

Bishop's Award of Excellence

“extending our ministry to children and youth in the community”

The Bishop's Award of Excellence is authorized to recognize congregations and units/clubs within the United Methodist Church that extend their ministry to children and youth by creating a faith-based environment for children, youth, their families and their leaders who participate in the following civic youth-serving agencies: Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Camp Fire USA, and 4-H.

To apply for the award, the local church scouting coordinator should complete the attached form, with documentation, and send it to your annual conference scouting coordinator. The application should be made after January 1 for the previous calendar year.

The annual conference scouting coordinator will process the application through the presiding bishop's office and then forward the application to the General Commission on United Methodist Men in Nashville.

After consultation with the presiding bishop, the annual conference scouting coordinator shall arrange the presentation of the award to the local church and unit/club. It is recommended that the award be presented or acknowledged at the next regular session of annual conference.

Criteria

1. The charge conference shall designate a professing member of the church to serve as the local church scouting coordinator.
2. The local church scouting coordinator in consultation with the pastor shall implement a plan to promote, enroll, counsel, and mentor youth in the God and Country religious emblems program. (P.R.A.Y. website: www.praypub.org)
3. The local church scouting coordinator shall attach to the application for the award a report of the plan of implementation developed in criteria #2 with the number of youth working towards and/or having completed the God and Country religious emblems program.
4. The local church scouting coordinator, in consultation with the pastor, shall arrange participation in the Scouting Ministries Sunday(s) for Girl Scout and Boy Scout units. The church, through the local church scouting coordinator, should offer an appropriate celebration opportunity for Camp Fire USA and 4-H clubs. (An appropriate celebration opportunity could be a special dinner sponsored by the church to affirm the work of the Camp Fire USA and 4-H clubs.)
5. The unit/club shall complete a service project with a missional connection to the church's ministry. The project shall be developed in consultation with the pastor or a designated staff/layperson.
6. The unit/club is encouraged to participate in religious practices during activities, while fostering respect and understanding for all faiths within the unit/club. Religious practices may include, but are not limited to, the following: the God and Country emblems program; prayer at meal and/or meetings; designation of an adult chaplain and a youth "chaplain aide;" and, when appropriate, worship services or devotionals during extended activities.
7. The local church scouting coordinator and unit/club leader(s) shall meet to review annually the scouting ministry of the church with the pastor or designated staff/layperson. The meeting is to encourage an effective faith-based ministry that includes program standards set by the civic youth-serving/scouting organization along with appropriate leader training; implementation of youth protection standards (this includes any standards established by the local church); and review of the signed partnership agreement, either required and/or optional.

Note: ¶1256.4a 2004 UM Book of Discipline encourages signed partnership agreements.

Application for Bishop's Award of Excellence

After completing this application forward it to your annual conference scouting coordinator, who will obtain the bishop's signature and forward it to the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

Name of Church: _____ Unit/club: _____

Conference: _____ District: _____

Presiding Bishop: _____ Pastor: _____

1. Name of Local Church Scouting Coordinator: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email (primary contact): _____

2. Attach a brief report of your plan that encouraged participation in the God and Country religious emblems program.

3. God and Country emblems program participants: _____ in process _____ completed

4. Date of Scouting Ministries Sunday (or appropriate celebration) _____

Were youth members involved in leading worship? Yes No

5. Date of completion of service project: _____

Attach a brief description of project.

6. How have the religious practices been encouraged? _____

7. Date of Meeting: _____

Is there a Partnership Agreement for the unit/club? Yes No

Are youth protection standards being observed? Yes No

We hereby certify the above named unit/club has met the criteria for the Bishop's Award of Excellence. **Signed: All signatures are necessary.**

Local Church Scouting Coordinator

Pastor

Conference Scouting Coordinator

Presiding Bishop

Payment of \$50.00 must accompany the application to cover costs of processing.
Please allow 30 days. The following items may be ordered at time of submitting the application:

1. Patch @ \$3.50 each or 10 or more @\$3.00 each:

Quantity _____ Amount Due _____

2. Clutch-back pin @ \$5.00 each:

Quantity _____ Amount Due _____

3. Processing Fee (allow 30 days for processing) Amount Due \$50.00

4. *Rapid Processing Fee: \$25.00* Amount Due _____
(if needed in less than 30 days)

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Payment Method: Check (Make payable to General Commission on UMMen)

Credit card: Visa Mastercard

Card Number _____ Expiration ____/____

Signature: _____

Date Needed: _____

Forward this application to the Annual Conference Scouting Coordinator:

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

After all signatures are on the application, the conference scouting coordinator shall forward the application and payment to:

General Commission on United Methodist Men
P.O. Box 440515, Nashville, TN 37244-0515
Phone: (615) 340-7145 Fax: (615) 340-1770

The award will be returned to the conference scouting coordinator listed above to arrange the presentation after consultation with the bishop.

Office of Scouting Ministries
General Commission on United Methodist Men
P.O. Box 340006
Nashville, TN 37203—0006



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