



Great Southwest Council Silver Beaver

Writing Guide - 2019

Selection to receive the Silver Beaver Award is a great honor for any volunteer Scouter, and is very competitive given the large number of dedicated volunteers, the number of nomination packages typically received, and the limited number of quotas for selection in a given year. Here are some suggestions for writing a competitive package:

- Remember that the submission is to be kept confidential; the candidate should not be made aware of a nomination. While this can make gathering data a challenge, here are some ideas for sources of information
 - Fellow Scouters, co-workers, friends, family, members of organizations they belong to beside Scouting (faith-based, community service, youth groups, etc) – stressing the need for confidentiality!
 - Data is available on membership, registered positions, awards, training, etc from the Council office; contact the Office and ask for a Profile report for the individual. Limited info of this nature is also available in my.scouting.org, in the Member Manager and Training Manager functions
 - Request a Scouting Bio from all members of the unit (a possible format for a Scouting Bio is below) in order to get information on the person you wish to submit for the Silver Beaver
- The nomination **MUST** be on the current year form
- The nomination **MUST** be received in the Scout Office by the deadline; confirm with the Office that the package has been received if not delivered in person
- Recognize there are three major categories to the nomination form (1-Service to Scouting, 2-Service to Youth Outside Scouting, 3-Service in the Community), and there should be information in each. However, the scoring criteria used is weighted towards Service to Scouting
- Focus on responsibilities, and results or outcomes, in each category
- Explain any terminology that might not be understood by someone of another type of unit, profession, or faith
- There is no maximum length, but data should be pertinent
- Cite sources; the use of quotations is very effective when coming from an appropriate source

- Although a candidate should not be notified that they are being nominated, having them (and all adult members of the unit) prepare a Scouting Biography is one way to collect some of the information needed. A format for a biography is below

Scouting Biography

Identifying Information

- List name, address, phone numbers, etc

Service to Scouting

- Units: List any units (or district or council positions) registered with, including their district and council, when you were registered, and for how long
- Positions: Include information on positions served in, and any significant accomplishments
- Training: List any training taken. Make note if you've served on staff for any training events
- Awards: List any BSA awards or recognition, including awards received as a youth

Service to Youth Outside Scouting

- List any non-Scouting organizations that provide service to youth. Include the position in the organization and year(s) of involvement

Service in the Community

- List any non-youth organizations you've been involved with. Include the position in the organization and year(s) of involvement

Profession, Hobbies, and Other Talents, Skills, and Interests

- List any other information that may be of use to the unit in putting you to work! Include any professions you've worked in, any hobbies you might have, and any other talents, skills, or interests that might be helpful to Scouting or youth in Scouting