



TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SILVER BEAVER NOMINATION

- Start as soon as possible. It takes longer than you think to put together a “packet”.
- Read the nominating form (National Silver Beaver Nomination Form). It will give you an idea as the qualifications that the Selection Committee will be looking for and what to emphasize. Notice that there are 3 areas of qualifications: Service to Scouting, Service to Youth Outside of Scouting, and Service to the Community. It is very important to have information in each area. Information should be typed. While not required, it is preferable that the candidate be a recipient of the District Award of Merit.
- Contact the District Silver Beaver Representative and let him/her know you are intending to nominate the candidate. They will provide you with help along the way if you need it and will also let you know if someone else would also like to nominate your candidate so the two of you can work together. They will stay in touch with you during the entire process to check on your progress. They are available to help if you have any questions or run into roadblocks.
- Contact your District Executive to get a copy of your nominee’s Scouters profile from ScoutNet. This will give you information on the Scouter’s positions, training record, and awards that have been recorded with the Council.
- Contact the candidate’s spouse, parents, and/or adult children. They may be able to provide you with a resume that will give you a lot of the information you need. Ask for information about the Scouter’s activities outside of Scouting and possible contacts with those groups. Be sure to ask the spouse to write a letter but remind him/her that the nomination is secret.
- As you contact people to write letters of recommendation, be sure to remind them that the nomination is to remain confidential. Letters should be addressed to Silver Beaver Selection Committee; Northern Star Council; Boy Scouts of America. If the person is not a Scouter or is not familiar with the award, be prepared to give them an idea of what you are looking for in a letter. If you send a request by mail or e-mail, you may want to follow-up in a few days. Everyone you contact may not want to write a letter. If they say “no”, just thank them and move on. Arrange to have the letters sent or e-mailed to you. You will need to turn in the completed packet to the District Rep by the designated deadline in November. This will give him/her time to review the packet and determine if any additional information is needed.
- **There is a maximum of 4 letters permitted in the packet. Be sure to contact non-Scouters for letters.** These may include someone from the candidate’s church, someone who has been a fellow coach with the candidate, a parent whose children has been coached or taught by the candidate, fellow “lodge” members (Elks, American Legion, etc.), etc. Contact people who know the candidate on different levels of Scouting (Cubs, Boy Scouts, Venture, District activities) if the candidate has been involved in these activities. Having a wide variety of letters is preferable to many letters from the candidate’s unit only.
- You should write a nominating letter indicating how you know the candidate and why you are nominating him/her. List some of the qualifications you see in that candidate.
- You will be notified of the Selection Committee’s decision regardless of the outcome. If your candidate is selected, you will be asked to notify him/her (& congratulate them, of course), and remind them of the date of the Council Dinner where they will receive the award. Suggest that they invite the entire family. You also may want to notify all the folks who wrote letters and invite them to the dinner. If your candidate was not selected, don’t be too disappointed. There are lots of qualified people out there. Don’t hesitate to try again next year!!