



## HEROISM AND MERITORIOUS AWARDS

The Boy Scouts of America has long had a policy of recognizing heroic or meritorious acts performed by both youth and adult members. All recognitions are reserved for registered members and no such member should be encouraged to submit an application on his or her own behalf.

The meritorious awards are available at several different levels and are awarded according to the nature of the heroic act performed. The awards are as follows:

**COUNCIL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT:** This is the highest award presented by a local council to either a youth or adult member. It is presented in cases where a registered member has provided meritorious services to others in need. It is awarded when the recipient is in little or no danger while providing aid.

**LIFESAVING AWARDS:** These three awards, the Heroism Award, the Honor Medal, and the Honor Medal with Crossed Palms, are presented by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America (National Council). They are awarded in cases where a registered member has saved a life or attempted to save a life at the risk of their own life. They are not awarded when the act performed is merely in the performance of duty, or the meeting of an obligation because of responsibility to supervise the persons whose lives were saved.

**MERITORIOUS ACTION AWARDS:** These two awards, the National Certificate of Merit and the Medal of Merit, are presented by the National Council to registered members who have performed an act of service deserving of national recognition. The action performed must put into practice Scouting skills and/or ideals.

### HOW TO RECOMMEND SOMEONE FOR A HEROISM OR MERITORIOUS AWARD

The Council Advancement Committee is the designated recipient of any and all nominations for these awards. The National Council will not accept any nomination which does not come through the local council.

The Council Advancement Committee has established the following procedures for considering all nominations:

1. Submit a letter to the committee outlining the heroic or meritorious action performed by the nominee. The letter should include the nominee's age, which unit they are registered in, and a brief description of the act performed.
2. Obtain statements from witnesses if possible. Have them state clearly what they saw and what part, if any, they took in the actions under consideration.
3. The committee will consider all applications and, if deemed necessary, will assign a committee member to interview all involved parties. The committee will then render a decision on which, if any, of the awards to present. If the nomination is for one of the National Council awards, the National Council makes the final determination in presenting the award or declining the nomination.

**All letters of nomination for the various awards may be sent to:**

Council Advancement Committee  
Theodore Roosevelt Council BSA  
544 Broadway  
Massapequa, NY 11758-5010



## HEROISM AND MERITORIOUS AWARDS NOMINATION

The nomination will be reviewed and completed by the Unit Advancement Chair, the Unit Leader, and the District Advancement Chair. It is to be accompanied by a statement detailing the nominee's action deemed worthy of recognition.

### Unit Advancement Chair

Name :  
 Address:  
 Town:  
 Zip:  
 Telephone: (    )       -  
 E-mail:  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date:

### Unit Leader

Name :  
 Address:  
 Town:  
 Zip:  
 Telephone: (    )       -  
 E-mail:  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date:

### District Advancement Chair

Name :  
 Address:  
 Town:  
 Zip:  
 Telephone: (    )       -  
 E-mail:  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date:

## ATTACHMENTS

- NOMINATION FORM
- STATEMENT OF WITNESS(ES) Number of statements \_\_\_\_\_



## HEROISM AND MERITORIOUS AWARDS NOMINATION

**NOMINEE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT OF NOMINEE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **RANK OF NOMINEE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

The nominee is recommended for :

<p><b>COUNCIL AWARD</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Council Certificate of Merit</p>	<p><b>NATIONAL AWARD</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Honor Medal with Crossed Palms</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Honor Medal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heroism Medal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Meritorious Action Award</p>
<p><b>Was a life saved?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>Was the person known to the nominee?</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><b>Degree of risk involved:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme risk to self</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Considerable risk to self</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Minimum or no risk to self</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Service of an exceptional character putting into practice Scouting skills and/or ideals</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Correctly performed act of service as would be expected under the circumstances, relative to the nominee's age and training, with no risk to self.</p>
<p><b>Action Averted:</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Injury to person or <input type="checkbox"/> Injury to persons</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Injury to animal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Minimized loss or damage to property</p>
<p><b>Action Involved:</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Fire    <input type="checkbox"/> Water</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain): _____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>Action on Injury:</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Minimized injury    <input type="checkbox"/> Alleviated injury</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Treated injury (explain): _____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>Nominee demonstrated:</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Bravery    <input type="checkbox"/> Acted alone    <input type="checkbox"/> Cool thinking</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Special skills (explain): _____</p> <p>_____</p>



## HEROISM AND MERITORIOUS AWARDS NOMINATION

### Witness Statement of Action

WITNESS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT:**

WITNESS SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

# RECOMMENDATION FOR LIFESAVING or MERITORIOUS ACTION AWARD

(Review the procedure on the back page.)



