



## National Court of Honor Lifesaving and Meritorious Action Awards

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National awards for lifesaving and meritorious action are made only for outstanding and unusual acts that demonstrate unusual heroism, skill, or bravery and reflect Scouting ideals, based on the following criteria:

1. **Honor Medal With Crossed Palms.** Has demonstrated unusual heroism and extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life at extreme risk to self.
2. **Honor Medal.** Has demonstrated unusual heroism and skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life at considerable risk to self.
3. **Heroism Award.** Has demonstrated heroism and skill in averting serious injury or saving or attempting to save life at minimum risk to self.
4. **Medal of Merit.** Has performed an act of service of a rare or exceptional character that reflects an uncommon degree of concern for the well-being of others.
5. **National Certificate of Merit.** Has performed a significant act of service that is deserving of special national recognition. Note: If the action is deserving of merit but does not qualify for a national award, the Scout may be eligible for the Local Council Certificate of Merit, No. 33732.

"Heroism" is defined as conduct exhibiting courage, daring, skill, and self-sacrifice.

"Skill" is defined as the ability to use one's knowledge effectively in execution or performance. Special attention is given to skills earned in Scouting.

### Lifesaving or Meritorious Action Awards

Recognition is given to a member of the Boy Scouts of America—Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturer, or adult leader—where the evidence presented shows that he or she saved or attempted to save life under circumstances that indicate heroism and risk of his or her own life.

**Honor Medal With Crossed Palms.** The Honor Medal with Crossed Palms may be awarded in exceptional cases to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated unusual heroism and extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life at extreme risk to self. First awarded in 1938.

Awarded in 2011: 13

Cumulative awards since 1938: 263

**Honor Medal.** The Honor Medal may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated unusual heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save life at considerable risk to self. First awarded in 1923.

Awarded in 2011: 31

Cumulative awards since 1923: 2,302

**Heroism Award.** The Heroism Award may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save life at minimum risk to self. Recognition may be given to a youth member or adult leader. The action taken need not involve attempts of rescue at risk to self but must put into practice Scouting skills and/or ideals. First awarded in 1923.

Awarded in 2011: 121

Cumulative awards since 1923: 3,351

**Medal of Merit.** The Medal of Merit may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has performed some outstanding act of service of a rare or exceptional character that reflects an uncommon degree of concern for the well-being of others. First awarded in 1946.

Awarded in 2011: 101

Cumulative awards since 1946: 6,103

**National Certificate of Merit.** The National Certificate of Merit may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has performed a significant act of service that is deserving of special national recognition. First awarded in 1989.

Awarded in 2011: 57

Cumulative awards since 1989: 1,645

This is to clarify the routing and distribution of Dan Beard Council applications for National Lifesaving and Meritorious Action:

1. The Unit shall prepare in full the Lifesaving and Meritorious Action form (#92-104B dated after 1995) or on the internet at <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/LifesavingAward.pdf> . Instructions for the proper documentation and completing the form are found on page 1. and each page. Also note the Council checklist on page 4. below to understand all documentation required locally prior to submission.
2. Upon completion, the Unit will forward copies of the complete application and applicant photographs (2) to the District Advancement Chair and the District Executive.
3. The District Advancement Chair will distribute to the Council Advancement Chair and Council Heroism Chair copies of the completed application and photographs (2). Whereupon, the Council Heroism Chair will conduct the formal review to confirm the events and documentation accuracy and completeness. The Heroism Chair will prepare an award recommendation for the Dan Beard Council Advancement Team review. Concurrently, the District Executive will notify the Dan Beard Council Advancement Director concerning the application.
4. The Council Advancement Team will review the completed application, determine the award recommendation to National and sign the application. The Council Advancement Chair will forward the signed application to the Dan Beard Council Advancement Director for submission to the National Court of Honor at the National Office, along with any commentary needed from the Dan Beard Council Executive.
5. Upon receipt of the National Court of Honor award, the Dan Beard Council Advancement Director will notify the District Advancement Chair, the Dan Beard Council Heroism Chair, the Dan Beard Council Advancement Chair and District Executive. The award will be forwarded to the District Executive.
6. The District Advancement Chair and District Executive will determine with Unit leadership the manner in which the award will be presented.

