



## Recommendation for Lifesaving or Meritorious Action Award

Upon consideration of the evidence submitted from all sources, as set forth in this recommendation form, we respectfully recommend that the National Court of Honor grant the award checked below. **Note: If the action being considered is deserving of merit but does not qualify for a national award, do not submit this form. The Local Council Certificate of Merit, No. 606760, is suitable for this purpose.**

### Guidelines

1. **Nomination forms will not be considered after a lapse of 36 months of the incident.**
2. This application form must be used.
3. No case should be forwarded to the council without a signed statement from the nominee and an eyewitness.
4. Lifesaving or meritorious actions performed as part of the line of duty of a trained lifesaver-i.e., doctor, nurse, lifeguard, first responder-will not be considered.
5. Boy Scouts of America employees are not eligible.
6. Separate nomination forms are required if more than one member is being recognized for recognition.
7. Provide the full name of applicant to be honored, exactly as it should appear on the certificate if the award is granted.
8. Provide as much information as necessary using the space provided on this form. **No additional documents should be attached.**
9. Complete the release/assignment form on the following page to have your story considered for publication in the Scouts in Action section (for youth) of *Boys' Life* magazine or the Scouters in Action section (for adults) in *Scouting* magazine.
10. Council Meritorious Action Awards Committee. Each Council shall establish a Council Meritorious Action Awards Committee for the purpose of considering applications for award for the National Certificate of Merit or Medal of Merit for individuals registered with the Boy Scouts of America and residing within the council. Such committee shall consist of at least three and not more than five members to consider such applications and prepare recommendation for such applications by the Council Executive Board. The Council Executive Board shall consider and have authority for the final approval and/or denial of applications for National Certificate of Merit or Medal of Merit. No committee member shall consider an application for a family member of the same unit as the committee member.
11. Upgrading of Recommendation. If the local Council Meritorious Action Awards Committee and Council Executive Board are of the opinion that an application for the National Certificate of Merit or Medal of Merit should be upgraded to an application for the Honor Medal or the Honor Medal with Crossed Palms, it may refer the application, with a written letter of recommendation, to the National Court of Honor at [awards@scouting.org](mailto:awards@scouting.org) for consideration. Upon consideration, the National Court of Honor may grant the recommended upgrade of the application or return it to the Council Executive Board for consideration of a National Certificate of Merit or Medal of Merit.
12. Reporting of the Medal of Merit and National Certificate of Merit Awards. After final approval by the local council, the council must report the recipient within thirty (30) days using the Meritorious Action Award Reporting Tool.
13. Availability of Certificates and Medals. Commencing immediately, Councils may order National Certificate of Merit, Medal of Merit certificate, Medal of Merit square knot, and Medal of Merit medal from BSA Supply. Only approved certificates or medals shall be used for the said awards.

Medal of Merit certificate, No. 620405

National Certificate of Merit, No. 620406

Medal of Merit medal, No. 620561

Council Certificate of Merit, No. 606760

Medal of Merit square knot, No. 5025

**Nominee Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of action \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate height \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate weight \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

The nominee is registered as a

Tiger Cub

Cub Scout

Webelos Scout

Boy Scout

Varsity Scout

Venturer

Adult

in

Pack \_\_\_\_\_

Troop \_\_\_\_\_

Team \_\_\_\_\_

Crew \_\_\_\_\_

Ship \_\_\_\_\_

Rank at time of action \_\_\_\_\_ If an adult, indicate present office in Scouting \_\_\_\_\_

**Rescued Person Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Age at time of action \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate height \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate weight \_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of place where action occurred \_\_\_\_\_

Date of incident \_\_\_\_\_ Time of incident \_\_\_\_\_

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**Summary of the Action (Council committee use only)**

A short summary describing the incident or action is required based on the council committee's study of all aspects of the case and on interviews with the principals and witnesses.

**For First-Aid Cases**

Explain how first aid was administered by this currently registered youth or adult member instrumental in saving a life, if any.

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What Scout first-aid skills were used? (CPR, control of bleeding, choking emergency, etc.)

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Explain the circumstances such as his/her cool headedness? \_\_\_\_\_

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Was he/she assisted? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, by whom and how much? \_\_\_\_\_

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Did the assisted person survive? \_\_\_\_\_ If survived, give details of the method used. \_\_\_\_\_

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Was the Scout training employed in the rescue and resuscitation? \_\_\_\_\_ Give details \_\_\_\_\_

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**For Rescue from Fire**

Dimensions of the room or rooms involved in the rescue \_\_\_\_\_

What was the location of the fire at the time of the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_

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Where was the rescued person when reached by the rescuer? \_\_\_\_\_

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How far did the rescuer have to go to reach the rescued? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the rescued person or persons have to be transported to safety? \_\_\_\_\_

Did dense smoke impede the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_ Did the rescuer know the building layout? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe in detail the danger to the rescuer at the time of the rescue. \_\_\_\_\_

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Did the assisted person survive? \_\_\_\_\_ If survived, give details of the method used. \_\_\_\_\_

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Was Scout training employed in the rescue and resuscitation? \_\_\_\_\_ Give details \_\_\_\_\_

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**For Ice Rescue**

Thickness of ice at and near the point of rescue \_\_\_\_\_

Depth of water at and near the point of rescue \_\_\_\_\_

Manner in which the rescuer moved over ice \_\_\_\_\_

Distance traveled by the rescuer

a) From shore to breakthrough \_\_\_\_\_

b) Over dangerous ice \_\_\_\_\_

Location of ladders, rope, planks, etc., if any, and use made of them \_\_\_\_\_

Did ice break under the rescuer? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, at what point and in what depth of water? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the rescuer fall in? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how did the rescuer get out? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the assisted person survive? \_\_\_\_\_ If survived, give details of the method used \_\_\_\_\_

Was Scout training employed in the rescue and resuscitation? \_\_\_\_\_ Give details \_\_\_\_\_

Is the rescuer regarded as a good, fair, or poor swimmer? \_\_\_\_\_

**For Water Rescue**

General weather and water condition, including the approximate temperature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Storm, high seas, fair, calm, cold, etc.)