DO NOT WRITE IN BOX—  
FOR NATIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY.

A committee of the \_\_\_\_\_ Council, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Region \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ has interviewed

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of action \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

The candidate is registered as a Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, Webelos Scout,  
Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturer, or adult (circle one) in \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(pack, troop, team, crew, ship)

Chartered organization \_\_\_\_\_

of City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Rank at time of action \_\_\_\_\_ If an adult, indicate present office in Scouting \_\_\_\_\_

Upon consideration of the evidence submitted from all sources, as set forth in this application, we respectfully recommend that the National Court of Honor grant the award checked below. **Note: If the action being considered is deserving of merit but does not qualify for a national award, do not submit this form. You may want to write a letter conveying the commendation of the committee. Local Council Certificate of Merit, No. 33732, is suitable for this purpose.**

### LIFESAVING AWARDS (See clause 1 on page 2.)

These awards recognize the attempt to save life **and** an accompanying measure of risk to self.

- Honor Medal With Crossed Palms.** Has demonstrated unusual heroism and extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life **at extreme risk to self.**
- Honor Medal.** Has demonstrated unusual heroism and skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life **at considerable risk to self.**
- Heroism Award.** Has demonstrated heroism and skill in averting serious injury or saving or attempting to save life **at minimum risk to self.**

### MERITORIOUS ACTION AWARDS (See clause 2 on page 2.)

These awards recognize notable acts of service that need not involve attempts of rescue or risk to self but put into practice Scouting skills and/or ideals.

- Medal of Merit.** Has performed an act of service *of a rare or exceptional character* that reflects an uncommon degree of concern for the well-being of others.
- National Certificate of Merit.** Has performed a significant act of service that is deserving of special national recognition.

### DEFINITIONS

**Heroism.** Conduct exhibiting courage, daring, skill, and self-sacrifice.

**Skill.** The ability to use one's knowledge effectively in execution or performance. Special attention is given to skills learned in Scouting.

### PERSONAL SIGNATURES, COUNCIL COMMITTEE

(At least three signatures are required.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairman)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the individual recommended for recognition was a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America at the time of the action described herein and that **the procedure outlined on the back of this form has been followed.**

Attest \_\_\_\_\_ (Scout executive) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

## REQUIRED DATA FOR ALL CASES

Name of individual recommended for recognition \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of action \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate height \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate weight \_\_\_\_\_

Name of rescued person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of action \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate height \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate weight \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of place where action occurred \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of incident: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are the following personally prepared and **signed** statements which are **required for all cases**: (Type all handwritten statements and staple to originals.)

- Personally prepared and **signed** statement by person performing action, describing the incident.
- Personally prepared and **signed** statement by the rescued person, if any.
- Personally prepared and **signed** statement by each witness, describing the action as he or she recalls the details. Include name, address, and phone number of all witnesses.
- Glossy photo of the individual who made the rescue (5" × 7" desired.)
- Summary by the council committee of the event as described on page 5.
- Letter explaining the delay in submitting this recommendation. (Required only if this recommendation will arrive at the National Court of Honor more than six months after the date of the action. It should be signed by the Scout executive or adviser to the lifesaving and meritorious action committee.)

## ARTICLE X—SECTION 5—RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

### LIFESAVING AND MERITORIOUS ACTION AWARDS

CLAUSE 1. **Lifesaving Awards.** Recognition may be given to a youth member or adult leader of the Boy Scouts of America where the evidence presented to the National Court of Honor, in accordance with prescribed regulations, shows that he or she saved or attempted to save life under circumstances which indicate heroism and risk to self. The court will give consideration to resourcefulness and to demonstrated skill in rescue methods. In no case shall recognition be given where it appears that the risk involved was merely in the performance of duty or the meeting of an obligation because of responsibility to supervise and give leadership to the persons whose lives were saved. The awards are:

- Honor Medal With Crossed Palms.** The Honor Medal With Crossed Palms may be awarded in exceptional cases to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated unusual heroism and extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life at *extreme* risk to self.
- Honor Medal.** The Honor Medal may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated unusual heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save life at *considerable* risk to self.
- Heroism Award.** The Heroism Award may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated heroism and skill in averting serious injury or saving or attempting to save life at *minimum* risk to self.

