

# HANDOUT: AWARDS BOY SCOUTS CAN EARN

Ideas for troops that are looking for theme ideas or awards that may represent challenges aligned to the youth program interests. Many of these awards can be the focus of monthly outings and/or a unit meeting.

## Outdoors and Personal Fitness

### NATIONAL OUTDOOR AWARDS (FORMERLY NATIONAL CAMPING AWARD)

Do your Scouts enjoy camping under the stars, rafting a whitewater river, or hitting the trail afoot, on a bike, or even on a horse? Can they pitch a tent, find their way, and bandage an ankle using only materials in their packs? Can they do any of these in rain, snow, sleet, or heat? If so, the National Outdoor Awards are for them.

[www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/Youth/Awards/NOA.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/Youth/Awards/NOA.aspx)

### PAUL BUNYAN WOODSMAN AWARD

This award is meant for a Boy Scout who has earned his Totin' Chip, can demonstrate advanced woodsman skills by teaching Totin' Chip skills to other Scouts, and completes a woodsman work project. Not for uniform wear.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/paulbunyun.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/paulbunyun.aspx)

### ZERO HERO AWARD

Some councils that experience very cold winter weather may have a special award for camping outdoors when the temperature is zero degrees Fahrenheit or colder. Check with the local council for requirements.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AWARD

"Emergency preparedness" means being ready for all kinds of emergencies. It means a Scout is ready and able to help in times of trouble to save lives and property and to help a community or even a nation get back to normal after a disaster occurs. To encourage Scouts of all ages to be prepared for emergencies, the BSA has approved an Emergency Preparedness Award program for members of all ages.

[www.scouting.org/Media/Publications/EmergencyPreparedness.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Media/Publications/EmergencyPreparedness.aspx)

### SCOUTSTRONG PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVE LIFESTYLE CHALLENGE AWARD

This challenge is for everyone associated with the Boy Scouts of America, including Scouts, Venturers, parents, volunteers, council staff, board members, friends of Scouting, and BSA alumni. To earn the SCOUTStrong PALA Challenge Award, meet an activity goal of 30 minutes a day for adults and 60 minutes a day for Scouts under 18 for at least five days a week, for six out of eight weeks. An award can be earned in less than two months.

[www.scouting.org/SCOUTStrongPALA.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/SCOUTStrongPALA.aspx)

### HISTORIC TRAILS AWARD

Love of America and devotion to our country depend upon a thorough appreciation of the ideals, principles, and traditions that have made our country strong. Historic Trails Award requirements emphasize cooperation between historic societies and Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Venturing units.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/historictrails.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/historictrails.aspx)

### NATIONALLY APPROVED HISTORIC TRAILS

The National Council website has a listing of approved historic trails by state.

[www.scouting.org/Applications/trails.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Applications/trails.aspx)

### 50-MILER AWARD

The primary objective of this program is to stimulate Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Venturer interest in the ideals of Scouting and to promote activity that will result in personal fitness, self-reliance, knowledge of wood lore, and a practical understanding of conservation. A total of 50 miles of hiking, biking, or paddling is required over five days, plus 10 hours of conservation work.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/50miler.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/50miler.aspx)

## Water Sports and Water Safety

### SNORKELING BSA

The Snorkeling BSA requirements introduce Scouts and adult leaders to the special skills, equipment, and safety precautions associated with snorkeling; encourage the development of aquatics skills that promote fitness and recreation; and provide a foundation for those who later participate in more advanced underwater activity. The Snorkeling BSA patch is worn on the swim trunks, not on the Scout uniform.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/Snorkeling.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/Snorkeling.aspx)

### SCUBA BSA

Although Scuba BSA is similar to introductory scuba experiences offered by various Recreational Scuba Training Council member organizations, those programs are not substitutes for Scuba BSA. All requirements must be completed as stated on the application form. The Scuba BSA patch is worn on the swim trunks.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/Scuba.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/Scuba.aspx)

### KAYAKING BSA

Kayaking BSA provides an introduction to kayaking skills and safety procedures and serves as a program opportunity for Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Venturing units. Mastery of Kayaking BSA skills is a critical first step toward satisfying Safety Afloat guidelines for safe kayak excursions.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/Kayaking.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/Kayaking.aspx)

### BOARDSAILING BSA

This award was developed to introduce Scouts to basic boardsailing skills, equipment, and safety precautions; to encourage development of skills that promote fitness and safe aquatic recreation; and to lay a skill and knowledge foundation for those who will later participate in more advanced and demanding activities on the water. Boardsailing BSA is well suited as a program feature for older Scouts at summer camp. The patch is worn on the swim trunks.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/boardsailing.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/boardsailing.aspx)

### BSA LIFEGUARD

To qualify for BSA Lifeguard, the candidate must complete the BSA Lifeguard course under the direction of either a BSA Lifeguard Instructor or a BSA Aquatics Instructor. Training is valid for three years provided First Aid and CPR/AED training are kept current during that period.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/lifeguard.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/lifeguard.aspx)

### MILE SWIM BSA

The Mile Swim award is designed to encourage swimming skills and recognize Scouts who swim one mile or more. It can be earned only by Boy Scouts (not by Cub Scouts or adults). The patch is worn on the swim trunks.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/mileswim.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/mileswim.aspx)

## Citizenship and Religious Emblems

### CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

The Congressional Award is a public-private partnership created by Congress to promote and recognize achievement, initiative, and service in America's youth. The Congressional Award provides a unique opportunity for young people to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service, personal development, and citizenship.

