

## "Adult Recognition as a Constructive Scouting Tool"

LDS Scout Committee ■ NCAC

Sunday, January 22, 1995

### On My Honor

On my honor I will do my best... (front of application)

The most basic Scouter recognition is the Church's "On My Honor" award for adults. This is the equivalent to the youth "On My Honor" religious award. The October 1989 issue of *Scouting* had an article titled "BSA Knot Awards." <place vu-graph #1> To quote <or have someone read vu-graph> from a portion of the article:

The third category is *Religious Emblems*. At last count, early summer of this year, there were 47 emblems that could be earned by youth. There are also 15 honors presented to Scouters. Youths must complete requirements listed in literature related to the specific emblem... LDS church adults also must complete requisites for their church's Scouter emblem. But all other religious denominations present their adult emblems, to honor outstanding service.

Again to emphasize the point, our Church's adult religious award is the only one requiring the completion of requirements. Because the Brethren have designated requirements, they must be important. <place vu-graph #2> There are 6 requirements. The first 5 are ones that any active member could pass, the sixth requires completing basic training for Scouting leaders. Training is a very significant issue that we will discuss a little later in this presentation.

Now returning to the Adult "On My Honor" recognition --- In my home ward there is a very faithful brother. He has met all of the requirements for the Adult "On My Honor" award not only once, but twice --- in two different scouting positions. He is serving as both the Cubmaster and an Assistant Scoutmaster for 11 year old boys. He has served over six years and has been trained in both the Cub Scout Basic Training and the Boy Scout Basic Training. He never received his Adult "On My Honor" Award. It was not a priority in our ward. He will finally receive it at this year's Blue and Gold Banquet. Do you have Scouters in the similar unrecognized status?

Bishopric members, stake presidency members, primary presidency members, all stake and ward Aaronic Priesthood leaders, and many more should earn this award.

### Scouter Recognition Awards

These are more than training awards, they are **Leadership Awards**. Basically they require completing training, performance, leadership, and tenure requirements. Please note that, to set the proper example, many bishopric members, stake presidency members, primary presidency members, stake and ward Aaronic Priesthood leaders should earn either

the Cub Scouter Award or the Boy Scout Leader's Training Award, and other awards. Let us briefly look at the Cub Scouter, Boy Scouter, and Commissioner awards:

### CUB SCOUT

First the Cub Scouting recognitions --- < show Cub Scout Leader Recognition Plan, BSA No. 34096 and place vu-graph #3; these cards are available at the Marriott Scout Service Center; read some summaries next to ribbons > The awards are:

	<u>Minimum Tenure</u>
Cubmaster Award	3 years
Den Leader Award	2 years
Webelos Den Leader Award	2 years
Cub Scouter Award	2 years
Den Leader Coach Award	2 years

In a recent stake primary leadership meeting, I was leading a discussion on training and recognition awards. Later, a participant confided in me. He said that his wife asked him "why haven't you nominated me for any of those awards?" That was a very good question. Why are the LDS wards and stakes not using these awards for their anticipated use?

### BOY SCOUT/VARSITY/EXPLORER

The Scouter recognition awards are very similar in training, performance, leadership, and tenure requirements. They are:

	<u>Minimum Tenure</u>
Varsity Scout Leader Letter†	6 mos.
Boy Scout Leader's Training Award	2 years
Varsity Scout Leader Training Award	2 years
Explorer Leader Training Award	2 years
Scoutmaster's Key	3 years
Varsity Scout Coach's Key	3 years
Explorer Advisor's Key	3 years

† See *Leadership Training: Plans, Procedures, Materials* (BSA No. 34169, 1994 Printing). p. 55

I have provided the Boy Scout Leader's Training Award requirements as a handout, please review it. If you qualify, it should be presented to you. If you do not qualify, set an example and qualify.

Also, do not overlook the National President's Scoutmaster Award of Merit. <place vu-graph #4 and 5 --- Scoutmaster Award of Merit Nomination Form, *Scoutmastership Fundamentals*, p. A-15; DEE read the following quote >

At the request of the president of the Boy Scouts of America, the National Eagle Scout Association recognizes Scoutmasters who serve with enthusiasm, wisdom, and understanding of the Scouting program. The Scoutmaster does not need to be an Eagle Scout but must meet certain standards. The chairman of the troop committee nominates the Scoutmaster on behalf of the patrol leaders council and the troop committee. (*Advancement Policies and Procedures Committee Guide*, p. 24)

## COMMISSIONERS

The only reason for having commissioners is to help units succeed, thus commissioners have similar leadership awards.

	<u>Minimum Tenure</u>
Arrowhead Honor	within a year
Commissioner's Key	3 years
Distinguished Commissioner Service Award	5 consecutive yrs.

## Recognition Reasons

Again, let us look at the reasons for using recognition as a constructive scouting tool. <ask for reasons, write them on a vu-graph or chalkboard> You may think of additional reasons, but let us amplify a few of the reasons commonly listed: <place vu-graph #6>

- Continuity or Tenure of Adult Leaders
- Proper Training
- Standing in Scouting Community
- Missionary Tool
- Encourages Others to Achieve
- Encourages Excellence
- It is Nice to Know Others Appreciate Efforts
- It is the BSA Program - It has been Tested
- We Accepted BSA Charter - We Have Obligation to Follow BSA Program
- They Earned It
- Trained Leaders Do Not Burn Out as Soon
- LDS Scouters Involvement with Other Scouters
- Motivated Scouters Carry More Energy into their Efforts with Youth
- Trained Scouters Establish Environments for Youth to Flourish
- Trained Scouters Offer More Variety for Youth

Continuity or Tenure of Adult Leaders <place vu-graph #7>

Tenure of adult leaders for youth continues to be one of our most difficult problems. It is hoped that bishops will call mature men to these positions and let them serve for a few years...Leaders of young men must be men who have strong testimonies of the gospel and who can give continuous leadership for longer periods of time. *LDS Exploring Guide, p. 4*

Even though this is a quote from the *LDS Exploring Guide*, the same issue of tenure is a problem for many cub scout packs, boy scout troops, and varsity teams.

Proper Training

As I emphasized during the "On My Honor" introduction the Brethren repeatedly support the importance of training. A Scouting publication titled *The LDS Chartered Organization Representative* states <place vu-graph #8>:

There are some services which your ward needs that it cannot supply for itself. One of these is training in Scouting, for the unit leaders, giving them the information and program resources that they need if they will use [it] to run a successful program.

In another publication titled *Highlights for Unit Commissioners...an Overview* under the topic of "What Does a Unit Commissioner Do?" The answer to this question is "To help units succeed, a unit commissioner sees that unit leadership receives adequate training." (pp. 4-5).

Standing in Scouting Community <place vu-graph #9>

This point is two fold. First, some of our Church members are involved in the Scouting organization beyond our local units. But, we are almost invisible in the scouting world beyond our local units. Justifiably Church members have apologized for our low attendance at district committee and commissioner meetings. We were told to be involved in our community. Latter-day Saints need to be more involved in Scouting. We need to do our share. As a BSA Charter holder we have an obligation.

{We are always praising ourselves for the Church's scouting accomplishments and the high number of Church sponsored units, yet we are almost invisible in the scouting world beyond our local units.}

Secondly, Latter-day Saints need a **feeling of belonging** to the "greater " Scouting movement verses the "Church" scouting efforts. The more we participate beyond our local units the more we can feel the spirit of Scouting.

Also do not overlook the opportunities that the recognition of Latter-day Saint Scouters is a very good missionary tool.

### Summary of Reasons

Returning to publication *The LDS Chartered Organization Representative* it states  
<place vu-graph #10 >

"Your Duties as Chartered Organization Representative:" The first duty is to:

"Help recruit the right leadership."

The second is to:

"Encourage unit leaders and committee members to take training."

Some other duties are to:

"Emphasize advancement and recognition"

"Encourage recognition of leaders."

The first duty is obvious. Let us read the other three explanations.

<place vu-graph #11 > ...Encourage UNIT Leaders and Committee Members to Take Training

Much of the effectiveness and success of your Scout units will depend on the extent of the know-how of your unit committee members and leaders in carrying out a good program. Your district and council make a number of training opportunities available throughout the year.

There are regularly scheduled courses, (personal coaching can be provided, if needed. In addition, there are the monthly roundtables -- Sessions that introduce new ideas and techniques.)

*The LDS Chartered Organization Representative, p. 4*

<place vu-graph #12> ...Emphasize Advancement and Recognition

SPIRITUAL GROWTH can be emphasized through religious emblems programs as FAITH IN GOD, DUTY TO GOD (Priesthood Award), ON MY HONOR and ADULT ON MY HONOR awards and special stake presidency or bishopric recognition of quorum members/Scout leaders.

*The LDS Chartered Organization Representative, p. 6*

<place vu-graph #13> ...Encourage Recognition of Leaders

Aside from the satisfaction that comes to unit leaders from the knowledge of the good they are doing for boys, the next greater compensation comes from recognitions that are accorded them for the service they render.

*The LDS Chartered Organization Representative, p. 6*

In addition, the *Commissioner Fieldbook for Unit Service* states: "People who work directly with youth are the most important adults in Scouting. Find ways frequently to recognize them for their good work." (p. 5)

Let's look at the "more distinguished" awards ---

### The District Award of Merit

The District Award of Merit made annually on the basis of 1 award for each 25 units, or fraction thereof, registered on December 31<sup>st</sup>. For example, there are 28 LDS scouting units in the George Washington District. Do we even have any L.D.S. nominations being prepared for the January 31, 1995 nomination deadline? How about your district? <We have a nomination committee that can assist with your nominations preparation.>

I have a list of "For}are (District) Award of Merit Recipients." The list includes at least four decades of awards. I recognize only 4 LDS. A proper portion would have allowed \_\_\_?\_\_\_ LDS recipients. We only used \_\_\_?\_\_\_% of our potential.

### Silver Beaver

Basically, a council is allowed to award a Silver Beaver for each 60 units. Councils not using their full allotment in any year may accumulate the unused portion for use in any subsequent year. Simple mathematics says that the LDS community is not nominating a proper portion of LDS candidates. For example, we have approximately 180 scouting units in Potomac L.D.S. Region and a proper portion would allow LDS to receive 3 Silver

Beavers each year, did we? No! When was the last time that three LDS were nominated in a year, let alone given a Silver Beaver?

Unfortunately, the nominations deadline for the Silver Beaver was December 31, 1994. Most districts have their Recognition Banquet in June, check with your district for the exact date. Come see the award options and prepare for next year. I have copies of the nominations form, so that you can initiate your efforts to submit nominations for the 1995 deadline. The Silver Beaver Award nomination and instructions are also located on page 13 of the Winter 1994 NCAC *Scouter Digest*.

### Distinguished Eagle Scout

In a press release distributed by the Public Communications people at Church Headquarters, they estimate that Mormon-sponsored scout units have 267% more Eagle Scouts per 100 boys than the national average. Remember that these statistics as we discuss the next award --- the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.

I have a Fact Sheet prepared by the Boy Scout Headquarters. It lists all of the individuals honored as Distinguished Eagle Scouts. I, and other that I shared the list with, did not recognize one Latter-day Saint from the National Capitol Area Council geographic area on the list of Distinguished Eagle Scouts. This award can be presented to individuals that have earned their Eagle over twenty-five years ago, and they do not need to be active in scouting.

Challenge <place color vu-graph #14, *Scouting* (October 1989) "BSA Knot Awards" >

Let us review in summary the reasons for using "Recognition as a Constructive (Adult) Scouting Tool." Some of them are: <review list provided during discuss >

I challenge you to establish a program to verify that Scouter training is being done (FastStart, personal coaching, Basic Training, Youth Protection, and, hopefully, advanced training, such as the University of Scouting and Wood Badge) and that you have a Scouter recognition plan in each of your stakes and wards. Also mark your calendar and join the National Capital Area Council's Annual Dinner or your district's. The NCAC event is Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Fort Myer Officers' Club. A reservation form is in the Winter 1994 NCAC *Scouter Digest* on page 15. Find out about your district's recognition efforts.

NOTE: see *Leadership Training: Plans, Procedures, Materials*, pp. 63-4 "Reaching the Untrained Leader"; Two other quotes from the January 1995 Ensign --- "...a combination of commitment and fun brings success." and "We try to rely on the Spirit, but we also run our program by the handbook." (p. 57)

## Boy Scout Leader's Training Award

### PERFORMANCE

Do any five of the following:

- Participate in a support role for five overnight campouts.
- Help with two annual unit and/or district sustaining membership enrollments.
- Serve on the staff of a council or district training event
- Participate in a supplemental training course beyond basic training (local council or national-level experience).
- Participate actively in three troop parents' night or court of honor.
- Help supervise or support a troop money-earning project.
- Serve as a merit badge counselor for at least five Scouts.
- Successfully complete Boy Scout Leader Wood Badge.
- Successfully fulfill requirements of a troop committee function from the *Troop Committee Guidebook*.
- Assist actively with a Webelos den for 6 months.
- Participate in six Boy Scout roundtables.
- Help organize or reorganize a Boy Scout troop.

### TRAINING

- Complete Boy Scout Fast Start training and 3-part *Scoutmastership Fundamentals*, No. 6550A (basic training).

### TENURE

- Complete a total of 2 years as a registered adult Boy Scout leader.