

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

RECOMMENDATION FOR LIFESAVING or MERITORIOUS ACTION AWARD

(Review the procedure on the back page.)



DO NOT WRITE IN BOX—
FOR NATIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY.

A committee of the _____ Council, No. _____, Region _____

City _____ State _____ has interviewed

Name _____ Age at time of action _____

Parent's name _____ Phone number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The candidate is registered as a Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, Webelos Scout,
Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturer, or adult (circle one) in _____ No. _____
(pack, troop, team, crew, ship)

Chartered organization _____

of City _____ State _____

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

Upon consideration of the evidence submitted from all sources, as set forth in this application, 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. You may want to write a letter conveying the commendation of the committee. Local Council Certificate of Merit, No. 33732, is suitable for this purpose.**

LIFESAVING AWARDS (See clause 1 on page 2.)

These awards recognize the attempt to save life **and** an accompanying measure of risk to self.

- ☐ **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.**
- ☐ **Honor Medal.** Has demonstrated unusual heroism and skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life **at considerable risk to self.**
- ☐ **Heroism Award.** Has demonstrated heroism and skill in averting serious injury or saving or attempting to save life **at minimum risk to self.**

MERITORIOUS ACTION AWARDS (See clause 2 on page 2.)

These awards recognize notable acts of service that need not involve attempts of rescue or risk to self but put into practice Scouting skills and/or ideals.

- ☐ **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.
- ☐ **National Certificate of Merit.** Has performed a significant act of service that is deserving of special national recognition.

DEFINITIONS

Heroism. Conduct exhibiting courage, daring, skill, and self-sacrifice.

Skill. The ability to use one's knowledge effectively in execution or performance. Special attention is given to skills learned in Scouting.

PERSONAL SIGNATURES, COUNCIL COMMITTEE

(At least three signatures are required.)

(Chairman)

I certify that the individual recommended for recognition was a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America at the time of the action described herein and that **the procedure outlined on the back of this form has been followed.**

Attest _____
(Scout executive)

(Date)

REQUIRED DATA FOR ALL CASES

Name of individual recommended for recognition _____

Age at time of action _____ Approximate height _____ Approximate weight _____

Name of rescued person _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Age at time of action _____ Approximate height _____ Approximate weight _____

Name and location of place where action occurred _____

Date and time of incident: Date _____ Time _____

Enclosed are the following personally prepared and **signed** statements which are **required for all cases**: (Type all handwritten statements and staple to originals.)

- Personally prepared and **signed** statement by person performing action, describing the incident.
- Personally prepared and **signed** statement by the rescued person, if any.
- Personally prepared and **signed** statement by each witness, describing the action as he or she recalls the details. Include name, address, and phone number of all witnesses.
- Glossy photo of the individual who made the rescue (5" × 7" desired.)
- Summary by the council committee of the event as described on page 5.
- Letter explaining the delay in submitting this recommendation. (Required only if this recommendation will arrive at the National Court of Honor more than six months after the date of the action. It should be signed by the Scout executive or adviser to the lifesaving and meritorious action committee.)

ARTICLE X—SECTION 5—RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

LIFESAVING AND MERITORIOUS ACTION 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.
- (c) **Heroism Award.** The Heroism Award may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated heroism and skill in averting serious injury or saving or attempting to save life at *minimum* risk to self.

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 the 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 the Boy Scouts of America at the time the action was performed. Awards are made in the name of the Boy Scouts of America.

For Water Rescue (In addition to data on page 2)

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

Lake, river, or ocean? _____ Its name? _____

Condition of bottom (weedy, snags, rocks, sand, or mud) _____

Still or running water? _____ If running, speed of current? _____

Were others besides rescuer on the scene when the accident occurred? _____

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

Did anyone else attempt the rescue and fail? _____

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

If by swimming, was boat or other equipment at hand which could have been used? _____

If swimming rescue, how far did rescuer swim in order to reach person assisted? _____

Depth of water at point where rescue was made _____

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

What clothes was rescuer wearing at the time of the rescue? _____

How was the assisted person clothed? _____ Unconscious when rescued? _____

Did assisted person struggle or grasp rescuer while being aided? _____

If so, did it result from bad judgment or careless approach? _____

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

Did assisted person live? _____ If revived, give details of method used. _____

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

Is rescuer regarded as a good, fair, or poor swimmer? _____

For Ice Rescue (In addition to data on page 2)

Thickness of ice at and near point of rescue _____

Depth of water at and near point of rescue _____

Manner in which rescuer moved over ice _____

Distance traveled by 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 rescuer? _____ If so, at what point and in what depth of water? _____

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

Did assisted person live? _____ If revived, give details of method used _____

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

Is rescuer regarded as good, fair, or poor swimmer? _____

For Rescue From Fire (In addition to data on page 2)

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 carried to safety? _____

Did dense smoke impede the rescue? _____

Did the rescuer know the building layout? _____

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

Did assisted person live? _____ If revived, give details _____

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

For First Aid Cases (In addition to data on page 2)

Was the first aid administered by this currently registered youth or adult member instrumental in saving life? How? _____

What Scout first aid skills were used? (artificial respiration, control of bleeding, etc.) _____

Were the circumstances such as to tax his coolheadedness? Explain _____

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

Did assisted person live? _____ If revived, give details _____

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

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.

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

(This summary of just what happened in the rescue effort is required. It is a narrative description, *prepared and signed by the council committee*, based on its study of all aspects of the case and on interviews with the principals and witnesses.)

(If more space is needed, use additional pages.)

THE ABOVE SUMMARY IS REQUIRED.

SAMPLE SUMMARY

The following sample summary is given to aid your committee in preparing a synopsis of this case:

When on May 14, 1982, William McCandless, 11, slipped on the bank of the Stillwater River behind the Englewood Dam near Englewood, Ohio, the fast current carried him into the main stream and through the tunnel under the dam. Eagle Scout Mark Sanna, 14, prepared for such an emergency by years of Scout training, removed his shoes, jumped into the 80-foot-deep water, and swam to his aid. Mark got William to shore where he used the mouth-to-mouth method of rescue breathing until the victim responded.

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 requests for forms and other communication to:

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

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

FOR LOCAL COUNCIL USE

**STOP!
DO NOT MAIL TO NATIONAL COURT
OF HONOR UNTIL CHECKING
THE FOLLOWING:**

- ☐ 1. All names are correct and legible.
- ☐ 2. A signed statement from the individual recommended for recognition is attached. If handwritten, a typed copy is stapled to the original.
- ☐ 3. Signed statements from all eyewitnesses are attached. If handwritten, typed copies are stapled to the originals.
- ☐ 4. A signed statement from the rescued person is attached. If handwritten, a typed copy is stapled to the original.
- ☐ 5. A glossy photograph of the individual recommended for recognition is enclosed.
- ☐ 6. A summary of the action has been prepared by the committee and is included on page 5 of the recommendation.
- ☐ 7. All appropriate blanks on this recommendation have been completely filled in.
- ☐ 8. If more than 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.

For National Court of Honor use only.

_____ Recommendation received by National Court of Honor

_____ Recommendation checked for:

_____ At least three signatures of council committee

_____ Signature of Scout executive

_____ Letter from Scout executive or adviser to committee if received more than 6 months from action

_____ Glossy photograph

_____ Statement from person performing action (typed)

_____ Statement(s) from witness(es) (typed)

_____ Defective application return to local council for verification or for more information. Reason:

_____ Award approved:

HMCP HM HA MM

NCM LCCM None

_____ Recorded

_____ Certificate prepared

_____ Certificate and medal mailed