**Boy Scouts of America -- Recommendation for Lifesaving or Meritorious Action Award (#92-104B):**

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/LifesavingAward.pdf>

PRINTINGS OF THIS FORM DATED EARLIER THAN 1995 MUST NOT BE USED.

**PROCEDURE**

1. It is recommended that the local council advancement committee or the volunteer recognition committee or subcommittee thereof be constituted as a lifesaving and meritorious action awards committee.
2. Unless there are unusual circumstances that account for the time lapse, **no application may be considered after a lapse of 6 months from the action without a written explanation from the Scout executive or adviser to the council committee.**
3. Separate applications are required if more than one member is being recommended for recognition.
4. The council committee must investigate the case, interview the principals and witnesses, secure necessary signed statements, and make a recommendation based upon a full knowledge of the facts. It is recommended that this committee meet within 30 days of the receipt of the recommendation.
5. Only members of the committee present during the interviews and involved in the investigation should sign the application. The National Court of Honor reserves the right to contact individual principals or witnesses in the case or members of the investigation committee.
6. The council committee bears the responsibility to:
  - a. Write a summary of the event
  - b. Complete the application in detail
  - c. Provide any attachments, newspaper clippings, etc., which pertain to the case
7. It is recommended that no case be forwarded to the National Court of Honor without the endorsement or statement of an eyewitness.
8. All recognitions are reserved for members who were registered at the time of the action. **No such member should be encouraged to submit an application on his or her own behalf.**
9. Caution is urged not to submit weak cases (in terms of meaningful action or documentation) to the National Court of Honor. Deliberations are conducted by the court not only to recognize deserving individuals but also to preserve the historical integrity of the awards.
10. Ensure that all names are spelled correctly. Names, as spelled on this application, will be used to record and inscribe appropriate certificates.

Address all communication to:

National Court of Honor  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR LOCAL COUNCIL USE</b> <b>STOP!</b> <b>DO NOT MAIL TO NATIONAL COURT OF HONOR UNTIL CHECKING THE FOLLOWING:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All names are correct and legible.</li> <li>2. A signed statement from the individual recommended for recognition is attached. If handwritten, a typed copy is stapled to the original.</li> <li>3. Signed statements from all eyewitnesses are attached. If handwritten, typed copies are stapled to the originals.</li> <li>4. A signed statement from the rescued person is attached. If handwritten, a typed copy is stapled to the original.</li> <li>5. A glossy photograph of the individual recommended for recognition is enclosed.</li> <li>6. A summary of the action has been prepared by the committee and included on page 5 of the recommendation.</li> <li>7. All appropriate blanks on this recommendation have been completely filled in.</li> <li>8. <span style="color: red;">If more that 6 months has elapsed since the action, a letter explaining the delay, signed by the Scout executive or adviser to the council committee, is enclosed.</span></li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>For National Court of Honor use only.</b></p> <p>_____ Recommendation received by National Court of Honor</p> <p>_____ Recommendation checked for: _____ At least three signatures of council committee</p> <p>_____ Signature of Scout executive</p> <p>_____ Letter from Scout executive or adviser to committee if received more than 6 months from action</p> <p>_____ Glossy photograph</p> <p>_____ Statement from person performing action (typed)</p> <p>_____ Statement(s) from witness(es) (typed)</p> <p>_____ Defective application return to local council for verification or for more information.</p> <p>Reason: _____ _____ _____ _____</p> <p>_____ Award approved:                    HMCP  HM  HA  MM                    NCM   LCCM  None</p> <p>_____ Recorded</p> <p>_____ Certificate prepared</p> <p>_____ Certificate and medal mailed</p>
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**Timeline for Approval and Notification After Submission to the Council Office**

Dan Beard Council Process Owner: Marc Terhar

<b><u>Action Step</u></b>	<b><u>Timing</u></b>
Submit investigation report and Council Advancement Team recommended award to Marc Terhar	Week 0
Digitize (pdf format) documents and obtain Council Executive signature	Week 2
Hard copy sent to National Council Office contact Place on the agenda for the National Court of Honor (meet quarterly) for review and approval Approval of National Court of Honor	Week 16
Produce award and certificate and mail to the Council Executive	Week 18
Marc Terhar receives award/certificate and distributes to District Advancement Chair	Week 20

/RCW: 11/21/2011

Dan Beard Council Lifesaving and Meritorious Action(My Documents-Boy Scouts)