



It starts with Scouts.

Recognition Tips

Scouts Canada provides formal methods of recognizing the special efforts of its members and key supporters ([Honours and Awards Guide](#)). The awards assure recipients in a tangible way that their actions have contributed significantly to the achievement of Scouts Canada's mission. Equally as important are the opportunities to provide informal recognition. These tips provide some ideas about how to make the presentation of the formal recognition meaningful to the recipient as well tips on providing informal recognition.

Making Formal Presentation of Recognition Meaningful – Making the Most of It

Presenting the recognition may be just as important as the award itself. Make the presentation meaningful to the recipient by:

1. Consider sharing the event with candidate's family, scouting colleagues, group's sponsor, employer and community.
2. Photograph the event ensuring that the recipient receives a framed picture. Consider putting together a small album for the occasion.
3. Send a photograph and brief write-up to your local newspaper. Provide copies to the Area/Council Webmaster if approved by the recipient.
4. Present the award on several different occasions.
 - a. A youth may present the award in the candidate's home with family and friends present.
 - b. The Group Commissioner or a Deputy Area Commissioner may present the same award at the group banquet or a campfire with scouting colleagues.
 - c. The Area Commissioner may present the same award at the formal recognition ceremony for your area council.

You can't say "Thank You" often enough. Show your appreciation and focus the spotlight on them.

Informal Recognition

Remember – one size does not fit all – we are unique so what may be meaningful for one is not necessarily meaningful for another.

Prioritize recognition – plan for it to ensure it happens.

Frequent recognition – seek out opportunities – there are lots of them if you just look.

Switch it up – while you can never say thank you enough – you can demonstrate your gratitude in different ways.

Say it with...

- Words - either verbal or a written note of thanks
- A card – signed by many or a select few
- A token of appreciation — gift item from the Scout Shop that is meaningful to them.
Scoutshop.ca
- Assign meaningful responsibilities
- A formal presentation of an informal recognition (slide show of photos from past year or outstanding contributions or framed photo)
- Spread the word – let others know of the deserved recognition
- Recognize a special occasion (birthday, Scouting anniversary...)
- Get creative!

Be sincere and genuine – take time to think it through and make it meaningful.

Balance the level of accomplishment with the type of recognition delivered

Seek out many – everyone is deserving of recognition