Lake, river, or ocean? \_\_\_\_\_ Name of lake, river, or ocean \_\_\_\_\_

Condition of bottom (weeds, snags, rocks, sand, mud) \_\_\_\_\_

Still or running water? \_\_\_\_\_ If running, speed of current? \_\_\_\_\_

Were others in addition to the rescuer on the scene when the accident occurred? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the rescuer assisted in rescue? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, by whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Did anyone else attempt the rescue and fail? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, by whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the rescue made by use of boat, buoy, or other equipment, or was it a swimming rescue? \_\_\_\_\_

If by swimming, was the boat or other equipment that could have been used at and? \_\_\_\_\_

If a swimming rescue, how far did the rescuer swim in order to reach person assisted? \_\_\_\_\_

Depth of water at point where rescue was made \_\_\_\_\_

How far was it necessary to tow the person assisted in order to stand up or reach safety? \_\_\_\_\_

What clothes was the rescuer wearing at the time of the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_

How was the assisted person clothed? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the person unconscious when rescued? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the assisted person struggle or grasp the rescuer while being aided? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, did it result from bad judgment or a careless approach? \_\_\_\_\_

Was it necessary to go underwater to find the person assisted? \_\_\_\_\_ How many times? \_\_\_\_\_ At what depth? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the assisted person survive? \_\_\_\_\_ If survived, give details of the method used. \_\_\_\_\_

Was Scout training employed in the rescue and resuscitation? \_\_\_\_\_ Give details \_\_\_\_\_

Is the rescuer regarded as a good, fair, or poor swimmer? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Miscellaneous Cases**

In cases that cannot be covered under any of the sections, give as much data and as many details as possible to help the National Court of Honor to evaluate the case, paying particular attention to the use of Scout training.

**Nominee's Statement Recommended for Recognition**

A personally prepared and signed statement by person performing action describing the incident is required.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name)

**Rescued Person's Statement (optional)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name)

**Witness Statement (Required)**

A personally prepared and signed statement by each witness, describing the action as he or she recalls the details is required. Include name, address, and phone number of each witness.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name)



**Second Witness Statement, if any**

A personally prepared and signed statement by each witness, describing the action as he or she recalls the details is required. Include name, address, and phone number of each witness.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name)

**Council's Nomination Information**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Council, BSA, proudly approves \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of nominee)  
to receive the \_\_\_\_\_. We attest that this nominee was a registered member of  
the Boy Scouts of America at the time of the action described herein, and that the procedures outlined on this form  
have been followed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Council chair's printed name      \_\_\_\_\_ Council chair's signature      \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Scout executive's printed name      \_\_\_\_\_ Scout executive's signature      \_\_\_\_\_ Date

We plan to present the award on \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Council name \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**RULES AND  
REGULATIONS  
of the  
BOY SCOUTS OF  
AMERICA**

Article X, Section 5, Clause 1  
Lifesaving Awards

**Clause 1. Lifesaving Awards.** Recognition may be given to a youth member or adult leader of the Boy Scouts of America where the evidence presented to the National Court of Honor, in accordance with prescribed regulations, shows that he or she saved or attempted to save life under circumstances which indicate heroism and risk to self. The court will give consideration to resourcefulness and to demonstrated skill in rescue methods. In no case shall recognition be given where it appears that the risk involved was merely in the performance of duty or the meeting of an obligation because of responsibility to supervise and give leadership to the persons whose lives were saved. The awards are:

- a) **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.
- b) **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.

**RULES AND  
REGULATIONS  
of the  
BOY SCOUTS OF  
AMERICA**

Article X, Section 5, Clauses 2  
and 3 Meritorious Action  
Awards

**Clause 2. Meritorious Action Awards.** Recognition may be given to a youth member or adult leader where the evidence presented to the National Court of Honor, in accordance with prescribed regulations, shows that a significant or outstanding act of service, of an exceptional character, was performed. The action taken need not involve attempts of rescue or risk to self but must put into practice Scouting skills and/or ideals. Recognition shall not be given where it appears that the action involved was merely in the performance of duty or the meeting of an obligation. The awards are:

- a) **Medal of Merit.** The Medal of Merit may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has performed an act of service of a rare or exceptional character that reflects an uncommon degree of concern for the wellbeing of others.
- b) **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.

**Clause 3.**

- (a) Applications for the National Certificate of Merit and the Medal of Merit Awards should be submitted to the local council on the duly prescribed forms and shall be received by the council in accordance with guidelines approved by the National Court of Honor. If approved, the recognition will be awarded by the local council and reported to the National Court of Honor.
- (b) Applications for the Honor Medal and the Honor Medal with Crossed Palms should be submitted to the National Court of Honor through the duly prescribed forms, and shall be within the discretion of that committee to determine which type of recognition, if any, should be given.
- (c) Recipient of all awards referred to in this Section must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America at the time the action was performed. Awards are made in the name of the Boy Scouts of America.