Unit Leader Award of Merit

Background

Quality unit leadership is the key to a quality unit program—and it leads to better Scout retention. Statistics show that if young people stay engaged in the program for at least five years, the BSA's influence likely will stay with them for the rest of their lives. A quality Scouting experience will help keep Scouts in the program, and the Boy Scouts of America created the Unit Leader Award of Merit to recognize the quality unit leaders who make that happen.

The Unit Leader Award of Merit replaces the Scoutmaster, Varsity Team Coach, and Venturing Crew Advisor award of merit programs. This new recognition has revised requirements, and Cubmasters are also eligible for this recognition.

Requirements

The nominee must

1. Be a currently registered Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Coach, or Advisor who has served in that position at least 18 continuous months.
2. Meet the training requirements for the registered position.
3. Distribute a printed or electronic annual unit program plan and calendar to each family in the unit.
4. Have a leader succession plan in place.
5. Effectively use the advancement method so that at least 60 percent of the unit's youth have advanced at least once during the last 12 months.
6. Cultivate a positive relationship with the chartered organization.
7. Project a positive image of Scouting in the community.

Nomination Procedure

1. The unit committee chair completes the Unit Leader Award of Merit Nomination Form on behalf of the unit committee. For Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, and Venturer crews, the nomination must include endorsement by the senior patrol leader, team captain, or crew president, respectively.
2. The unit or district commissioner certifies that the form is complete.
3. The unit submits the nomination form to the council for approval by the Scout executive and council commissioner or president. **The council is resposible for processing the award.**

The Award

Upon receipt of the approved nomination form, the council may present the Unit Leader Award of Merit, which includes a certificate, square knot with the appropriate device, and a special unit leader emblem. Recognition of this achievement may be presented at appropriate district or council events, such as district or council leader recognition dinners, training events, and board meetings.

The award may be presented for each program, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity, and Venturing, if the individual meets the requirements in each program. Only one knot is worn with the devices of each program that the award was earned in.

Unit Leader Award of Merit certificate, No. 512004	Scoutmaster emblem, No. 610093
Unit Leader Award of Merit square knot, No. 610091	Cubmaster emblem, No. 610094
Varsity coach emblem, No. 610092	Venturing Advisor emblem, No. 610095







Unit Leader Award of Merit Nomination Form

Submit to your local council service center.

Nominee's name as it is to appear on the certificate: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Select one:

☐ Cubmaster	Pack No. _____	Chartered organization	_____
☐ Scoutmaster	Troop No. _____	Chartered organization	_____
☐ Coach	Team No. _____	Chartered organization	_____
☐ Advisor	Crew No. _____	Chartered organization	_____

Service

Inclusive dates for the service in the above-selected position (include month and year; must be at least 18 continuous months of service in this position).

From _____ to _____ Number months of service _____

Training

Date nominee completed training requirements for this position (month and year) _____

Unit Program Plan

☐ Yes, this nominee's unit has an annual unit program plan and calendar, and it is shared with all families in the unit.

Unit committee chair initial _____

Succession Plan

☐ Yes, the unit has a replacement recruited and committed to take over the nominee's position as unit leader if necessary.

Replacement's name _____ Unit committee chair initial _____

Advancement

☐ Yes, at least 60 percent of the members of the nominee's unit have advanced at least once during the past 12 months.

Unit committee chair initial _____

Chartered Organization Relationship

☐ Yes, this nominee has a good relationship with the chartered organization.

Unit committee chair initial _____

Community Image

☐ Yes, this nominee has a positive image in our community.

Unit committee chair initial _____

Please attach a statement by the unit committee chair on behalf of the unit committee attesting to the nominee's performance as unit leader. For Scoutmaster nominations, also attach a statement by the troop's senior patrol leader. For Varsity Scout Coach nominations, also attach a statement by the team captain. For crew Advisor nominations, also attach a statement by the crew president.

Nominated by _____ Certified by _____

Unit Committee Chair — Unit or District Commissioner

Date of nomination _____

Approved by _____ Date _____ and _____ Date _____

Scout Executive — Council Commissioner or President