

DECEMBER – THE IMPORTANCE OF ADULT RECOGNITION

Music Full then under

BRYAN: Welcome everyone to our ScoutCast for December. I'm Bryan on Scouting Blogger, Bryan Wendell, alongside Team Lead of National Alliances, Lee Shaw.

LEE: This month we'll be having some fun with adult awards. A Scout is honest, right? And let's be honest, we're Scouts and we love awards!

BRYAN: And while Scouters don't volunteer just for the awards, it's sure nice to get some recognition for your hard work from time to time. Now, we heard from District Executive Kenneth Toole of the Central Minnesota Council who contacted us and said he's got someone so fantastic at promoting those adult awards that we should invite him onto the ScoutCast.

Music Fades

BRYAN: And that's exactly what we did. We've got Loren Meinke of Brainerd, Minnesota, who's been volunteering his time with the Boy Scouts for 48 years and he serves on several different Scouting levels, from mentor with merit badges, chartered organization representative ensuring Scouts have a place to meet and leaders to guide them, as well as serving on the District and Council level, ensuring leaders are trained and capable of delivering the program. Welcome to ScoutCast, Loren.

LOREN: Thank you. I appreciate it.

BRYAN: So, what do we mean by recognition?

LOREN: For me personally, it's sort of a thank-you from the Boy Scouts for me taking me time and taking the effort to go the extra mile for the youth, who the program is all about. I view it as thank-you.

LEE: Can you tell us who the people in the troop or crew are that we should recognize?

LOREN: That's probably one of the easiest questions to answer, because I believe that any adult registered in Scouting should be recognized in some form or fashion. There is always some type of program enhancement training and, there's two different kinds of awards. There's the training and then the service awards. And no matter what position you hold in the crew, in the team or the troop or the pack, there's always something there to recognize your efforts and your time. It could be just a simple certificate from your unit which is very meaning and significant because that's given to you by your neighbors, your peers. And some of the local awards are highly prized in our area. At our district dinners we have like the Scouter of the Year Awards, and those are highly prized. They're not really an official recognition of the Boy Scouts of America but they are given to us by our local people, and those are just as important as a national recognition or a council recognition. So, I'm going out on a limb and say every adult who's registered should be recognized in some form or fashion at some time during their Scouting career.

BRYAN: So, it's easy to see how something like planning a campout helps the troop or the crew because it's giving the Scouts or Venturers something to do, but how do these adult awards, help advance the troop or crew itself?

LOREN: The training that we get, it serves two purposes. It either gives us additional information, clarifying information, important information or

skills; skills that we can use in our unit. That's why training can be so important for us because it enhances us as adults with either additional information or with additional skills so that we can take the Scouting program that we're involved in, no matter what level, and get that program out there for them. It's particularly important if you go online and do Safety Afloat or Weather Hazards or some other information like that, it becomes also for some part of our program a safety issue.

LEE: Loren, you had mentioned the two separate types of awards and recognitions. Can you elaborate a little bit on that?

LOREN: Absolutely. There's training and then there's the service leadership. Some people may call it earned and nominated awards, but either way you look at it, it's important. The training awards, are something from a little certificate such as a Youth Protection a little certificate that you get after you take the online training or the Weather Hazards or Safety Afloat. Those are all kind of important. But the other training awards which are phenomenal to me and if there are any awards in Scouting that everybody should earn it would be these three. The Den Leader Award for den leaders and then for all other areas of Scouting including Cubbing we also have the Scouters Training Award and the Scouter's Key. Those are all training awards. One is tenure, so anywhere from just one year to three years of service you can earn these awards. The second part of these awards is a training element, and usually you get your position-specific training which where the rubber meets the road, where you're actually given your responsibilities for your particular position, and how often is that for us to give a program delivery? And then the third part of those awards would be performance, which in reality is you're just doing what you should be doing in terms of what you've been taught to do for your job specific. With the exception of the Den Leader Award, all program areas –

packs, troops, crews, commissioners, district staff – can earn these awards and they can earn them multiple times. The training award and the Scouter's Key, you can earn that as a Cubber, as a Scouter, as a Commissioner, as a District. It's really one of the three top awards that a leader in our program should be looking for.

