

From the Key 3

As the year comes to a close, now is a good time to reflect upon all the great things your units have done, but there are many things that need to be taken care of before the end of the year. The first and most important is to get your unit's recharter turned in to the council office. You can complete yours at the internet recharter site at <https://scoutnet.scouting.org/ucrs/UI/home/default.aspx>.

As part of your unit's rechartering process you will need to fill out a Journey to Excellence form which can serve as a great reminder of all the things your unit did: camping, advancement, service projects, membership recruitment. All the big things that your unit does are in this form. This can also serve as a guide for your unit in the next year as well. This form can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/unit/2019-scorecards-english/>. If you have any questions about what score you should be getting for any category, we can help give you the answer. Just email seth.strohecker@gmail.com and he will get back to you. Also, you should take the time to log all your unit's service hours to help boost your unit's Journey to excellence score. To log your service hours, you will need your unit ID number, the same number used for internet advancement. If you don't have your unit ID number please email Seth Strohecker at seth.strohecker@gmail.com to get your unit's number. The service hours can be logged in at the service hours website at <https://servicehours.scouting.org/UI/Security/Login.aspx>. It is also not too late to donate to the council at <https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/072/appeal/598>. Your gift will not only help support scouting in our area, but your gift is also tax deductible.



Service Hours

Service is a big part of scouting and it is so important that doing service is one of the areas that is measured in the Journey to Excellence (JTE) program for every type of unit in scouting. In order to qualify for points in the service area of Journey to Excellence your unit must participate in several service projects and log your service hours into the service hours tracking system, My.scouting.org AND Scoutbook.

The service hours tracking site can be accessed through your my.scouting.org account. It can then be accessed under the menu in the upper left hand corner and it is located in the legacy tools sub menu. If you have not used this system before you will need to create an account, this is a different account from your my.scouting account.

Once you are logged in, select the service and click the link to enter a service project. Choose a project description that best matches your project. At this point you can enter in the data related to your service project. Once you have entered in all of the information click on the submit report link. This will log your service project into the reporting system and you will be able to take credit for the project on your Journey to Excellence Scorecard.



NYLT: The Ultimate Youth Leader Training

January 3-5 and 10-12 | Deer Lake S.R.

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) is an exciting, action-packed program designed for Scouts to advance their leadership skills so they can excel in their units and in life.

The two-weekend long course is focused on what a leader must **BE**, **KNOW**, and **DO** in a hands-on experience.

For more information go to our website at www.ThunderbirdNYLT.org

District Calendar		
December	January	February
3rd - District Committee (First Presbyterian Church, 2475 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield) 10th - District Roundtable (First Presbyterian Church) 24th-25th - Council Service Center Closed	3rd-5th - NYLT Training Winter Course (Part 1 of 2) 7th - District Committee (First Presbyterian Church, 2475 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield) 10th-12th - NYLT Training Winter Course (Part 2 of 2) 14th - District Roundtable (First Presbyterian Church) 17th-19th - Klondike Derby at Deer Lake 30th - Council Volunteer Recognition Dinner	4th - District Committee (First Presbyterian Church, 2475 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield) 11th - District Roundtable (First Presbyterian Church) 20th - District Dinner 22nd & 29th - Merit Badge College



Special Event for Scouts BSA members

Received from Jennifer Bangser, Director, Strategic Community Partnerships, The Westport Library:

The Westport Library has undergone an amazing transformation and now includes a state-of-the-art performance space for an audience of up to 450. We have news about an exciting program series I think will interest you! ***And we are offering complimentary tickets to the members of the Pomeraug District Scouts!***

Our board member, Andrew Wilks (**Director of LIVE at Lincoln Center**) has opened up his rolodex to bring us access to some individuals at the forefront of science, conservation, technology, and the arts and humanities.

The first event in this series will take place on Thursday, December 12 at 7pm, and it will feature ***Emmy-award winning documentary filmmaker Michael Davie***. Davie has received widespread recognition for his work, including the AFI Best Director Award for his feature documentary *The Choir* and Emmy Awards for the **National Geographic films** *War Child* and *Gorilla Murders*. Most recently Davie was co-creator and a series director on the **landmark seven-part series, which Oprah Winfrey produced**, entitled *Belief*.

Here is a video Michael created for us to share on social media: <https://vimeo.com/372895981>. More about the event can be found [here](#).

This is definitely a tremendous opportunity for those interested in journalism, exploration, conservation, international relations, film – and adventure. We have already sold 200 paid seating so please let us know so we can reserve the complimentary seats to the young people you work with and don't hesitate to call or email me with any questions.

