaver application looks like a monumental effort. It doesn't have to be if you just take it just one step at a time. Some steps may include the following:

- Pick a worthy candidate. There are many volunteers deserving of the Silver Beaver within our council. Pick someone that you admire and respect for his or her Scouting abilities, accomplishments and dedication. Please make sure this individual has received the District Award of Merit. Although being a recipient of the District Award of Merit not a requirement, you should spend the effort to submit your candidate for the District Award of Merit if they have not received it (it's also good practice in researching important data).
- Start preparing as early as possible. When submitting a candidate, you may start preparing about a year ahead of the due date. It's extremely difficult to start getting everything together just a few weeks before the due date. Start a notebook accumulating all that individual's biographical and service information. You'll have a far more complete application the sooner you start. Contact friends, unit members and family to gather information. Ask your district executive for a copy of last year's blank application to start work.
- Think about letters of recommendation. Start considering which people you like to ask to write letters of recommendation.
- Ask for the help of others. District Commissioners and Chairman can offer much direction and assistance. Discuss your candidate with them for their advice. Also, they can inform you if someone else is working on submitting that same candidate.

## Biographical Data

Fill in as completely as possible. If you don't know the exact date, try to approximate.

### A. Record of Service to Scouting America

One way is to organize by unit, district council, awards received, training received and if it applies, training staff experiences. The following examples are suggested:

- Unit Service: offices held in a unit and tenure in them. Include the unit number.
- District Service: committees served on and dates, offices held and dates.
- Council Service: committees served and dates. Include training staff, Order of the Arrow, etc.
- Training Received: note training awards and dates received. Include Wood Badge, commissioner training, etc.
- Awards Received: note recognitions like adult religious awards, Vigil Honor, District Award of Merit.

### B. Record of Service to Youth Outside of Scouting

Some areas to consider are church, school, and work activities. Some of the examples that have been noted on past applications include:

- Church affiliations
- School volunteers
- PTO member'
- Youth sports (little league, soccer)



## C. Record of Community Involvement

This may be a very challenging category to complete. You may include any service as stated in the record of service to the youth category if it applies. Some other examples that have been noted are:

- Military and Civic service
- Community volunteer
- Fraternal or service club activities
- Professional organizations

## Letters of Recommendation (Maximum of 6 per nomination; letters must be current)

Letters of recommendation may require extra planning because people that are asked to write letters often take a good deal of time to prepare just so they can write a quality letter. Also, people outside of Scouting such as religious and community organization leaders often write very good letters. Some helpful hints may include:

- Sources of Letters. Consider people that personally know the Silver Beaver candidate. Many good letters can come from experienced Scouters, longtime friends and religious leaders. Don't pass up a Scouting youth or a Scout's parent in writing letters talking about how this individual affected their life.
- Give people a copy of their biography. This will help anyone writing a letter to be consistent. Some people will leave something out just because they may have forgotten the exact details. This biography is also important to those outside of Scouting to get the terminology down.
- Plan on getting at least 7 letters. It could be a big panic trying to get that 6<sup>th</sup> letter in a hurry. You may pick the 6 best if you have extras. If your candidate is selected, give them the extra letters that were not included in the application.
- Offer assistance to others by following up periodically to get you the letters in time. Not everyone is comfortable in writing letters or wants to submit a handwritten letter. Feel free to type their letters and ask them to sign them.
- Personal stories are usually quite touching. Many an experienced Scouter has been humbled by the many compliments and personal stories contained within these letters. These stories can have a great impact.

## Submitting the Application

(Deadline is 12:00 pm, November 14 at the Columbus Service Center – Attn: [Allison Cramer](#))

Some helpful hints may include:

- **The Award seeks the Person, the Person DOES NOT seek the Award**
- Type it or write it as neatly as possible. After all that hard work, make sure it can be read.
- Plan on submitting the application 2 or 3 weeks ahead of time.
- Ask others for help if you need advice or are running out of time.
- Most importantly, keep your fingers crossed. If the candidate you submitted doesn't receive the Silver Beaver this year, don't give up, try next year. Few candidates receive this prestigious award on the first try.

