



July 2011

Dear Commissioners and Secretaries,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as the new Chairman of the Awards Board. My appointment commenced in February 2011 and is for a term of five years and I am very keen to promote and support The Scout Association's National Awards and to ensure generally that volunteers receive thanks and praise for all that they do.

The Awards Board is charged with the duty of trying to ensure that the standards maintained are consistent across the country and to this end has a set criteria that are published in the guide '*Applying for Decorations and Awards*' and in *POR Chapter 11*. All applications are considered individually with the citation being the most important part of the document. This must show the quality of service rather than a list of dates. If the Board feels the citation is deficient, it is returned to the County Commissioner for further elaboration.

The Board is reactive and the whole system depends upon Scouters at every level taking the time to show their appreciation of their assistants by passing on recommendations appropriately.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER COMMENDATIONS

It is sometimes the case that applications received do not meet the criteria or meet the standards for a National Award. In these circumstances, you might wish to consider awarding the individual with a CC's Commendation. Some Counties are already using this system and will issue an individual with a certificate that includes a short citation explaining why they have been recognised. This could be accompanied with either a badge or gift.

CHIEF SCOUT'S PERSONAL AWARD

The Chief Scout's Personal Award, is awarded by the Chief Scout in consultation with the Awards Board to recognise achievement not covered by the criteria for any other awards This Award can be applied for using the TSA06/GS application and is designed to recognise extra special personal achievements. The Award is available to all persons in Scouting, irrespective of whether they are a Youth or Adult Member or what position they hold, either as a Member or non-Member.

ELECTRONIC AWARD APPLICATIONS

The Scout Association is keen to make applying for Awards an easier process for all concerned. While this system is being reviewed to achieve this, I would like to encourage you to use our downloadable Award Applications in 'word format' from the Awards website www.scouts.org.uk/awards The applications are split into their categories for Length of Service, Good Service and Meritorious Conduct and Gallantry. However, it is essential that you continue to obtain at least a second signatory and preferably a third. If you cannot obtain the signatures electronically, please copy the other signatories into the email and submit with their approval to the Awards Office awards@scouts.org.uk

Please ensure that the CC's recommendation box is completed to enable the Board to know which Award you are seeking.

It is important to remember that the Awards do not have to run sequentially. Quite often we see applications where Scouting covers a period of many years and yet the nomination is for a Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service. There is no reason why an application cannot be considered for an Award for Merit or even the Silver Acorn as a first award, so long as all the criteria for these awards are met.

Please share this information with your DC/DSE's or any other personnel as appropriate.

All correspondence for the Awards Board should be sent via the Awards Office.

Yours faithfully

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Chairman of the Awards Board

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The Scout Association

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Patron: HM The Queen President: HRH The Duke of Kent Founder: Robert Baden-Powell OM Chief Scout: Lt Cdr (Hon) Bear Grylls RN

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