

Bishop's Award of Excellence

“extending our ministry to children and youth in the community”

The Bishop's Award of Excellence is established for the purpose of recognizing congregations and units within the United Methodist Church that extend their ministry to children and youth by creating a faith based environment for children, youth, their families and their leaders to participate in the following civic youth-serving agencies: Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire USA, 4-H, and Boy Scouts of America.

The Bishop's Award application along with the documentation of the below criteria shall be forwarded to the Annual Conference Scouting Coordinator by the local church scouting coordinator. The application should be made after January 1 for the pervious calendar year.

The Annual Conference Scouting Coordinator will process the application through the presiding Bishop's office and then forward the application to the General Commission on United Methodist Men in Nashville.

The Annual Conference Scouting Coordinator, in consultation with the presiding Bishop, shall arrange the presentation of the award to the local congregation and unit. It is recommended that the award be presented or acknowledge at the next regular session of annual conference.

Criteria

1. Local Congregation shall designate a professing member of the congregation as the Local Church Scouting Coordinator. Note: ¶253 2004 U.M. Book of Discipline. Charge Conference may elect a Scouting Coordinator.
2. The Local Church Scouting Coordinator in consultation with the pastor shall implement a plan to promote, enroll, counsel, and mentor youth in the God and Country religious emblem programs.
3. The Local Church Scouting Coordinator shall include along with the application for Bishop's Award of Excellence a report of the plan of implementation developed in criteria #2 with the number of youth working towards and/or having completed the God and Country religious emblem programs.
4. The Local Church Scouting Coordinator in consultation with the pastor shall arrange participation in the Scouting Ministries Sunday(s) for Girl Scouts and Boy Scout units. The congregation through the Local Church Scouting Coordinator should offer an appropriate celebration opportunity for Camp Fire USA and 4 – H units. (An appropriate celebration opportunity could be a special dinner sponsored by the congregation to affirm the work of the Camp Fire USA and 4-H units.)
5. The unit shall complete a service project with a missional connection to the congregation's ministry. The project shall be developed in consultation with the pastor or a designated staff/layperson.
6. The unit is encouraged to participate in religious practices during activities, while fostering respect and understanding for all faiths within the unit. Religious practices may include, but are not limited to the following: the God and Country programs; prayer at meal and/or meetings; designation of an adult chaplain and a youth "chaplain aid;" and, when appropriate, worship services or devotionals during extended activities.
7. The Local Church Scouting Coordinator and unit leader(s) shall meet to review annually the scouting ministry of the local church with the pastor or designated staff/layperson. The meeting is to encourage a an effective faith based ministry that includes program standards set by the civic youth-serving organization(s) along with appropriate leader training; implementation of youth protection standards (this includes any standards established by the local congregation); and review of the signed partnership agreement(s), either required and/or optional.
Note: ¶256.4a 2004 U.M. Book of Discipline encourages signed partnership agreements.

Application for Bishop's Award of Excellence

After completing this application forward it to your Annual Conference Scouting Coordinator, who will obtain the Bishop's signature and forward it to the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

Name of Congregation: _____ Unit: _____

Conference _____ District _____

Presiding Bishop _____ Pastor _____

Name of Local Church Scouting Coordinator: _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

2. Attach a brief report of your plan that encouraged participation in the God and Country religious emblem programs.
3. God and Country program participants: _____ in process _____ completed
4. Date of Scouting Ministries Sunday (Appropriate Celebration) _____
Were youth members involved leading worship? Yes No
5. Date of completion of service project _____
Give brief description of project:
6. How have the religious practices been encouraged: _____

7. Date of Meeting: _____
Is there a Partnership Agreement for the unit? Yes No
Are youth protection standards being observed? Yes No

We hereby certify the above named unit has met all qualifications and criteria stated in the criteria for the Bishop's Award of Excellence.

Signed: All signatures are necessary

Local Church Scouting Coordinator

Pastor

Conference Scouting Coordinator

Resident Bishop

Payment for \$50.00 must accompany the application to cover costs of processing.
Please allow 30 days. More information on processing the application is on the back of this page.
The following items may be ordered along with the application:

1. Patches: \$3.50 each or 10 or more @\$3.00 each:

Quantity _____ Amount Due _____

2. Clutch-back pin \$5.00 each:

Quantity _____ Amount Due _____

3. Processing Fee (allow 30 days for processing) Amount Due \$50.00

4. Rapid Processing Fee \$25.00
(if needed in less than 30 days) Amount Due _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Payment Method: Check ____ (Make payable to General Commission on UMMen)

You may use a credit card Visa Mastercard

Card Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration ____/____

Signature: _____

Forward this application to the Annual Conference Scouting Coordinator:

Name and Address: _____ Phone (____) _____

Conference Scouting Coordinator: After all signatures are on the application, forward application and payment to the General Commission on United Methodist Men
P.O. Box 440515, Nashville, TN 37244-0515
Phone: (615) 340 -7145

The GCUMM will return the award to the Conference Scouting Coordinator listed above to arrange the presentation after consultation with the Bishop.

Note: The Bishop's Award of Excellence patch is to be issued only to members of United Methodist units which have earned the Bishop's Award of Excellence. The patch is to be worn for a period of one year.

In keeping with current BSA and GSUSA uniform policies, the patch may be worn as follows: Boy Scouts of America considers the patch to be temporary and can be worn on the right shirt pocket. Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. stipulates that the recognition may be worn below the membership stars on the right side of the blouse, level with the membership pin when neither sash or vest is worn.

Office of Scouting Ministries

United Methodist Church
General Commission on United Methodist Men
P.O. Box 340006
Nashville, TN 37203—0006



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Effective Date: January 2007