

Outstanding Scouter Awards

Lake Minnetonka District has a long and proud tradition of providing its Scouts with an outstanding program. This is a reflection of our volunteers and leaders who go that extra mile to make Scouting what it is in our district.

Tonight we honor a wealth of Scouters nominated by their peers as “outstanding.”

Outstanding Scoutmaster

This year’s outstanding Scoutmaster has the perfect set of attributes for the position: a good relationship with kids, is approachable, and he nurtures his youth leaders; a good mentor; great organizational skills; patience; kindness; and is “thick-skinned.”

Anyone have visions of Norman Rockwells’ famous painting The Scoutmaster in ones head?

This year’s Outstanding Scoutmaster is Brent Kellum of Troop 283 in Wayzata.

Outstanding Scout Family

Our Scout Family is deeply imbedded in Scouting. So much so that they are the nucleus of an entire pack and also assist with a nearby troop. Their adult leader positions include Cubmaster, Tiger Cub leader, Wolf den leader, assistant Scoutmaster and Webelos den leader.

The family’s Scouts are active in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and local school activities.

Let’s congratulate Terese and Pat Weber and their family for a job well done.

Outstanding Tiger Cub Leader

This year’s outstanding Tiger Cub leader is characterized as the “consummate mentor in the pack.” His other duties include Friends of Scouting coordinator, training chair, wreath chair, Pinewood Derby co-chair, and unit chaplain.

He has attended adult leader training and received his Wood Badge beads.

This busy Tiger Cub leader is Tim Ziegler of Pack 297.

Outstanding Troop Committee Member

It all started when this Scouter was assigned the task of organizing small troop events. Two years later this troop committee member accepted the job of advancement chair. During her tenure seven Scouts have reached the Eagle Scout rank and an eighth is on the way.

Her additional duties include fundraising and assisting with courts of honor and Webelos crossovers.

This year's outstanding troop committee member is Jean Wall of Troop 327.

Outstanding Webelos Leader

"Proactive, organized, and highly personable" describes this year's outstanding Webelos leader. This leader constantly focuses his energy to assure that his Webelos are active and interested in Scouting.

He has completed leader-specific training and regularly attends Pow Wow and the University of Scouting. He also serves as an assistant Scoutmaster in his neighboring troop.

Greg Lerdall of Pack 388 is this outstanding Scouter.

Outstanding Cubmaster

"One in a million" describes our outstanding Cubmaster. He is extremely personable and connects well with the Scouts and their parents. His pack meetings and Blue and Gold banquets are so spectacular that they are memorable events unto themselves.

He frequents roundtables and regularly attends the University of Scouting.

For "going that extra mile" we recognize Jim Hebeisen as this year's outstanding Cubmaster.

Outstanding Den Leader

It takes a special kind of individual to be a den leader. It takes organization, energy and a lot of patience.

For her outstanding service as one such Scouter, Den Leader Leslie Tidstrom is honored tonight for all she does for Scouting.

Outstanding Venturing Crew Advisor

Venturing is a program for young adults. Both young women and men take part in Venturing activities, which are usually based on career and leisure interests.

Good Venturing Advisors are crucial to successful Venturing crews, and tonight we have the pleasuring of honoring Bill Hittler for his contributions to the Venturing program.

Outstanding Pack Committee Members

Our next two Scouters are recognized for their contributions to their pack committees.

When her son joined Cub Scouts our first Scouter volunteered for the position of unit treasurer, bringing sound fiscal practices to her unit.

She is also heavily involved in training and sees that other leaders in her unit also take the requisite training for their jobs.

Our second Scouter has not one, but several, jobs on his pack committee including chartered organization representative and stints as membership, camping and financial chair.

In his spare time he built a new crossover bridge and assisted in building a new camp trailer.

These outstanding Scouters are Clarice Hagen of Pack 283 and George Hidding of Pack 391.

Outstanding Pack Committee Chair

In recognizing this year's outstanding pack committee chair, her peers noted she had a passion for Scouting that first started when her children joined Scouts. She does an excellent job at organizing and planning the committee and pack meetings.

Elaine Taggatz is this outstanding Scouter from Pack 428.

