

The Silver Beaver Award



The Silver Beaver is a national award presented by the Longhouse Council. It is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a volunteer leader by a local council.

The Silver Beaver is awarded for **noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by a registered scouter within the territory under the jurisdiction of a local council.**

NOMINATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2017 – nominations must be received at the Council Service Center by close of business on 4/17!

Please use only the NEW nomination form at http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-103_WB.pdf. (Note the underscore between 103 and WB.) You can also link to the form from the Longhouse Council website (www.cnyscouting.org) by selecting "Volunteer Resources," then "Forms," and clicking on the link for National Forms near the top of the page.

Please review the nomination guidelines below carefully.

Scouters selected to receive the Silver Beaver in 2017 will be honored at the Council Annual Meeting at Camp Woodland on Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

Nomination Guidelines

As you prepare to nominate an outstanding Scouter for this prestigious honor, please review the following guidelines to ensure your nomination receives full consideration:

- Use the **NEW** nomination form at http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-103_WB.pdf or link to the form from the Longhouse Council website (www.cnyscouting.org) by selecting "Volunteer Resources," then "Forms," and clicking on the link for National Forms.
- Please carefully read the Rules and Regulations on the last page of the nomination form.
- A Scouter may not nominate himself/herself.
- A family member may not be the sole nominator of a Scouter. (Supplemental nominations or information from family members to support a nomination are welcome.)

It is challenging to nominate a person for the Silver Beaver. We ask for a great deal of information, some of which may be difficult to obtain – and certainly hard to gather without the knowledge of the nominee.

- Gather information confidentially – a nominee may not be selected in any given year; it is unfair to prematurely raise hopes and expectations of the nominee.
- Do your very best to provide as much data as you can. **The committee struggles every year to fairly evaluate nominees whose nomination packages are sketchy or incomplete. You place your nominee at a disadvantage when the committee does not have all the facts.**
- On the other hand, nomination packages do not have to be book length. We seek to assess the qualities and service of the nominee, not the quality of the paper or the thickness of the package.
- Multiple nominations are welcome – but only to the extent that each nomination reveals new and different information about the nominee. Ten "Joe is a good guy" letters do not enhance a nominee's package as much as two nominations providing unique insights into a nominee's Scouting and civic activities.

What is **most** important in the nomination package?

- **Information about the Scouter's Scouting service – identify where and when the service was performed – and what made it noteworthy**
- **Information about other recognitions received (especially District Award of Merit, Spurgeon Award, other District awards)**
- **Training Awards**
- And, close behind, information about other service to youth (non-Scouting), civic, veteran and business affiliations, religious affiliation service and other personal characteristics which make the nominee stand out among his/her peers (see "NOTE" below)

NOTE: Although the Silver Beaver is first and foremost a Scouting award that recognizes outstanding service within the Scouting movement, we ask for information about the nominee's life outside of Scouting for two reasons – first, to better understand the whole person and his/her contributions to the community, and second, to allow us to share the good news of a Scouter's receipt of the award with those other organizations.

AND AN IMPORTANT NOTE TO NOMINATORS: The Longhouse Council may select only 1 Silver Beaver for every 60 Scout units. That means very few nominees can be honored each year. If your nominee is not selected this year, don't be discouraged – please resubmit the nomination for consideration next year – and review the nomination to see if there are additional facts that can be added to provide more information to the members of the selection committee.

Questions? Contact Silver Beaver Committee Chair Dick Blansett, 315-715-1809; rblanset@twcny.rr.com.