



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 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. Separate nomination forms are required if more than one member is being recognized for recognition.
6. Provide the full name of applicant to be honored, exactly as it should appear on the certificate if the award is granted.
7. Provide as much information as necessary using the space provided on this form. **No additional documents should be added.**
8. 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 *Scout Life* magazine or the Scouters in Action section (for adults) in *Scouting* magazine.
9. 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 Scouting 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.
10. 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 Heroism, 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 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.
11. 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.**
12. 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. 665834

National Certificate of Merit, No. 665979

Medal of Merit medal, No. 663905

Council Certificate of Merit, order via

Medal of Merit square knot, No. 5025

awards@scouting.org

SCOUTS IN ACTION / SCOUTERS IN ACTION RELEASE/ASSIGNMENT

If the nominee ends up receiving a BSA life-saving award, we would like to consider telling their story in either *Scout Life* (Scouts in Action) or *Scouting* magazine (Scouters in Action). By signing this form, you are giving us permission to *consider* this story for publication, should the nominee eventually be awarded a life-saving award. The subjects in our magazines are selected from a lengthy list of award winners. There is no guarantee that the story will ever actually be used in our magazines. Please note that signing this form does not guarantee that the nominee will be awarded a life-saving award. Please check the “opt out” box below if you do not wish for us to consider this story for use in our magazines.

I, _____ [print name], in consideration of acceptance and review of an application for Recommendation for Lifesaving or Meritorious Action Award, do consent and authorize Scouting America to use and reproduce my name, image and story and to circulate them for any and all purposes, including publication of every description.

I hereby give up any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished story or advertising copy or printed matter, as it may be edited. I also hereby release Scouting America, and all persons acting under its permission or authority, from any liability by virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration or use in any derivative or composite form, whether intentional or otherwise, that may occur or be produced regarding the use of my name, image and story.

I furthermore assign all copyrights to the story* to Scouting America, for any and all copyright terms and all extensions and renewal terms of copyright whether now known or hereafter created throughout the world, and all new works created from my story, free from payment of any royalty or compensation whatsoever.

I state that I have read the above authorization, release and agreement prior to its execution, and that I am fully aware of the contents thereof.

Signature	Date
Signature of Parent or Guardian if Nominee is a Minor	Date

*What this means is that the BSA retains all rights to its version of the story, not the story itself.

OPT OUT

☐ Please check here if you do NOT want this story to be considered for the Scouts in Action section (for youth) of *Scout Life* magazine or the Scouters in Action section (for adults) in *Scouting* magazine.



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

☐ Scouts BSA Youth

☐ Sea 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 _____

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.

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

Explain the circumstances such as to tax his/her cool headedness?

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

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

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

For Fire Rescue

Dimensions of the room or rooms involved in the rescue

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

Where was the rescued person when reached by the rescuer?

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.

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

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

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 to reach person assisted? _____

Depth of water at point where rescue was made _____

How far was it necessary to tow the person assisted 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? _____

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_____

(Signature) (Printed name)

Address_____

City_____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone No. _____ Email _____

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 _____

(Signature) (Printed name)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone No. _____ Email _____

RULES AND REGULATIONS of SCOUTING 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 Scouting 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.
- c) **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 more than minimal personal risk to self.

RULES AND REGULATIONS of SCOUTING 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 well-being 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. All applications should be submitted to the National Court of Honor through a local council upon duly prescribed forms, and it shall be within the discretion of the National Court of Honor to determine which type of recognition, if any, shall be given. Recipients of these awards must be registered members of Scouting America at the time the action was performed. Awards are made in the name of Scouting America.

Council's Nomination Information

The _____ Council, Scouting America, proudly approves _____
(Name of nominee)
to receive the _____. We attest that this nominee was a registered member of Scouting 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 _____