



# Unit Scouter Award

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the Unit Scouter Award (USA)?**

A: The USA is a Lake Erie Council award bestowed on volunteers who have rendered noteworthy service to youth members. Whereas the Division (District) Award of Merit and Silver Beaver Award are given for service at the division and council level, the USA is based on unit service.

**Q: What defines “noteworthy” service?**

A: The nature and value of noteworthy service may consist of sustained results delivered over a long period of time, or of a single project, plan or decision impacting many youths over a shorter time. Further, the criteria recognize that service differs in a Cub Scout pack, Scouts BSA troop, Venturing crew, or Sea Scout ship. Thus, each Scouter’s nomination will be considered in the context of the Scouting program in which they serve.

**Q: Who is a good candidate for the USA?**

A: Volunteer Scouters who give noteworthy service to units are candidates for the USA. Possibilities might include an assistant unit leader with a long record of selfless service; someone who has planned major unit activities, campouts, high adventure trips, or service projects for many years; a committee member who made significant impact through youth mentoring or advancement assistance; or any other registered unit-level volunteer.

**Q: Why add another award when others exist?**

A: The Lake Erie Council recognized a gap in bestowed awards. Scouters working primarily at the unit level—often for many years—are sometimes overlooked. There are many training awards an individual can seek, but no unit-level bestowed award. With the Unit Scouter Award, that gap has been filled.

**Q: What’s the difference between an earned award and a bestowed award?**

A: Earned awards are pursued by an individual. Typically, she or he attends specific training and then serves for a defined period before earning the award. Bestowed awards cannot be sought by individuals; rather, they are given (bestowed) because another person (the nominator) observes the selfless volunteer service given by the nominee.

**Q: What about the Unit Leader Award of Merit?**

A: That’s a great award for the top unit leader, e.g., Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Advisor, or Skipper, but it is not available to anyone other than the top unit leader. Assistant leaders and committee members often render outstanding service, so the USA is a great way to recognize them.

**Q: What leaders are eligible for the USA?**

A: Any volunteer Scouter registered with a Cub Scout pack, Scouts BSA troop, Venturing crew, or Sea Scout ship is eligible. Assistant leaders and committee members are eligible along with top unit leaders.

**Q: Is a minimum term of service required?**

A: No.

**Q: Who can submit a nomination?**

A: Youth members, parents, fellow leaders, and others with knowledge of the Scouter's noteworthy service to youths may nominate someone. Spouses or partners may provide information about the nominee (e.g., previous awards, tenure, accomplishments) to the nominator.

**Q: Can I nominate myself, my spouse or my partner?**

A: No.

**Q: How many Unit Scouter Awards may be presented each year?**

A: The award is available annually based on one award for each 40 traditional units or fractions thereof, as of December 31 of the year for which the award is to be given. For example, if the council has 445 chartered traditional units, up to 12 awards may be presented for that year.

**Q: Is there a limit to the number of nominations/awards from one unit?**

A: No. Nominees will be considered based on their individual merits, not the units they serve. The goal is to recognize Scouters from multiple BSA programs throughout the geographic area of the council, reducing the likelihood of multiple awards in a single unit or concentrated geographic area.

**Q: What if all of the awards are not presented for a given year?**

A: Unused awards may be carried over to subsequent years.

**Q: Do I have to submit a new nomination each year if my nominee is not chosen?**

A: Yes. Nominations are not carried over from year to year.

**Q: Are Silver Beaver and Division (District) Award of Merit recipients eligible for this award?**

A: Yes, but significant preference will be given to nominees who have not been recognized previously with this award or other bestowed awards.

**Q: Who chooses USA recipients?**

A: The Lake Erie Council Scout Executive appoints an ad hoc selection committee each year. Comprised of Scouting volunteers, the committee reviews all nominations, discusses the merits of each candidate, and selects those Scouters they feel best exemplify noteworthy service to youths at the unit level. The committee's recommendations are submitted to the Scout Executive for final review and approval.

**Q: When are the recipients announced and the award presented?**

A: Once the Scout Executive approves the selection committee recommendations, a member of the committee will contact the recipient. Typically, contact will be made by the end of January each year. Recipients will be invited to attend a council recognition gala, annual meeting, or equivalent event to receive their awards.

**Q: When are nominations due and where should they be sent?**

A: Nominations must be received no later than December 15. They should be sent to the Lake Erie Council unit service center (Email: [LECMemberCare@scouting.org](mailto:LECMemberCare@scouting.org)). Alternately, nominations may be sent via U. S. Postal Service to:

LEC Member Care  
Lake Erie Council, BSA PO  
Box 93388  
Cleveland, OH 44101-5388