CLAUSE 2. **Meritorious Action Awards.** Recognition may be given to a youth member or adult leader where the evidence presented to the National Court of Honor, in accordance with prescribed regulations, shows that a significant or outstanding act of service, *of an exceptional character*, was performed. The action taken need not involve attempts of rescue or risk to self but must put into practice Scouting skills and/or ideals. **Recognition shall not be given where it appears that the action involved was merely in the performance of duty or the meeting of an obligation.** The awards are:

- Medal of Merit.** The Medal of Merit may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has performed an act of service *of a rare or exceptional character* that reflects an uncommon degree of concern for the well-being of others.
- National Certificate of Merit.** The National Certificate of Merit may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has performed a significant act of service that is deserving of special national recognition.

CLAUSE 3. All applications should be submitted to the National Court of Honor through the local council upon duly prescribed forms, and it shall be within the discretion of the National Court of Honor to determine which type of recognition, if any, shall be given. Recipients of these awards must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America at the time the action was performed. Awards are made in the name of the Boy Scouts of America.

**For Water Rescue** (In addition to data on page 2)

General weather and water condition, including approximate temperature \_\_\_\_\_

(Storm, high seas, fair, calm, cold, etc.)

Lake, river, or ocean? \_\_\_\_\_ Its name? \_\_\_\_\_

Condition of bottom (weedy, snags, rocks, sand, or mud) \_\_\_\_\_

Still or running water? \_\_\_\_\_ If running, speed of current? \_\_\_\_\_

Were others besides rescuer on the scene when the accident occurred? \_\_\_\_\_

Was rescuer assisted in the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, by whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Did anyone else attempt the rescue and fail? \_\_\_\_\_

Was rescue made by use of boat, buoy, or other equipment or was it a swimming rescue? \_\_\_\_\_

If by swimming, was boat or other equipment at hand which could have been used? \_\_\_\_\_

If swimming rescue, how far did rescuer swim in order to reach person assisted? \_\_\_\_\_

Depth of water at point where rescue was made \_\_\_\_\_

How far was it necessary to tow person assisted in order to stand up or reach safety? \_\_\_\_\_

What clothes was rescuer wearing at the time of the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_

How was the assisted person clothed? \_\_\_\_\_ Unconscious when rescued? \_\_\_\_\_

Did assisted person struggle or grasp rescuer while being aided? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, did it result from bad judgment or careless approach? \_\_\_\_\_

Was it necessary to go underwater to find person assisted? \_\_\_\_\_ How many times? \_\_\_\_\_ At what depth? \_\_\_\_\_

Did assisted person live? \_\_\_\_\_ If revived, give details of method used.

Was Scout training employed in the rescue and resuscitation? Give details \_\_\_\_\_

Is rescuer regarded as a good, fair, or poor swimmer? \_\_\_\_\_

**For Ice Rescue** (In addition to data on page 2)

Thickness of ice at and near point of rescue \_\_\_\_\_

Depth of water at and near point of rescue \_\_\_\_\_

Manner in which rescuer moved over ice \_\_\_\_\_

Distance traveled by rescuer (a) from shore to breakthrough \_\_\_\_\_

(b) over dangerous ice \_\_\_\_\_

Location of ladders, rope, planks, etc., if any, and use made of them \_\_\_\_\_

Did ice break under rescuer? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, at what point and in what depth of water? \_\_\_\_\_

Did rescuer fall in? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how did the rescuer get out? \_\_\_\_\_

Did assisted person live? \_\_\_\_\_ If revived, give details of method used \_\_\_\_\_

Was Scout training employed in the rescue and resuscitation? Give details \_\_\_\_\_

Is rescuer regarded as good, fair, or poor swimmer? \_\_\_\_\_

**For Rescue From Fire** (In addition to data on page 2)

Dimensions of the room or rooms involved in the rescue \_\_\_\_\_

What was the location of the fire at the time of the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was the rescued person when reached by the rescuer? \_\_\_\_\_

How far did the rescuer have to go to reach the rescued? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the rescued person or persons have to be carried to safety? \_\_\_\_\_

Did dense smoke impede the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the rescuer know the building layout? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe in detail the danger to rescuer at time of rescue. \_\_\_\_\_

Did assisted person live? \_\_\_\_\_ If revived, give details \_\_\_\_\_

Was Scout training employed in the rescue and resuscitation? Give details \_\_\_\_\_

**For First Aid Cases** (In addition to data on page 2)

Was the first aid administered by this currently registered youth or adult member instrumental in saving life? How? \_\_\_\_\_

What Scout first aid skills were used? (artificial respiration, control of bleeding, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Were the circumstances such as to tax his coolheadedness? Explain \_\_\_\_\_

Was he assisted? If so, by whom and how much? \_\_\_\_\_

Did assisted person live? \_\_\_\_\_ If revived, give details \_\_\_\_\_

Was Scout training employed in the rescue and resuscitation? Give details \_\_\_\_\_

**Miscellaneous Cases**

In cases that cannot be covered under any of the sections, give as much data and as many details as possible to help the National Court of Honor to evaluate the case, paying particular attention to the use of Scout training.