Contact Seth Strohecker at seth.strohecker@gmail.com if you are interested in attending or have questions.

Volunteer Award Nominations

We are quickly approaching our annual Volunteer Recognition season in the CT Yankee Council. Volunteers across the council give countless hours of their time volunteering to make their units, district and council run smoothly and provide the best possible program for our youth. To recognize this hard work and dedication, both the council and district recognize volunteers with several awards to show their appreciation to the adults who make our scouting program run all year long.



The highest honor the council can bestow upon a volunteer is the Silver Beaver award. This award is given annually at the council recognition dinner in January and is limited to just one recipient for every 60 units within the council. If you think you know someone deserving of this award fill out the nomination form, <https://www.ctyankee.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Silver-Beaver-Packet-20-CYC-Complete.pdf> and return it to the council by November 14th.

The District Award of Merit is the highest honor that can be awarded by the district. The District Award of Merit is similar to the Silver Beaver award except it is given by the district for service to the district. This award is limit one recipient per 25 units within the district. If you know someone who is deserving of this award please fill out a nomination form, <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33720.pdf> , and return it to our district executive Brett Keeler at brett.keeler@scouting.org.

The unit leader award of merit recognizes Cubmasters, Scoutmaster, Skippers, Advisers and Coach's who have shown exceptional service to their unit. Nominations must be made by the unit committee chairman and certified by the council before the award can be given out. If your unit leaders is deserving of this award have your unit's committee chairman fill out a nomination, https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-003_WB.pdf , and submit it to our district commissioner Seth Strohecker (seth.strohecker@gmail.com) for processing.

In addition to these nationally administered awards, the district also presents several local awards that are presented at the annual District Dinner in February. The first of these is the Key three award which is awarded to three people annually for recognition of their service over the past year. The district key three members choose the recipients of this award.

The other local award given at the annual district dinner is the spark plug award which is given to a volunteer who has been the "Spark" for their unit over the past year. This award can be given to one person per unit based upon nomination. Please send all nominations for this award to Seth Strohecker at

Save the Date for the Annual District Dinner

The annual Pomperaug District Awards dinner is coming up Thursday, February 20, 2020! While you're waiting to learn where this year's event will take place make sure you check out the links below. The awards dinner won't be the same if we don't have any awards to present. This year space will be limited so be sure to mark your calendar and sign up with your unit as soon as possible so you don't miss out!

Den Leader Training Award

This award is available to Tiger Den Leaders, Cub Scout Den Leaders, and Webelos Den Leaders.

[Den Leader Progress Form](#)

Scouter's Training Award

These awards are available to all Boy Scout leaders, Cub Scout leaders, commissioners, district committee members, Sea Scout leaders, Varsity Scout leaders, and Venturing leaders for completing 2 years of tenure and completing some basic unit tasks.

[Scouter's Training Award for Scouts BSA Progress Record](#)

[Scouter's Training Award for Cub Scouting Progress Record](#)

[Scouter's Training Award for Sea Scouting Progress Record](#)

[Scouter's Training Award for Venturing Progress Record](#)

Scouter Keys

These awards can be earned by Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Venturing Crew Advisors, district and assistant district commissioners, district committee members for three years of tenure and completing some basic unit tasks.

[Cubmaster Progress Record](#), [Scoutmaster Progress Record](#), [Advisor Progress Record](#), [Skipper Progress Record](#)

Unit Leader Award of Merit

These awards can be awarded to Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Venturing Crew Advisors, and Sea Scout Skippers upon nomination from their unit's committee chair for outstanding service as a unit leader.

[Unit Leader Award of Merit](#)

Veterans Award

This award can be earned by all adults who have completed at least 5 years of service as a registered member of the BSA (time as a youth may be counted as well). This award can be awarded for every additional 5 years of service.

[Veterans Award](#)

Spark Plug Award

The Spark Plug Award is a local district award that recognizes volunteers within a unit who over the last year have been the spark to drive their unit forward. This award is given upon nomination by the unit leader or committee chair and is limited to one award per unit. To nominate someone in your unit for the award email the district chair Seth Strohecker at seth.strohecker@gmail.com with the name of the nominee and a short writeup of why they deserve this award.

District Award of Merit

The District Award of Merit is the highest award the district can award to a volunteer for service within the district. All registered adult volunteers within the Pomperaug District are eligible to be nominated for this award, but this award is limited to 1 person for every 25 unit's within the district. To nominate a scouter for this award fill out the application below.

[District Award of Merit](#)

All award applications can be submitted to the district chair Seth Strohecker at seth.strohecker@gmail.com.