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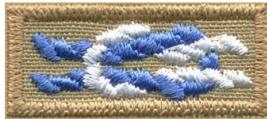
Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

December 2017

## SILVER BEAVER

The Silver Beaver Award was introduced in 1931 and is a council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered Scouters who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council. To prevent embarrassment, the candidate should not be notified of this nomination. Last week we honored our 29 recipients of the 2017 award. Please begin preparing your nominations now for next year's awards.



## SERVICE HOURS

All Scouting groups are encouraged to participate in service projects. A service project is a special Good Turn that puts Scout spirit into action. Some Good Turns are big—saving a life, helping out after floods or other disasters, recycling community trash, working on conservation projects. But Good Turns are often small, thoughtful acts—helping a child cross a busy street, going to the store for an elderly neighbor, cutting back brush that is blocking a sign, doing something special for a brother or sister, or welcoming a new student to your school. Anyone can get involved in a Good Turn. Did you know that your unit can earn points towards the Journey to Excellence program just for logging your units community service hours online? That's right your unit can earn up to 200 extra points if you log your service hours online. All types of service projects can be entered into this system including the Good Turn for America projects such as the shelter drive, food drive, and blood drive. Units may also enter their service hours for community projects that they took on as a unit. Please log all service hours. Journey to Excellence is the BSA's council performance recognition program designed to encourage and reward success and measure the performance of our units, districts, and councils. It is meant to encourage excellence in providing a quality program at all levels of the BSA. All service hours for should be logged no later than December 31st. What hours should be logged?

- Any service hours performed by your unit for individuals or organizations in the community
- Service hours performed by your unit to support your chartered organization
- Scouting for Food hours
- Eagle Scout project hours

## CALENDAR

12/9 Top Leader Training Day  
 12/26 Winter Camp  
 1/13 Key Leader's Conference  
 1/25 Scout Fair Kickoff

## WINTER CAMP, DECEMBER 26-31, 2017

Winter Camp is a wonderful opportunity for troops to camp and Boy Scouts to earn merit badges. Merit badge classes are taught by Scouters with real-life experiences in the field. The 32nd annual winter camp will be held at [Bovay Scout Ranch \(3450 County 317, Navasota, TX 77868\)](http://www.bovayscout.com), just three miles outside of Navasota, TX. Over 50 merit badge classes are offered, including many merit badges that are not normally offered at summer camp. <http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/winter-camp>

## ETHAN GIVING TREE

Our local Scout Shops are once again providing an opportunity for the Scouting community to help local Scouts who may be in need of uniform and Scouting items. This help will be done through The Ethan Giving Tree program starting November 6 through December 18, 2017. The Ethan Giving Tree program works on a donation basis. An Ethan Giving Tree (similar to an Angel Tree) will be set up at the Scout Shop with Ethan cards on it. Each card will have the first name of the Scout along with the items they need and other items they may want such as books, crafts, camping items, etc. Customers and Scouting supporters can purchase the item(s) in their local Scout Shop and give them to the store staff to collect for each child. We need your assistance to make this project a success. So, start shopping to help every Scout in need.

## JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

"[Scouting's Journey to Excellence](http://www.scouting.org/jte.aspx)" is the BSA's council performance recognition program designed to encourage and reward success and measure the performance of our units, districts, and councils. It is meant to encourage excellence in providing a quality program at all levels of the BSA. Journey to Excellence forms should be turned in with your Recharter. Forms can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/jte.aspx>



## UNIT STRONG

Strong units use information from self assessment to improve their program. Each unit's Key 3 should be meeting to complete the detailed assessment which correlates with Journey to Excellence early in 2018. Completing this assessment early in the year gives the unit time to plan and improve throughout the year.

Have a great idea, pressing concern, success story? Email [squareknotnotes@yahoo.com](mailto:squareknotnotes@yahoo.com). We serve \*you\*!  
Do you call communication feedback a gift? It truly is!