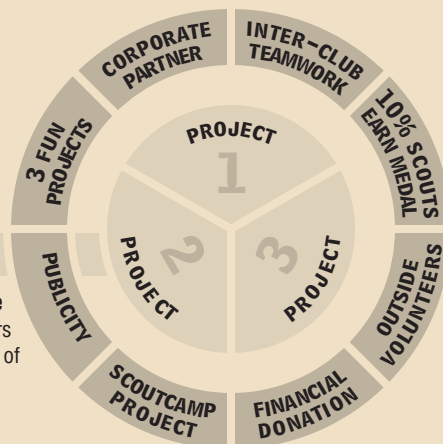
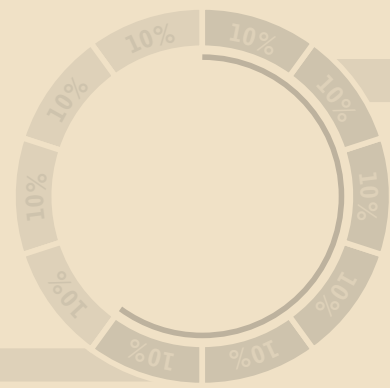


COVER STORY: SERVICE TO AMERICA

TROOP LEVEL AWARDS AND REQUIREMENTS:
HONOR RECOGNITION

- At least 60% of your Scouts earn the Ring of Honor Patch



MERITORIOUS RECOGNITION

1. As a troop, conduct at least three separate and different Service Projects during the year. At least 50% of your registered members must participate. The Service Projects can be to the benefit of any of the Ring of Service categories, or another area of service deemed appropriate by the Unit Committee.
2. During these service projects, meet six of the eight requirements listed below:
 - a. Find a corporate partner for at least two of your projects (for example, get the local hardware store to donate paint for a project, or have the neighborhood bank help you raise donations to pay for improvements at your project site)
 - b. Partner with another group for at least one of your projects (this could be another Scout troop, church or school group, or maybe a Lions Club. Your Scout unit should serve with this other group during the project)
 - c. Make all three of your Service Project's FUN! (fun outings, parties or other activities to make it extra enjoyable!)
 - d. At least 10% of your register unit members earn the Ring of Service Medal.
 - e. Get publicity in the local media for your Scout unit while completing your at least two of your service project (invite out the local television station for quick footage, or write a press release for your local newspaper... there are many ways to get publicity for your project)
 - f. Make a Scout Unit financial donation to your local Scout Council or District's Friends of Scouting Campaign, Endowment, or World Scout Friendship Fund.
 - g. Complete a special service project at your local council Scout camp (work with the camp ranger, and this project can be one of the three required in #1)
 - h. Recruit volunteers from the community for at least two of your projects. (These should be people who are not involved with your troop.)

SPIRITUALITY
AND FAITH

The twelfth Scout Law can afford Scout Units with many rewarding and meaningful service opportunities. For some Scouts, a service project for religious organizations in your community may be his first experience with any sort of religious beliefs and may provide a conduit for further interest. For others, it may provide help and support for their religious institution, as well as gaining them personal recognition and respect.

- Conduct **Religious Emblems Training** at a training event or round table, and invite local religious organizations to be a part of this training. Have a list of all of the churches and their service times available as a hand out. These can be distributed throughout the year at the council office and future events.
- There are people around the world who read English, and would love to have a Bible of their own. The Bible League (address below) offers "Recycle your Bible" kits to help you collect used Bibles and send them to distribution centers, where they're distributed around the world.

P.R.A.Y. Website
(Programs of Religious Activities with Youth)
<http://www.praypub.org>

Religious organizations that help Scouting:
<http://www.cscf.scouters.net/otherbsa.htm>

Bible League
Recycle your used Bible
16801 Van Dam Road • South Holland, IL 60473
1-800-334-7017
<http://www.bibleleague.org/recycle.html>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

One of the biggest problems facing our youth today are gangs and drugs, and the destruction they cause. The BSA has many brochures and programs to help you develop service projects to help with this cause. You can start by having your troop hold a demonstration or presentation for a local Cub pack using materials available from your local council, police station, and community resources.

- Help "at risk" youth seek counselling. Your Scouts can create a peer group where these youth can get help. Work with your local school, church, or law enforcement agency to implement the program.
- Create a static display for your community. Discuss the life-long consequences of using drugs. Your local law enforcement could do a presentation showing what happens when someone is caught with illegal drugs.