BRYAN: Yeah, those are some great awards, and one side of the adult awards that people often don't think about but our listeners might be wondering about is somebody has got to pay for these things, so do you recommend that this comes out of the unit budget or how do you recommend that troops or crews pay for these awards, the certificates, the knots, all that stuff?

LOREN: Many units do take a very small percentage off the top of their fundraisers. Many of the awards are actually presented by the council and given council recognition, council knots, and I just want to go over those a little bit. We're all aware of the bravery knots; that's a Medal of Merit and the Honor Medal, but then there's the leadership and the training awards. There's an Alumni Award Knot that can be earned for leadership. One of the least recognized awards in Scouting that many people have probably earned and don't even know it are the Honor Awards for Outstanding Service. We have what's called a Community Organization Award. Twenty-one different fraternal and community organizations have a specific requirement to earn that Community Organization Award, as well as the Whitney Young Award for your work in the urban setting or the rural area, low-income area. There's the Hornaday Award, the Spurgeon Award, the District Award of Merit. There's a Venturing Leadership Award, and we all know about the Silver Beaver and the Silver Antelope. But the other thing, which will cost money and needs to be put into a budget, are the religious emblems. Those are not really a Boy Scout award. Those are church awards and you do have to go outside of Boy

Scouting to get those awards for our youth and for our adults. And they may cost \$35, \$40, so a budget is very significant and important.

But then we also have three really interesting awards. The James West Fellowship Award for a local contribution to your endowment fund. And then a wonderful award which I have only given out two in my whole life are the William D. Boyce, a New Unit Organizer Award for beginning and staying with a new unit. So, it was a longer answer than maybe what you wanted, but yes, everyone should have this as part of their troop or unit budget because it's significant.

LEE: I'm so glad you brought up the new Outstanding Educator Award. That is something that we're looking forward to presenting and I'm just glad you brought attention to that and highlighted it. Hey, I was gonna ask who's responsible for making sure that this adult recognition takes place. How does it occur and often?

LOREN: It's up to every single one of us adults to make sure that we recognize our friends, our colleagues, and our leaders in our unit, in our district, and in our council. When we meet as a unit, one of the first things on our agenda is recognitions. It should happen monthly, however, being December, this is probably one of the best times of the year for all the units and districts and councils to consider it because you're at the end of your charter, you're at the beginning of the rechartering process, and what an opportunity to not only go through your JTE but also look and review the accomplishments that your adults have made throughout this past year and see if there isn't one of these awards that might fit them, and then take the time to do it. It doesn't happen unless you do it. You don't wait for somebody else. You take the responsibility and start that nomination process.

LEE: So, Loren, are there other awards, that aren't necessarily national awards or maybe even council awards that can be used to recognize individuals?

LOREN: Yes. A number of councils have some type of a camp award for a camp staff or a Scoutmaster who has given great service to camps. At one camp it's called the Red Lantern Award and they're presented a kerosene red lantern. Frying pans as well for outstanding cooks who have given service.

LEE: Well, that's great to know the importance to realize there is creativity that can be used when awarding individuals for their good deeds.

BRYAN: And definitely make a big splash. Don't just present it at a troop meeting where it's an afterthought. Definitely want to make a big deal out of this, right?

LOREN: Yes. In fact, we have been known to give out the same award more than once. We would do it at a district meeting, a troop meeting and, we might even do it at the district roundtable, or at the district dinner itself because we feel it's very important.

BRYAN: And you have different audiences. Now, Loren, to find out information about these awards my go-to is I usually just Google "Scouting Awards Central" and that takes you to the Scouting.org Awards Central page that's got a list of this. Are there other resources that are available to help us learn more about these awards?

LOREN: You hit the first one that I would go to, Scouting.org. In fact, on the Roundtable section there is a wonderful two-minute video for Cub Leaders Adult Recognition.

BRYAN: Oh, great, okay.

LOREN: Yup. There's a young lady that just goes through a two-minute presentation but there's also *Scouting Magazine*, the Roundtables, there is the podcast, the *Scouting Wire*. It's very concise and it's really just a wonderful resource.

LEE: You've been a wealth of information and I'm sure all of our listeners can appreciate the resource that is you that came on and told us more than we ever thought we knew about the awards and how to go about making sure that people are duly recognized. Is there anything else about the importance of the adult recognition did you think ought to be shared with our listeners?

LOREN: At this point, I would like to challenge the council leadership and their recognition committees because there's an award out there that I'm not sure many people have heard about called the North Star Award. It's a very prestigious adult award given by the councils, awarded with the same nominating procedure as the Silver Beaver, and it's for those that have made an outstanding contribution to Scouting but who is not a registered Scouter.

BRYAN: That's a good way to encourage people in your community that that are helping out. We want to thank you so much and I agree; Seeing a Scouter with a few square knots or awards, that's kind of an icebreaker to new Scout leaders to say, "Hey, I can do this as well." And I want to leave you with a quote from the actor Alan Alda who once said, "Awards can give you a tremendous amount of encouragement to keep getting better, no matter how young or old you are," and nobody knows that better than the

BSA. So, we want to thank you, Loren, for this discussion. It's been really great.

LOREN: I appreciated the time. Thank you so much.

LEE: And we'll be right back with Reminders and Tips right after this brief Safety Moment.

Safety Moment – Winter Sports

LEE: Time for Reminders and Tips. Let's start with a pop quiz! Do you know who your local Scouting professional is? This person is also known as your District Executive or Youth Serving Executive. If you don't know who that is, call your council to find out.

BRYAN: And if you don't know your council name go to Scouting.org, type "local council locator" in the search field. You can download the October 2013 episode of ScoutCast called "Who's Who in the Zoo" for more information on that subject.

LEE: Even though you're probably thinking more about the holidays than next summer, now is the time to start planning for summer camp. Since you already planned for camp, and put it in your budget, it's now time for signups.

BRYAN: And it just wouldn't be Reminders and Tips without a plug for *Boys' Life* Magazine. This month's cover feature gives you the scoop on what you need to know before camping or even just going for an outing in cold

weather. Brrr – this kind of makes me cold just thinking about winter camping but, it's fun.

LEE: Well, I've got my hat and glove. And you can relive the 2017 National Scout Jamboree with a fun photo collage in the November/December issue of *Scouting Magazine*.

BRYAN: Since this episode has been all about showing appreciation, let me take this opportunity to let our listeners know what a wonderful co-host you are.

LEE: Wow. That's really nice. I have to thank you for your kind words but the pleasure is all mine, mainly because I get the opportunity to work with a rock star. You're the most famous blogger known to the Scouting world so thank you, my friend. I appreciate you.

BEGIN MUSIC UNDER

BRYAN: Well, thanks. It's been another great year for ScoutCast and this is our December episode coming to an end. We have to thank Lorne Meinke for joining us today.

LEE: And thanks, to you for listening. Now, I'm sure you've been meaning to, but haven't gotten around to it, but don't forget you can send us your ideas and comments to make ScoutCast an even better tool for you.

BRYAN: Just send that email to Scoutcast@Scouting.org or tweet us @BSAScoutcast

LEE: Now, get out there and show your volunteers how much you appreciate them. It'll make you both feel good. With that, I'm Lee Shaw.

BRYAN: And I'm Bryan Wendell. From all of us here at ScoutCast, happy holidays, everyone.

Music Full to Finish