Outstanding Assistant Cubmasters

We are fortunate to honor two Scouters for their service as assistant Cubmasters.

Between them, they have vast years of service and their packs would not function as well without their help. Their collective duties include helping with pack meetings and activities; crossovers; fundraisers and training.

This year's outstanding assistant Cubmasters are Harry Fuchs of Pack 297 and Tom Petron of Pack 427.

Outstanding Assistant Scoutmaster

This year's outstanding assistant Scoutmaster has contributed much to his unit. Among his many tasks he helped coordinate several high adventure outings to Northern Tier and Sea Base.

He has attended Scoutmastership Fundamentals and also served as a troop committee member and organized fundraising activities.

Troop 327 can boast that Patrick Albani is recognized as our outstanding assistant Scoutmaster.

Outstanding District Committee Member

This year's outstanding district committee member recently completed a several-year stint as district advancement chair. This Scouter is Judy Christensen.

Under Judy's direction, Lake Minnetonka District boasted of significant advancement at all levels of Scouting. Under her watchful eye, countless Scouts attained the Eagle Scout rank.

We thank Judy for her many contributions to Scouting.

Outstanding Commissioners

The commissioner serves as direct link between the unit and the district. Their role in bringing Scouting's program to their units is critical to their success.

We would like to recognize two Scouters tonight for their outstanding commissioner service. Their roles in Scouting are invaluable.

Rich Johnson and Chuck Saastad are this year's outstanding commissioners.

Special Recognitions

Lake Minnetonka District is fortunate to have many outstanding adult leaders. Some of them have been honored this evening for their contributions to Scouting.

At this time we would like to take a moment and recognize three unique Scouters for their recent accomplishments: Todd Ecklund, Lew Ely and Julie Terpstra.

Todd was recently recognized by Totanhan Nakaha Lodge with the Order of the Arrow Founder's Award.

This select award is presented to Arrowmen who exemplify the principles and ideals of the Order and its founder, Dr. E. Urner Goodman.

A maximum of four awards, based on local lodge membership, can be presented in any given year.

Todd presently serves as our Order of the Arrow chapter adviser.

Lake Minnetonka District was honored to hear that Lew Ely was selected as a 2007 Northern Star Council Silver Beaver Award recipient.

The Silver Beaver Award is the highest honor a local council can bestow upon its volunteers. Lew will receive his award at the council recognition dinner in March.

At this time we ask that all Silver Beaver Award recipients please stand and be recognized.

And what more can we say about Julie?

Julie has been a Scouter in our district for countless years. We recognize her tonight for all her contributions as a trainer; unit leader; unit commissioner; assistant district commissioner, and most recently, district commissioner.

Her efforts were critical in our district's 2007 Centennial Quality District designation.

We congratulate and thank Todd, Lew and Julie for all their many years of service and dedication to Scouting.

District Awards of Merit

The District Award of Merit is the highest honor a district can bestow on its volunteers. It is presented in recognition of service to Scouting at the district level. The number of Awards of Merit presented in any year is based on the number of registered units in a district.

Its insignia is a silver overhand knot on a blue background, and is worn above the left pocket flap. It is the only recognition knot which is not a square knot.

At this time we ask that all Awards of Merit recipients please stand and be recognized.

Our first Award of Merit recipient has served at the unit and district level. He can boast of Eagle Scout sons and family members who are Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor recipients.

You might see him observing quietly at a meeting or you might find him out in the woods at an Order of the Arrow conclave.

Yet wherever you find him, you will find an understated love and dedication to Scouting.

Our first Award of Merit recipient is Dave Gaudette.

Our next Award of Merit recipient gives 110% at every Scouting opportunity. He is passionate about his Scouts and a mentor to his other adult leaders.

He has served as an assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, district training staff, roundtable staff and Wood Badge.

For all his Scouting service, we recognize Stuart Mckernan with the District Award of Merit.

Our final Award of Merit recipient has worn many hats including advancement chair, activity organizer, assistant Scoutmaster, and membership coordinator.

He is also the architect of not one, but two, of the finest websites in Scouting: Troop283.net and our very own Lake Minnetonka District website.

Scott Janke has presented our district to the world in grand fashion. Tonight we have the pleasure of presenting him with the District Award of Merit.