## **SUMMARY OF THE ACTION**

(This summary of just what happened in the rescue effort is required. It is a narrative description, *prepared and signed by the council committee*, based on its study of all aspects of the case and on interviews with the principals and witnesses.)

(If more space is needed, use additional pages.)

**THE ABOVE SUMMARY IS REQUIRED.**

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### **SAMPLE SUMMARY**

The following sample summary is given to aid your committee in preparing a synopsis of this case:

When on May 14, 1982, William McCandless, 11, slipped on the bank of the Stillwater River behind the Englewood Dam near Englewood, Ohio, the fast current carried him into the main stream and through the tunnel under the dam. Eagle Scout Mark Sanna, 14, prepared for such an emergency by years of Scout training, removed his shoes, jumped into the 80-foot-deep water, and swam to his aid. Mark got William to shore where he used the mouth-to-mouth method of rescue breathing until the victim responded.

## PROCEDURE

1. It is recommended that the local council advancement committee or the volunteer recognition committee or subcommittee thereof be constituted as a lifesaving and meritorious action awards committee.
2. Unless there are unusual circumstances that account for the time lapse, **no** application may be considered after a lapse of 6 months from the action without a written explanation from the Scout executive or adviser to the council committee.
3. Separate applications are required if more than one member is being recommended for recognition.
4. The council committee must investigate the case, interview the principals and witnesses, secure necessary signed statements, and make a recommendation based upon a full knowledge of the facts. It is recommended that this committee meet within 30 days of the receipt of the recommendation.
5. Only members of the committee present during the interviews and involved in the investigation should sign the application. The National Court of Honor reserves the right to contact individual principals or witnesses in the case or members of the investigation committee.
6. The council committee bears the responsibility to:
  - a. Write a summary of the event
  - b. Complete the application in detail
  - c. Provide any attachments, newspaper clippings, etc., which pertain to the case
7. It is recommended that no case be forwarded to the National Court of Honor without the endorsement or statement of an eyewitness.
8. All recognitions are reserved for members who were registered at the time of the action. **No such member should be encouraged to submit an application on his or her own behalf.**
9. Caution is urged not to submit weak cases (in terms of meaningful action or documentation) to the National Court of Honor. Deliberations are conducted by the court not only to recognize deserving individuals but also to preserve the historical integrity of the awards.
10. Ensure that all names are spelled correctly. Names, as spelled on this application, will be used to record and inscribe appropriate certificates.

Address all requests for forms and other communication to:

National Court of Honor  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

PRINTINGS OF THIS FORM DATED EARLIER THAN 1995 MUST NOT BE USED.

**FOR LOCAL COUNCIL USE**

**STOP!  
DO NOT MAIL TO NATIONAL COURT  
OF HONOR UNTIL CHECKING  
THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1. All names are correct and legible.
- 2. A signed statement from the individual recommended for recognition is attached. If handwritten, a typed copy is stapled to the original.
- 3. Signed statements from all eyewitnesses are attached. If handwritten, typed copies are stapled to the originals.
- 4. A signed statement from the rescued person is attached. If handwritten, a typed copy is stapled to the original.
- 5. A glossy photograph of the individual recommended for recognition is enclosed.
- 6. A summary of the action has been prepared by the committee and is included on page 5 of the recommendation.
- 7. All appropriate blanks on this recommendation have been completely filled in.
- 8. If more than 6 months has elapsed since the action, a letter explaining the delay, signed by the Scout executive or adviser to the council committee, is enclosed.

**For National Court of Honor use only.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Recommendation received by National Court of Honor

\_\_\_\_\_ Recommendation checked for:

\_\_\_\_\_ At least three signatures of council committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Scout executive

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter from Scout executive or adviser to committee if received more than 6 months from action

\_\_\_\_\_ Glossy photograph

\_\_\_\_\_ Statement from person performing action (typed)

\_\_\_\_\_ Statement(s) from witness(es) (typed)

\_\_\_\_\_ Defective application return to local council for verification or for more information. Reason:

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\_\_\_\_\_ Award approved:

HMCP    HM    HA    MM  
NCM    LCCM    None

\_\_\_\_\_ Recorded

\_\_\_\_\_ Certificate prepared

\_\_\_\_\_ Certificate and medal mailed