Drug Abuse Task Force
Boy Scouts of America
1325 Walnut Hill Lane • P.O. Box 15079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

National Institute on Drug Abuse
"Just Say No to Drugs"
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
<http://www.nida.nih.gov/NIDAHome.html>

PRIDE
(Parent's Research Institute for Drug Education)
3610 Dekalb Technology Parkway, Suite 105
Atlanta, GA 30340
Phone: 770-458-9900
Fax: 770-458-5030
<http://www.prideusa.org/>

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Cyberspace offers a wealth of resources

have been done between March 1, 1998 and March 1, 1999. A one-page summary of your project must be submitted by March 15, 1999. Winning troops will be announced on June 1. Judges include famous Americans like Scott O'Grady, Alex Trebeck, Dionne Warwick & Ethan Hawke. In addition to the Boy Scouts, the program is also open to Girl Scouts USA, The Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Girls Inc., Camp Fire Inc., and the National 4-H Committee; six youth groups in all. The top prize for each national organization is \$1,000, but there are six levels of prizes, and all entering units receive a certificate & other recognition.

Winning projects have included adult literacy campaigns, environmental preservation projects, community restorations, senior citizen assistance, and anti-substance abuse programs.

Scout Service Centers should have nomination forms on hand but additional copies can be ordered by contacting the Youth for America Campaign.

DO SOMETHING

www.dosomething.org
email: dosomthng@aol.com

An organization dedicated toward inspiring young people to believe that positive change is possible. They help train, fund, and mobilize them to become leaders who can help strengthen their community.

KINDNESS AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE

www.kjchallenge.org/

This is a national contest to rally schools and youths to perform meaningful acts of service. They offer prizes for the students who perform and record the most acts of kindness in each state. There are also national prizes.

NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

www.usaweekend.com/diffday/
email: diffday@usaweekend.com

USA Today Weekend, which is a part of millions of Sunday newspapers has sponsored the annual National Make A Difference Day for over ten years. Groups can receive cash prizes, plus participating newspapers work with USA Today Weekend to provide lots of publicity and recognition for the event. One of the great things about this site is the huge database of neat project ideas that have been done in the past. Included in the mix are dozens of past submissions from Cub Scout Packs, Troops, and Explorer Posts. One of the projects was performed by Troop 924 of Livermore California. Last year, they organized 175 volunteers to create community awareness and distribute to every household a brochure about the four "R's" of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Rot.

IMPACT ONLINE

www.impactonline.org/

Impact Online was created to harness the potential of the Internet to revolutionize the way people get involved in social causes. They seek to collaborate with and complement existing organizations and build community resources to get more people involved. They facilitate and increase community involvement via the Internet.

NATIONAL 1000 POINTS OF LIGHT
FOUNDATION

www.pointsoflight.org/
email: volnet@aol.com

President George Bush launched the National 1000 Points of Light Foundation as a way to recognize people and organizations are making a difference in their community on a daily basis. The work of the foundation continues by serving as a catalyst for linking volunteers to areas of need in communities and helping to find the resources necessary so meaningful projects will have what it takes to get the job done.

WORLD OF SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERING

www.servenet.org/

A World of Service and Volunteering makes Servicenet a must see stop on the Internet. Visitors can do zip code searches for their home community for projects in search of volunteers, as well as network with other volunteers in their communities.

VOLUNTEER AMERICA

linux.impactonline.org/

Turning good intentions into action is the goal of Volunteer America. Their site has tips for being a successful volunteer and ideas on how to select the right project for your group and community.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

www.cns.gov/

A government program that, among other things, offers scholarship work-study grants for students going to college who perform community service. Links to programs like AmeriCorps are also listed here.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

www.habitat.org/

Many human service organizations, like the Red Cross, Salvation Army or Habitat for Humanity, are always looking for volunteers

PROJECT AMERICA

project.org/

Project America inspires and teaches people to take positive steps in their communities and creates partnerships between volunteers and the organizations that need them.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

www.blm.gov/education/scouts/boy_scout.html

Many groups are coming to recognize the vast potential resources that the Boy Scouts represent when it comes to volunteerism and service. The Federal Bureau of Land Management has developed a web site specifically for Scout troops wanting to help carry out Conservation Projects.

EAGLESCOUT.ORG WEB SITE

www.eaglescout.org/

While scouts are always expected to Do a Good Turn Daily, nowhere is that ever more apparent than in Requirement #5 of the Eagle Scout Award, where a Scout contemplates and conquers the most challenging of all projects. To jump start your creativity, the Eaglescout.org web site has a huge collection of projects as well as detailed suggestions on all aspects of planning for these ambitious endeavors.