

BACKGROUND

Bronze Pelican Award

The Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Archdiocese of Boston has authorized the Bronze Pelican Award.

The pelican is an ancient Christian symbol which has several meanings. One aspect of the symbolism describes the relationship of Jesus Christ with his people by referring to how a mother pelican will give her life's blood to her young to nurture and protect it.

The early Christians had a liturgical symbol of the pelican as a representation of Christ. The significance of the Bronze Pelican Emblem is Christ-like devotion to youth. It acknowledges that adults in scouting are called to nurture and raise our scouts in Catholic ideals. The Bronze Pelican Award recognizes adults who have made contributions to the spiritual development of youth in scouting. The requirements are somewhat less rigorous than for the St. George Award. Only in exceptional cases would the presentation of a Bronze Pelican Award not precede the presentation of a St. George Award to the same honoree.

St. George Award

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, having observed the use and value of an award presented to adults for outstanding service to the spiritual development of Catholic Youth in the Scouting program, approved the St. George Emblem in 1955.

St. George, who died a martyr in the year 303, was the patron saint of knighthood and of England. The principal order of knighthood in England was placed under the patronage of St. George. The feast day of St. George, April 23, was a national holiday and a holy day of obligation for English Catholics for many years.

Early stories of St. George's knighthood describes his public witnessing of his faith, his arrest, brave suffering and martyrdom. A later legend, which added a description of St. George as a knight who rescued the king's daughter in Libya, was probably responsible for much of the popularity given to St. George as a defender of virtue even at the risk of life itself. As a person who spent his own life in the service of others, St. George is an appropriate saint for scouts. The ideals of scouting describe many of the virtues demanded of those who would be knights. Scouts and scouters are called upon to make a public commitment to these ideals. The St. George Emblem identifies and gives the highest recognition to members of the clergy and laity, scouters and non-scouters alike who have made outstanding contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in scouting.

INSTRUCTIONS

Candidates for the awards are to be chosen by a Selection Committee of at least five members most of whom hold one or both awards. Selection Committee members are to be appointed annually by the Catholic Committee on Scouting. Candidates chosen by the Selection Committee are to be approved by the Diocesan Scout Chaplain.

Candidate Qualifications:

*The person sought as a recipient of adult scouting awards should be one of excellent character and an exemplary role model.

*Recipients should be adults currently active with the organizations served (ideally registered members).

*Awards may be given to clergy, religious, lay men or women either Catholic or non-Catholic.

*Catholic recipients should be active, practicing Catholics with the support of their congregations and their respective pastors. Non-Catholic recipients should also be supported by their congregations and clergy.

* In most cases the Bronze Pelican is presented to a selected nominee who has significantly influenced Catholic scouting for at least three years. The St. George Emblem is usually presented to a nominee who is a Bronze Pelican honoree and who has continued to influence Catholic Scouting for at least two additional years.

Selection Guidelines:

The following list is given as examples of some of the services performed by nominees. It is not inclusive as there are many other accomplishments which could promote the spiritual good of scouts. However, the selection committee is asked to consider each of the items mentioned in this list.

1. Promotes the Catholic Religious Emblem programs or actively serves as a counselor. Encourages non-Catholic scouts to participate in the religious emblem programs of their faith.
2. Actively participates in scout retreats and other activities and religious programs sponsored by the Catholic Committee on Scouting. Is instrumental in having scouts and other adults participate.
3. Provides outstanding service in promoting and participating in Scout Sunday observance.
4. Provides notable service in bringing more boys to scouting under Catholic auspices.
5. Assists parishes and Catholic organizations in recruiting scoutmasters and other key leaders.
6. Is fully trained in the aims, goals, methods and skills of scouting. Is outstanding in his/her sense of responsibility and sets good example.
7. Assumes responsibility for transporting Catholic scouts to Mass during campouts, camporees and summer camp. Provides for the spiritual needs of non-Catholics in his/her charge.
8. Creates a better understanding of the aims, goals and ideals of scouting by the clergy and laity through the Catholic press and other communication media.
9. Fosters good relationship with the Scout Council and is capable of interpreting Catholic programs to Council members.

NOMINATION FORM FOR ADULT AWARDS

**THE BRONZE PELICAN AWARD
AND
THE ST. GEORGE AWARD**

CANDIDATE

NAME	ADDRESS
CITY	STATE ZIP PHONE
	E-MAIL
NAME OF SPOUSE	NAMES OF CHILDREN
PARISH	ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

REGISTERED and ACTIVE IN SCOUTING for __ years
UNIT COUNCIL Council Representative's Signature

PARISH APPROVAL

The above named nominee is approved as worthy of receiving the Bronze Pelican or St. George Award.

Pastor's Signature Date

ARCHDIOCESAN APPROVAL

The Bronze Pelican/St. George Selection Committee of the Archdiocese of Boston certifies that the record of service of the above named candidate has been carefully reviewed and that this candidate meets the requirements for receiving an award.

Chairman of the selection committee's signature Date
Scout Chaplain's signature Date

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING RECORD

	This Honoree has previously received the Bronze Pelican Award	YES	NO
Date Award Ordered			
Date Award Received			
Date Award Presented	Presented by		
Award No.			

Record of Candidate

Describe **outstanding** service to the **spiritual development** of Catholic boys in the scouting apostolate.

Please give pertinent facts, such as dates, services provided, honors and offices held in the Archdiocese, parish, Boy Scouts of America and other community organizations. Please use the Selection Guidelines as a help in listing qualifications. Use additional pages if needed.

In Parish and Archdiocese:

Boy Scouts of America:

Other community organizations:

Forward nominations to:

**Archdiocese of Boston
Office of New Evangelization
Catholic Committee on Scouting
66 Brooks Drive
Braintree, MA 02184**

By March 15 of the year that the award is to be presented

Nominated by:

Name:

Phone:

E-mail:

Address:

Date submitted: