



## **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL,  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

An Individual Award for  
Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Adult Scouters

### **PURPOSE:**

The Council Community Service Award provides an opportunity for individual Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Adult Scouters to realize their responsibility to serve their city, state and nation, both individually and through group effort.

It promotes character-building and citizenship in Scouts and Scouters and recognizes community service, as measured by hours of service performed.

Definition: Community service is work done by a person or group of people that benefits others. It is often done near the area where the Scouts live, so their own community reaps the benefits of their work. Scouts must not be paid to perform community service, they volunteer their time. Community service can help many different groups of people: children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, even animals and the environment.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Twenty (20) hours of community service must be completed for the initial award (the patch).
2. Service must benefit the community. The service must be for the public or a non-profit group or organization (including a unit's charter organization).

### **Kinds of Service That Count:**

- Service hours for rank advancement can be counted toward the 20 hour increments for the initial and subsequent awards: one hour of service for Tenderfoot, two hours for Second Class and three hours for First Class, for Star and Life six hours each. (At least three of the six hours for Life must be conservation-related.)
- Service hours that a Scout performs while earning the 50 Miler Award and conservation service hours as part of Phlmont Treks count.
- Service hours that a Scout performs while assisting another Scout's Eagle service project count. The Eagle candidate can count personal hours performing (but not planning) the Eagle project. The same rules apply to hours performed in connection with an individual

or unit Hornaday award, keeping in mind that the Service Award is an individual award, not a unit award.

- Service projects in support of unit charter partners are especially encouraged as part of the service hours that qualify for the award, keeping in mind that the Service Award is an individual award, not a unit award.
- Service to Council camps can be counted EXCEPT the hours that a Scout or Scouter performs as part of the Order of the Arrow Ordeal DO NOT count. Hours performed by that Scout or Scouter at subsequent Order of the Arrow events (OA Chapter work weekends and subsequent Conclaves) do count.

Service should be performed in the official Scouting uniform, whenever practical. The nature of some service may justify the wearing of a unit tee shirt instead of the official Scout uniform. This will be a project-by-project determination by the unit leaders.

### **What Does NOT Count:**

- Hours that a Scouter or youth leader spends performing his or her position of leadership for the unit, District or Council (planning and attending unit meetings, attending District, Council, OA Chapter or Lodge meetings, driving Scouts to and from events, attending or staffing Wood Badge or Grey Wolf, etc.) DO NOT count. Only community service hours count.
- Hours that a Scout or Scouter performs as part of the Order of the Arrow Ordeal DO NOT count.
- Service performed in a person's non-Scouting roles in life DO NOT count. Examples include: ushering at church as part of the "regular" ushering crew\*\*; service at a church sponsored event as a member of a church youth group; service performed out of uniform as a member of the general public at large public events; service performed as a member of service groups like Lions Clubs or Rotary Clubs; or service performed as a volunteer staffer of another organization that hosts the event. \*\*Ushering in uniform at a Scout Sunday or Scout Sabbath service counts.
- Service must be such that no monetary compensation, directly or indirectly, is paid for the benefit of the Scout, Unit, or District. Unit fund raisers of any kind DO NOT count, even when a charity pays the Scouts for their service. Cash donations given to Scouts while performing Scouting for Food will not disqualify the service if the cash is donated to the food shelf.

NOTE: BSA rules about not fundraising for other groups must be obeyed.

### **More Tips for Selecting or Developing a Community Service Project:**

Scouts can help with projects organized by community organizations, or develop their own projects. Here are some ideas for units that want to develop their own projects

- Helping Children and Schools
- Helping Senior Citizens
- Helping Pets and Animals
- Helping the Environment
- Helping the Hungry or Homeless
- Reducing Crime and Promoting Safety
- Community Enhancement

## **ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES:**

This Award is for all Scouts and Scouters at all levels, and honors cumulative service. It is not expected to be a “one and done” award.

All 20 hours for either the initial award or a subsequent award need NOT be performed in the same calendar year, although it is hoped that each Webelos, Scout, Venturer and Sea Scout, as well as all Scouters, will perform at least 20 hours of community service each calendar year.

NOTE: driving time to and from the site of a service project does NOT count.

Unit leaders must be able to corroborate hours claimed for the award. There is no specific form for tracking service hours, so units can use any existing method they currently use for that purpose.

Units may choose to recognize their Scouts and Scouters with Scouting for Food, Arbor Day, Earth Day and other event patches sold by the Scout Shops for attending those and similar events. The hours performed for those events still count for the Service Award even if the unit awards the special patches for these other events.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE PINS:**

- Subsequent awards (represented by a “20” numeral pin for wear on the patch) can be earned when a Scout or Scouter performs an additional 20 hours of community service.
- There is no limit on the number of times a Scout or Scouter can earn a pin award or the number of “20” pins that can be worn on the award patch. It is hoped that each Scout and Scouter will earn (and proudly wear) the initial award patch and many service pins representing subsequent awards.
- At the option of each individual Scout or Scouter, a “40” pin may be substituted for two “20” pins, and a “60” pin can be substituted for three “20” pins. The “40” pin is NOT appropriate for wear until a total of 60 hours of service have been performed, and the “60” pin is not appropriate for wear until a total of 80 hours of service have been performed.

## **PROCEDURE:**

1. Each person keeps their individual record of service performed. When each increment of hours has been completed, the service record is given to the Unit Leader.
2. Unit Leaders will give order forms to the Council Offices to purchase the patch. Pins are available from the Scout Shops. Unit leaders must purchase the awards for all Scouts and Scouters who are registered with a unit. Scouts (or their parents) and Scouters will not purchase the awards for themselves.
3. District and/or Council volunteers who are not registered with a unit may purchase the awards for themselves but should be prepared to show the Council office and Scout Shop a record of service.
4. The Award can be presented by the Unit Leaders at a Court of Honor or other unit function.
5. The patch can (and should) be worn suspended from the button on the right pocket of the Scout uniform. Pins are to be attached to the patch, in any location that the person chooses.

**COST OF THE PATCH & PINS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNIT**

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD  
INDIVIDUAL ORDER FORM

(one form per individual, please)

Check one: Initial Award (patch) \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Award \_\_\_\_\_ (pin)\*\*

\*\*Additional awards are recognized by wearing a service star pin on the patch. Order them separately from the Scout Shops.

Name of Scout or Scouter: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult \_\_\_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Type and Number: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Service Hours \_\_\_\_\_ (this order form)

\*\*\*\*\* Award Approval

Unit Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Patches may be purchased at the Customer Service areas in each Council office – bring in this form and the award fee to the Council office.

Make check payable to the Northern Star Council. Indicate "Service Award" in the memo space. The patch is \$1.00 each and includes tax and appropriate shipping and handling.

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Additional awards, designated by a "20" "40" or "60" service star pin, are available from the Scout Shop (prices subject to change by National Supply). Please call the Scout Shop for the current price of the pin plus tax, shipping and handling. See Council web page for Scout Shop addresses and phone numbers: <http://www.northernstar.org>

