



Boy Scouts Honored Area’s Highest Achieving Youth Members



Advancement is a key method in the Scouting program. To mark their achievements, Scouts are given small colored thread, cloth, wood and metal patches, badges and medals. Those emblems of accomplishment may be put into a closet, keepsake box or even misplaced, but the achievements they evidence last for a lifetime.

Awards and Rewards – they share the same five letters, w-a-r-d-s, but they are not the same. An award is something that is bestowed or conferred. A reward is something that is earned and given in return for service or attainment. Awards may be displayed; rewards are carried in the heart and soul.

In Scouting we make awards for things that Scouts do and accomplish: like badges for rank advancement and merit badges for mastering skills. Occasionally we give them rewards for selling pancake breakfast tickets, popcorn or other items that support their units and activities.

Participating in Scouting is its own reward and it lasts a lifetime. The leadership capabilities, the self-confidence, the integrity and the character that Scouts develop; the friendships they make; and the memories they carry – these are the simple but life changing rewards of participating in Scouting. We don’t give awards for them. We don’t hold ceremonies for them. Scouts work hard for them. They earn them and Scouts carry them with them every day. These are the rewards of Scouting.

I recently read in an American Airlines magazine article that “Materialistic people are also the least satisfied.” This is because “the human brain is built to adapt to its surroundings. It’s the reason people who live near railroad tracks don’t notice the rattle of the trains.”

When I look out across our Council, I don’t see materialistic people. I see youth and adults who are focused on helping and serving others. I see Cub Scouts who are learning to do their best in everything they do. I see Boy Scouts who are prepared for any challenge. I see Venturers who strive to protect our environment. I see Explorers who are learning what’s involved in law enforcement, building trades, or health care – jobs that are vital to our society. And I see STEM Scouts who are ready to tackle the universe.

Remember what you hear and see in Scouting. Success and courage are all around. You Scouts can grow up to be anything you want to be. You can accomplish anything you set out to accomplish. We believe in you and we will stand by you.

Excerpt from Council President Steven Schwab at the Youth Recognition Dinner on February 25, 2017.

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