[www.congressionalaward.org/partners/bsa.php](http://www.congressionalaward.org/partners/bsa.php)

### JAMES M. STEWART GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The purpose of the James M. Stewart Good Citizenship Award is to introduce Scouts and leaders to the life of a great American: James Maitland Stewart—Oscar-winning actor, World War II pilot, and Air Force general. The Jimmy Stewart Museum offers the award to Boy Scouts and Scouters who exemplify the characteristics necessary to live the life of a good citizen. To earn the award, Scouts are required to complete the Jimmy Stewart Museum quiz, write an essay of not less than 500 words, and do a good citizenship project in their community in honor of James M. Stewart. Interested Scouts and Scouters should contact the Jimmy Stewart Museum to purchase a copy of the workbook for \$6, which includes shipping.

<http://jimmy.org/citizenship-award>

### RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS

Religious emblems exist for boys of virtually all faiths. Units should assist youth and Scouting families in finding the award that matches their faith practices. All awards are administered through faith-based groups rather than by BSA directly.

## Environmental

### WORLD CONSERVATION AWARD

Scouts can earn this award by earning the following merit badges:

- Environmental Science merit badge
- Either Soil and Water Conservation OR Fish and Wildlife Management merit badge
- Citizenship in the World merit badge

Patches are available at local Scout shops.

### CONSERVATION GOOD TURN AWARD

The Conservation Good Turn Award is an opportunity for Scouts of all ages to join with conservation or environmental organizations (federal, state, local, or private) to carry out conservation Good Turn projects in their home communities.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/conservationgoodturnaward.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/conservationgoodturnaward.aspx)

### LEAVE NO TRACE AWARD

Instilling values in young people and preparing them to make ethical choices throughout their lifetimes is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America. The Leave No Trace principles and awards help reinforce that mission, and remind us to respect the rights of other users of the outdoors as well as future generations.

[www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/Resources/LeaveNoTrace.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/Resources/LeaveNoTrace.aspx)

### HORNADAY AWARDS

Hornaday Awards are available for youth and adults in Scouting for significant conservation service. Only a small percentage of Scouts who become Eagle Scouts earn the Hornaday badge or a Hornaday medal. Hornaday awards include the unit certificate, several levels of awards for individual Boy Scouts, and two levels of awards for adults. The awards are named for the founder of the Bronx Zoo in New York City, who was also instrumental in the preservation of the American buffalo.

[www.scouting.org/Awards/HornadayAwards/Awards.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards/HornadayAwards/Awards.aspx)

### HOMETOWN U.S.A. AWARD

The Hometown U.S.A. Award is a joint program between Keep America Beautiful Inc. (KAB) and the Boy Scouts of America. The purposes of the award are to educate Boy Scouts about citizenship in relation to conservation and to involve them in community activities relating to environmental issues; offer a mechanism by which Scouts can develop positive attitudes toward their environment and community while being exposed to interesting career opportunities; and provide the opportunity to honor Boy Scouts for their significant contributions toward keeping America beautiful.

[www.scouting.org/boyscouts/resources/keepamericabeautiful.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/resources/keepamericabeautiful.aspx)

## BSA International Scouting Awards

### INTERNATIONAL SPIRIT AWARD

For youth and adult leaders, the International Spirit Award is worn as a temporary patch centered on the right uniform pocket. The award seeks to broaden knowledge of international Scouting and increase appreciation and awareness of different cultures and countries. It can be earned by all Scouts and adults, with different requirements by age.

[www.scouting.org/International/recognitions.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/International/recognitions.aspx)

### INTERPRETER STRIPS

Scouts and adults may wear this strip if they show their knowledge of a foreign language or sign language for the hearing impaired.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/InterpreterStrip.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/InterpreterStrip.aspx)

### MESSENGERS OF PEACE AWARD

In 1920, just two years after the most terrible war the world had ever known to that time, 8,000 Scouts from 34 countries came together for the first world jamboree. At the closing ceremony, Scouting founder Robert Baden-Powell called on participants to carry the spirit of the jamboree home “so that we may help to develop peace and happiness in the world and goodwill among all Scouts.” Today, Scouts in dozens of countries are working for peace by solving conflicts in their schools, building links between divided communities, teaching their peers about health and wellness, and repairing environmental damage. To recognize their efforts and to inspire more young men and women to help Scouting create a better world, the World Scout Committee launched the Messengers of Peace initiative in 2011, which the BSA joined in 2012. The award honors Scouts of all ages and adult leaders who perform a service project in the spirit of world peace.

[www.scouting.org/messengersofpeace.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/messengersofpeace.aspx)

## Miscellaneous Awards

### RECRUITER STRIP

Boy Scouts can earn a colorful recruiter strip simply by inviting a friend to join their troop. Ask for the recruiter strip at your council service center when you turn in the new membership application.

[www.scouting.org/Awards\\_Central/recruiterstrip.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Awards_Central/recruiterstrip.aspx)

### NATIONAL HONOR PATROL AWARD

The patrol method is an essential method for implementing the aims of Boy Scouting. The award is designed to strengthen the patrol method by encouraging patrols to have identity and spirit, be active, do Good Turns and service projects, complete rank advancement, wear the uniform, be organized, participate with the troop, and grow. The requirements can be found in the Patrol Record Book.

[www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/512-021\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/512-021_WB.pdf)

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award was launched in the United Kingdom in 1956 by Prince Philip, the duke of Edinburgh (husband of Queen Elizabeth II). The award is a program of leisure-time activities available to all young people between the ages of 14 and 25. It provides a journey of personal discovery—an adventure challenging the whole individual, regardless of gender, color, creed, or ability. The program is designed to encourage personal discovery, self-reliance, commitment, responsibility, and service to the community. There are three separate attainment levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/ThecurrentRoyalFamily/TheEarlofWessex/TheDukeofEdinburghsAward.aspx> and [www.intaward.org](http://www.intaward.org)