

Bar to the Silver Acorn – Example Citation 1

Sam has held the role of Assistant Scout Leader for over 40 years. During this time, he acted as Scout Leader for a neighbouring Group when required. He recently retired from work, and accepted the District Commissioner's request to undertake the more demanding role of Group Scout Leader. Sam's Scout Group is one of the biggest in the District and has its own headquarters. Since taking on the role, he has completed his own modular training and subsequently encouraged other members of the Group to complete their training.

He has produced a challenging development plan in consultation with the Cub and Scout section leaders, which has resulted in the recruitment of a new Group Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to join the newly-formed Executive Committee.

He regularly attends District GSL meetings and makes regular visits to his sections, encouraging them in a range of activities as well as supporting award presentations and moving on ceremonies. He also developed and maintains the Group's website, a key point of contact.

The expanding Group, which has a large Beaver Scout Colony, a Cub Scout Pack and a very active Scout Troop, enjoy an ambitious and challenging programme of weekend activities as well as an annual summer camp. Sam ensures that sufficient funds are made available to support and maintain such activities, which he sees as a vital element of Scouting.

One innovation Sam has introduced to the Group has been the annual parents' camp, where Scouts' families camp with the Group and join in the activities and events that are provided for young people. The camp not only encourages more active involvement from parents, but also affords an opportunity to ensure greater attendance at the Group's AGM, which Sam holds during the camp. This personal contact with parents has been an excellent recruitment tool, resulting in increasing numbers of helpers, section assistants and leaders.

Sam also works tirelessly to promote water activities for Scouts across the County. His enthusiasm for a large range of water activities helps to inspire both young people and adults to take to the water. As County Adviser, he has led a team of assessors and promoted a successful series of assessment days to encourage leaders to demonstrate the skills needed to gain activity permits. He also undertakes a key background role as a Boat Inspector in order to sustain water activities and to ensure their safety. He also manages the annual District Canal Challenge event.

Sam was awarded the Silver Acorn in 1998, and since then has continued to provide particularly distinguished service to Scouting in both the District and County. As such I feel that he is worthy of consideration for the Bar to the Silver Acorn.

Bar to the Silver Acorn – Example Citation 2

Jill has provided loyal and distinguished service to Scouting for over 28 years. Since being awarded the Silver Acorn in 2004, she has single-handedly reformed and modernised the accounting, reporting and management systems within the County. This was achieved by careful budget-setting, reporting and management of all accounting functions. Whilst this has been a challenging strategy, the system has proved effective and is now paying dividends in the streamlining of accounts and investments.

Jill is also the District Secretary and provides effective support to the District Commissioner in every aspect of managing the administration of Groups in the District. Both the District Commissioner and District Chairman speak very highly of her thoroughness and attention to detail. Her work is also greatly appreciated by the Group Scout Leaders and Group Executives.

Jill is professional in all that she does and has continually provided distinguished service to Scouting. Without her knowledge, experience, help and support, managing this large County would have been a very difficult job. Her financial skills have helped build and consolidate the assets and finances of the County, enabling further growth and development with sound footings.

In recognition of her achievements and for her further especially distinguished service within the District and County, I would like to nominate Jill for the Bar to the Silver Acorn.