

# SCOUTING

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## Overview

Every VFW Post has the opportunity to work in partnership with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) when they sponsor/charter a scouting unit. Direct involvement in scouting is a chance to positively affect youth while developing positive youth/adult partnerships. Through Scouting, VFW Posts have the opportunity to expand their community outreach while developing a clear resource for veteran families and their children. Posts that sponsor Scout units have an excellent resource for membership recruitment and support of Post programs. Parents that are involved in scouting and working with youth have the skills and commitment for community service.

Post and District Chairman should refer to the National VFW Programs Guide “**It’s About Service**” Additional materials are available from VFW Emblem and Supply, or by visiting [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://www.vfwdepartmentresources.org) and [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

## Organizing a Scout Unit

To start a Scout unit contact your local Scout Council, or contact the Department Chairman.

## Eagle Scout / Sea Scout Quartermaster Service Projects and Service to Veterans

One of the requirements for Eagle Scout and Sea Scout Quartermaster is the Service Project. This is a project the Scout must **plan, develop and give leadership** to. Its emphasis is on service to the community. Here is an excellent opportunity for our Posts and membership to become involved. Scouts who are planning their Service Projects are always looking for a good project to do. We can become involved by sponsoring their projects and at the same time helping our fellow veterans. Our Veterans Homes, Hospitals, Convalescent Homes and Clinics are excellent places for the Scouts to perform their projects. When you sponsor a project, help the Scout by letting him or her know who to contact and with ideas for his or her project. Contact the above mentioned facilities and make arrangements for the Scout to meet with them. It also helps if you let the facility know what your Scout and his or her project can do for them and how they can help. Post and Auxiliary members can also help out with the projects. But remember the Scout must plan, develop and direct the project. Posts that do not have a Scout Unit can contact a local Scout unit or Scout Council to let them know that you are willing to sponsor an Eagle Scout or Quartermaster Project. If assistance is needed, contact the Department Chairman. Report all of your Scouting related activities.

## **VFW Scholarship for Wood Badge and Sea Badge BSA Advanced Adult Leadership Training**

Wood Badge and Sea Badge are the advanced adult leadership training courses provided by the Boy Scouts of America. VFW members who are actively involved in Scouting qualify for this program. National provides a full scholarship for both programs. Details are sent out annually by National to every Post. Anyone interested in attending Wood Badge or Sea Badge, or have any questions about the programs, please contact the Department Chairman.

## **Department of California Scouting Team**

The Department of California Scouting Team is made up of VFW members who are actively involved in Scouting. Team members perform duties at the unit level as Charter Organization Representatives, Unit Committeemen, Unit Commissioners, Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Venturing Advisors and Sea Scout Skippers, or their assistants. They may also work at the Scout District and Council levels. They may represent the VFW, as a sponsoring community organization, at meetings of the Council Relationship Committee. Team members assist VFW Posts with the VFW Scout of the Year program and may serve on the selection committee. Team members work to provide the maximum impact of VFW support to the Scouting program and to achieve the maximum visibility for VFW efforts. They assist in developing Scouting within the VFW and promote VFW programs in Scouting. All VFW Posts that sponsor or charter a Scout unit could have a member on the State Scouting Team.

## **VFW Scouters Achievement Award**

This is a National Award designed to recognize VFW Scouters who serve three years on the VFW State or National Scouting Team. The award consists of a gold square knot on purple cloth, which may be worn on the Scout uniform, and a certificate presented by VFW National Headquarters.

