

# NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



The purpose of the Council Community Service Award is twofold:

- to promote character-building and citizenship in Scouts and Scouters, who realize their responsibility to serve their city, state and nation, both individually and through group effort; and
- to recognize Scouts and Scouters who provide certain levels of community service measured by hours performed in such service.

This award can help units get more Scouts to attend unit service projects, which in turn should help units fulfill their community service project requirement for Journey to Excellence (JTE). In that light, service projects in support of unit charter partners are specifically encouraged as part of the service hours that qualify for the award.

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.

The service should be performed in such a way as to be identified as Scouting service through the wearing of the official Scout uniform.

Requirements and ordering procedures are attached.

# NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

*An Individual Award for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts,  
Venture Scouts, Sea Scouts, Explorers, and Adult Scouters*

## Requirements:

1. 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, with the goal of ensuring that the public realizes the service is being performed by Scouts as Scouts.

***NOTE: BSA rules describe situations in which a Scout uniform must not be worn, and they must be obeyed; these award requirements do NOT replace official BSA rules on the wearing of the uniform.***

2. Twenty (20) hours of community service must be completed for the initial award (the patch). 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.

***NOTE:*** 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.

3. 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, Boy Scout and Venture Scout and 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.

4. Service performed during 2012 may be considered part of the hours for the initial award at the option of unit leaders. Unit leaders must be able to corroborate hours claimed for 2012, and must track hours for 2013 and beyond. There is no specific form for tracking service hours, so units can use any existing method they currently use for that purpose. A suggested form is attached for units that don't have any current service hours tracking form.

5. 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). 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 (spring work weekends and subsequent fall Conclaves) can count.

6. Service hours for rank advancement can be counted toward the 20 hour increments for the initial and subsequent awards. Service hours that a Scout performs while earning the 50 Miler Award also count. Service hours that a Scout performs while assisting another Scout's Eagle service project also count. The Eagle candidate can count his personal hours performing (but not planning) his 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.

7. Service provided to a unit's charter partner or other groups which the unit claims for Journey to Excellence DOES count, keeping in mind that the Service Award is an individual award, not a unit award.

8. Hours that a Scouter or youth leader spends performing his or her position of leadership for the unit or District do NOT count (planning and attending unit meetings, attending District or Council meetings, driving Scouts to and from events, etc.). Only community service hours count.

9. 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.

10. Service must be such that no monetary remuneration, 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 fundraising for other groups must be obeyed.**

11. Units may choose to award 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.

#### **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. Such Scouts (or their parents) and Scouters will not purchase the awards for themselves.

**NOTE:** 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.

3. The Award can be presented by the Unit Leaders at a Court of Honor or other unit function.

4. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Scout Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of Service Hours \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

### Award Approval

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Patches may be purchased by mail – send in this form and the award fee to:

Northern Star Council  
393 Marshall Avenue  
Saint Paul MN 55102

OR

Northern Star Council  
5300 Glenwood Avenue  
Golden Valley MN 55422

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Mail Patch To:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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.northernstarbsa.org/Contacts/ScoutShops>

# COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD UNIT ORDER FORM

**Check one:** Initial Award (patch) \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Award \_\_\_\_\_ (Service Star pin)\*\*  
**\*\*Additional awards are recognized by wearing a service star pin on the patch. Order them separately from the Scout Shops.**

**COUNCIL OFFICE USE:** see attached roster for names of qualifying Scouts and Scouters and number of awards being ordered.

\*\*\*\*\*

Patches may be purchased by mail – send in this form and the award fee to:

Northern Star Council  
393 Marshall Avenue  
Saint Paul MN 55102

OR Northern Star Council  
5300 Glenwood Avenue  
Golden Valley MN 55422

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mail Patch(es) To:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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.northernstarbsa.org/Contacts/ScoutShops>

