

## Commissioner Recognition

During the process of our Commissioner Training, we are told of the awards available to us for our service. We were new to Commissioner Service, perhaps even to Scouting and we may have been receiving more information than we could absorb at that time. Why are they so important anyway? We might say to ourselves, "I do my job, I don't need an award for doing it". That is admirable, but self-serving! Earning awards requires a time commitment along with service and training components. By earning and wearing our own awards we encourage others to do the same by our example. Some Scouters earn and wear so many awards they appear to be decorated military personnel. You are encouraged to earn as many awards as possible but you are not required to wear them all at one time!

The LVAC COMMISSIONER CORPS UNIT ENGAGEMENT & RECOGNITION AWARD is presented after a Commissioner is Trained in his position, introduced to fellow Commissioners at a District meeting, Roundtable, in on line or written communications, and enters three Unit Contacts in Commissioner Tools. The Award consists of a Special Council Shoulder Patch worn by Commissioners only.

Nationally recognized awards are: Commissioner Arrowhead Honor, Commissioner Key, Commissioner Award of Excellence in Unit Service, Distinguished Commissioner Awards, Roundtable Commissioner Awards, and Doctor of Commissioner Science Award. Most of these awards are presented with Certificate and Patch, some also come with Plaque and/or Commissioner Bolo.

All these Commissioner Awards are earned and presented; they are not gifts! Why is this so important anyway? As previously noted, it encourages others to learn more about their function so they can better serve Scouting and our youth. There is another reason; Scouting Awards tend to accelerate. There are awards beyond Commissioner Service that "seek you out". Those other Scouters who know you and believe that your service is exemplary may choose to nominate you for awards at the District or Council level. These award forms require specific information about your performance and previous awards that will aid in determining who will become awarded. In the eyes of others, you may be deserving, however on paper you may be lacking. This, then, becomes not only a disservice to yourself, but to your District or Council as well!

As administrative Commissioners we must be aware of those around us who have fulfilled some or all the requirements for an award. Shouldn't we be keeping records of the accomplishments of those Commissioners who work with us? Print out the award forms, fill out specific Commissioner names and personal information and as they progress toward completion of the requirements, fill in dates that items are completed. Many Commissioners have no idea they

may be close to earning an award. As an Administrator you have the ability to direct individual Commissioners toward fulfilling requirements without stating reasons for your requests. When the award requirements have been met, sign off and turn it in for issuance.

Once your staff realizes that you see and appreciate their efforts, you may find your own job easier!