## **VFW Department of California and National Scout of the Year**

The VFW Scout of the Year program is designed to recognize youth achievement and leadership, contribution to the youth of the community in development of lifetime core values of honor, integrity, courage and commitment as evidenced by Scouting leadership, recognition, and participation; and selfless service to the citizens of the community. Only Eagle Scouts, Sea Scout Quartermasters and Venturing Silver award recipients *who have reached their 15th birthday but not reached their 18th birthday on the date of entry* are eligible. This includes all our young ladies in Sea Scouts and Venturing. All candidates for the VFW Scout of the Year **MUST BE SPONSORED BY A VFW POST** as evidenced by signatures on the official entry form application. Posts will select one (1) winner from its applicants and forward the entry to the District. The District will select one (1) winner from the Post submissions and forward the entry to the Department Chairman who, with the aid of the Scouting Committee select a first, second and third place and submit the first place winner to National for Judging as National Scout of the Year. Entries will not be accepted when the sponsoring Post IS NOT in the District submitting the entry. Entrant should live in the submitting District. **Do not send photo-copies of the Scout of the Year application form. We must have originals of all work and pictures.**

## **DEADLINES**

Scout's Entry due to Post - March 1;  
Post winner due to District - March 15;  
District winner due to Department Chairman – April 1.

Entry forms and rules can be obtained from Department, on line at the Department web site and from State Scouting Team members or by contacting the Department Chairman. Posts wishing to participate should contact their own Scout unit, local Scout Troops and Councils to distribute the information about the program.

## **HOW TO REPORT**

**PLEASE NOTE NEW REPORTING FORM (visit our home page at [www.vfwca.org](http://www.vfwca.org) or go to [www.ca.vfwportal.net/](http://www.ca.vfwportal.net/)) and enter your program reporting information.**  
**PLEASE NOTE – FORM 12'S ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED**

***Important!*** – To qualify for awards a Post must send a copy of the Program Reporting to the Department Chairman with all applicable attachments.

## **Awards**

A plaque will be awarded at the State Convention for the most outstanding Post and District Scouting Program as determined by the Chairman and Scouting Committee.

Note: Report all Scouting activities and support given by your Post and all of your Post members regardless if your Post sponsors a Scout Unit or not. Report all service activities, activities that your Scouts do with your Post, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Loyalty Day, Dinners and anything else. Report all activities that your members do with your Scouts such as campouts, service projects, courts of honor and meetings attended. Report all Scouting activities that members do at the BSA District and Council level, such as committee's special projects and any support. Report all dollars donated or spent "out of pocket" and mileage incurred at the approved IRS rate. Report all volunteer hours provided, including those of Scout unit adults, when your Post has been issued a Charter to sponsor a Scout unit. The Scouting Year for the VFW Awards runs from April 1 through February 28 of each year.

## **SCOUTING AWARDS**

1. **VFW Department of California Scout of the Year.** Department winners will be presented a check for \$1,000.00 at the Annual State Convention. Second place \$500.00 and third place \$250.00. It is recommended that Post winners be presented \$100.00. District winners \$200.00 for first place; \$150 for second place; and \$100 for third place.
2. **Eagle Scout or Quartermaster Project of the Year Award:** A plaque will be given to the Post and Scout for the best service project that helps Veterans. Submit a copy of the Scout's Project with sufficient pictures to verify work done

to the Department Chairman by April 1. This should be submitted as a separate entry from the Scout of the Year application.

3. **Outstanding Scout Unit of the Year:** A plaque will be presented to the Post and Scout Unit. Scout Units must be sponsored by a VFW Post and includes Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venture Crews, Sea Scout Ships and Explorer Posts. Submit a notebook with photos and a narrative of all your Post and Scout Units activities for the year to the Department Chairman by April 1.
4. **Outstanding Scout Leader of the Year:** A plaque will be presented to the Scout Leader selected. All Scout Leaders of VFW sponsored Scout Units are eligible for this award. This award is restricted to Cub Masters, Scout Masters, Venture and Explorer Advisors and Sea Scout Skippers. They do not have to be a VFW member. Submit a narrative of the Scout Leaders achievements and what he or she has done. Include awards earned and training. Submit to Department Chairman by April 1.
5. **Post Most Active in Scouting:** A plaque will be presented to the Post Most Active in the BSA Scouting Program. Send copies of all Form 12's with photos and pertinent information to Department Chairman by April 1.
6. All Awards to be determined by the Chairman and the Scouting Committee.