Silver Beaver Award Guidelines
Information for a Nominator

What is the Silver Beaver Award?

The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council.

The Silver Beaver award is made for noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered Scouters, Cub Scouters, Varsity Scouters, and Venturing leaders within the territory under the jurisdiction of a local council.

Requirements

A nominee must be a registered Scouter.
There are no specific prerequisites such as the District Award of Merit, for the Silver Beaver.
Policy limits the award of the Silver Beaver to adults 21 and older who are registered with the Boy Scouts of America and the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council as volunteer Scouters. Explorer leaders are eligible to be awarded the William H. Spurgeon III Award.
Nominations will not be considered for current or former professional Scouters within five (5) years of their leaving employment with the BSA. Other council employees (part-time or full time) are eligible to receive the Silver Beaver Award based on their volunteer service, not employed service.
Nominations cannot be considered for posthumous awards.

Reminder: To avoid potential disappointment, please do not inform the candidate that they have been nominated for the Silver Beaver Award.

Process and Procedures

Thank you for serving to nominate your candidate’s Silver Beaver Nomination. Your completed nomination package by November 1st. If you need assistance, you can ask for assistance from your district leadership.
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The following are suggestions (not requirements) for developing a nomination package:

You should complete the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council Nomination Form, write a Nomination Justification Statement and solicit Letters of Support/Recommendation that address your candidates “noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered Scouters, Cub Scouters, Varsity Scouters, and Venturing leaders.”

Nomination criteria/discriminators have changed. In the past, the focus was on defining the individual. The focus is now (and should be) on how the candidate “rendered service of an outstanding nature at the Council level” – specifically on how it affected/supported the Scouts in Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council. The nature and value of “noteworthy service to youth” may consist of service or a series of activities that contributed vitally to the lives of large numbers of youth or it may have been given to a small group over an extended period of time, or both.

A nominee must have rendered noteworthy service to youth in Scouting, youth within the community, or both.

Consideration is given to the nominee’s Scouting position and the corresponding opportunity to render outstanding service beyond the normal expectations of that Scouting position.

The nominee’s attitude toward and cooperation with the district and/or council should be taken into consideration.

Examples of significant support at a Council level are:

- Dedicated extended service to the Council supporting all our units in activities such as staffing Wood Badge, University of Scouting, Powder Horn, other council training activities or active with the OA at the lodge level.
- Significant/repeated service to District level events (Camporee, Cub Scout Summer Camp, WeST Fair, etc. - whether through a unit, as an event staffer, or event chair. Providing Leadership is an added plus.)
- Significant/repeated service to District or Council-sponsored community service projects that go beyond just one unit (Scouting for Food, Bay Cleanup, Jingle Bell Weekend, etc.).
- Service to youth in the greater community outside of Scouting (i.e. - Church, youth sports, homeless shelters, clothing drives, conservation groups, Red Cross volunteer, etc.).

Have the letters quantify and substantiate (scope and nature of service) the noteworthy service. Letters that simply state that the Scouter is deserving of the award in contrast to a letter for another nominee that has more substantive information may put your nominee at a disadvantage although he/she may be more deserving.
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Try to also capture noteworthy service to youth that occurs through areas such as work, faith, community activities (i.e. coaching sports, serving the American Legion, serving other youth organizations etc.) as well as Scouting.

1. Contact the spouse or close friend of your nominee to determine the Scouting positions, training, awards and scouting history of the nominee.
2. Work with them to develop a contact list with email and phone numbers of the people you will need to contact such as:
   - Scouters who have worked with the candidate
   - Family
   - Non-Scouting friends
   - Employer and co-workers
   - People from other youth organizations the candidate has worked with
     - Schools
     - Civic or Patriotic organizations
     - Pastors, Youth Ministers, or Church Committees
   - District Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Commissioner, etc.
   - Council Chairs the candidate has worked with, as well as council committee members
3. Ask your contacts to refer you to others to help develop Letters of Support/Recommendation. It’s helpful to keep track of whom you contacted and the status of their letters.
4. Send each contact an email requesting a Letter of Support/Recommendation. A sample message that you can use is attached. (Feel free to edit.) Email nomination letters are acceptable – but ensure the letter has a signature block.
5. Contact Deb Olsen to get a status of your candidate’s Record of Service; Training Courses Completed; Recognition Received. You will need this information to complete the Nomination Form. If the DE does not have all the information, contact the nominee’s Committee Chair, Scout Master and spouse or friend and have them help you.
6. As the sponsor, you will need to write a Nomination Justification Statement.
   a. Your letter is critical as it summarizes and justifies why you are nominating the Scouter.
   b. In your letter, introduce the Scouter and write about their noteworthy service to youth.
   c. You will need to capture specific examples and describe outcomes/ accomplishments. Use your personal experience/knowledge and examples provided in the letters of support/recommendation.
7. Send reminders to individuals that you need their Letter of Support/Recommendation.
   You may need to send multiple email reminders or phone calls. Send a Thank-You email to each person who sent/emailed a letter.
If your candidate is selected for the Silver Beaver Award, notify your contacts and inform them about the award ceremony.
Thank you for recognizing the service of our best Scouters!
Dear PERSON,

I am writing to you requesting a letter of recommendation to support the nomination of NAME for the Silver Beaver Award. The Silver Beaver is the highest award our council gives to a Scouter. I require your letter by DATE in order to meet the Council's DATE deadline. I am YOUR NAME from the NAME District, Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council where I serve as YOUR SCOUTING POSITION. NOMINEE NAME and I got to know each other through (for example our Woodbadge course and various scout activities). I am now nominating NOMINEE for the Silver Beaver Award. The award is for noteworthy service of exceptional character to scouting youth within the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council and notable service to youth within the community. NOMINEE’s NAME service to our Council youth makes HIM or HER an ideal candidate for this award.

Your letter should include statements covering NOMINEE’s noteworthy service to youth in Scouting, youth within the community, or both. The nature and value of “noteworthy service to youth” may consist of service or a series of activities that contributed vitally to the lives of large numbers of youth or it may have been given to a small group over an extended period of time, or both. Please include time frames and outcomes (results) from his participation. Please cover as many areas as possible. It is acceptable if you can only cover one area.

Please include your address on the top of the letter and the current date. The salutation can be: To Whom It May Concern. There is no format to the body of the letter.

You may send me your nomination letter, preferably by email to me or you can mail your letter to my home address by DATE:

Name
Address
City, State Zipcode

The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council. It is given to those who do not actively seek it. This nomination is confidential. While we all feel that NOMINEE is a qualified candidate, please do not inform NOMINEE about this nomination in order to preserve the surprise and avoid any disappointment should he or she not be nominated.

Please contact me at C: 123-456-7890; H: 123-456-7890; or email: XYZ@abcprovider if you have any questions. Thanks for your time and recognition of NOMINEE’s superb service to our Scouts!

Yours in Scouting,

YOUR NAME