**Please note that this guide is not intended to be a right or wrong, all-inclusive guide for submitting that special Silver Beaver candidate. Every Silver Beaver candidate is unique. Just consider the ideas mentioned as a source of ideas.**

**Thank you for taking the time and effort to recognize that special volunteer.**

**The  
Silver Beaver  
Award  
Nomination Form**



The Silver Beaver Award was introduced in 1931 and is a **council-level** distinguished service award of Scouting America. Recipients of this award are registered Scouters who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given at the council level. **This nomination form must be sent to the local council.**

To prevent embarrassment, the candidate should not be notified of this nomination.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_

Company name \_\_\_\_\_ Professional title \_\_\_\_\_

Scouting position \_\_\_\_\_ Unit type and No. \_\_\_\_\_ District name \_\_\_\_\_

The nominee is registered in Scouting as \_\_\_\_\_ and holds a membership certificate expiring \_\_\_\_\_. (If Scouter is currently unit-connected, give unit number: \_\_\_\_\_)

If the award is granted, we plan to present it on \_\_\_\_\_  
(This date is required, as it is recorded on the certificate.)

I confirm that the nominee lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law in word and deed, and is exemplary in his/her personal, family, and professional activities.

Confirmation by person submitting nomination: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name)

Scouting position \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\* Silver Beaver Award committee chair signature

\* Scout executive signature

**\* ONLY NECESSARY IF NOMINEE IS SELECTED**

## RECORD OF SERVICE IN SCOUTING AMERICA

Please list registered adult positions in Scouting America with dates listed chronologically. Indicate unit number, chartered organization, and district where appropriate.

Position	Unit No.	District	Council	Dates From – To	Total Years
<b>Council-level Leadership Roles</b>					
<b>District-level Leadership Roles</b>					
<b>Unit-level Leadership Roles</b>					

Total number of years as a registered adult **Council** volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

What significant council-level service to youth has been made by this nominee?

(Attach additional page if needed)



**NOTEWORTHY SERVICE OF EXCEPTIONAL CHARACTER TO YOUTH OUTSIDE OF SCOUTING**

Please list organization, position held, recognition received and year(s) involved or awarded.

Organization	Position/Recognition	Year(s)

Additional noteworthy comments on service of character to youth outside of Scouting:

**ADDITIONAL NOTEWORTHY COMMENTS OF THE NOMINEE’S STANDING IN THE COMMUNITY**

Information covering the nominee’s standing in the community, citing activities in which he/she is **most active** in business, professional, civic, religious, educational, fraternal, veterans, and other non-Scouting areas.

Organization	Positions Held	Years Served	Accomplishments

Comments

(Attach letters of recommendation if appropriate.)

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give the full name and titles (if any) of the nominee exactly as you want them to appear on the certificate.
2. Furnish as much information as possible for each section.
3. Long-established policy limits the award of the Silver Beaver to adults 21 and older who are registered with Scouting America as volunteer Scouters.
4. Nominations will not be considered for current or former professional Scouters within five (5) years of their leaving employment with Scouting America. Other council employees (part time or full time) are eligible to receive the Silver Beaver Award based on their volunteer service, not employed service.
5. Nominations cannot be considered for posthumous awards.
6. Order Silver Beaver insignia using the regular Supply order form from the Supply Group distribution center.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS of SCOUTING AMERICA

### Article X, Section 6, Clause 3 Silver Beaver Award

Scouting America, acting through the National Court of Honor, may award the Silver Beaver for distinguished service to youth upon the following basis and procedure:

- a) Each local council may process their own annual allotment of Silver Beaver awards and shall send a list of Silver Beaver recipients presented each calendar year to the National Court of Honor no later than January 31 of the following year.
- b) The award is made for noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered Scouters within the territory under the jurisdiction of a local council.
- c) As evidence of the award there shall be presented: a suitable certificate, duly authenticated by Scouting America, pursuant to the action of the National Court of Honor; and a miniature Silver Beaver suspended by a blue, white, and blue ribbon to be worn around the neck.
- d) It shall be a general policy that no public announcements shall be made by the local council in advance of action by the National Court of Honor with reference to names presented for consideration.
- e) These awards shall be made to the recipients by the local council concerned in connection with its annual meeting or other public location.
- f) Each duly chartered local council shall be entitled to one nomination. Councils having more than 60 units shall be entitled to further nominations on the basis of one for each additional 60 units or fraction thereof in their territory, as of December 31 preceding the nomination, according to the records of the national office.
- g) Councils not using their full allotment in any year may accumulate the unused portion for use in any subsequent year.
- h) In extraordinary cases, the Silver Beaver Award may be made by the National Court of Honor to a Scouter upon the recommendation of the duly constituted Scouting authorities having supervision of one or more units of Scouting America, located outside of the United States and not under the jurisdiction of a local council.