

# Presenting Scouts Canada's Awards

**Scenario 1:** Several Scouters sitting around a table for some sort of meeting. One member slides a large envelope across the table to a Colony Scouter and says: 'This is for you. You can open it later'. The Colony Scouter arrives home and opens the envelope to find a Certificate with their name and an enclosed Medal for Good Service.

What value was provided to the recipient? Is this a meaningful and impactful? The answers would be None.

**Scenario 2:** The Group Commissioner and guests show up near the end of a Colony hike in the forest. During the closing ceremonies, he talks to the Beavers about the great things that Hawkeye has done recently. The Beavers get excited. The GC calls Hawkeye up and has her husband read the National "Letter" recognizing her with the Medal of Good Service. The scouter's Beaver Scout comes forward and puts the medal around Hawkeye's neck. Everyone is excited. Hawkeye feels honoured in front of the youth and family.

Not much effort was needed to make the Scouter feel good about being recognized.

## What recognition items should get a "presentation"?

The easy answer is EVERYTHING. Recognition is NOT so much about the item but rather the presentation. Items can include (but are not limited to):

- Commendations
- Medals
- Gallantry, Fortitude or Meritorious awards
- General thanks
- Pats on the back
- Fun stuff



## Does every presentation follow a specific routine?

No. The simple answer is that the presentation should be MEANINGFUL and IMPACTFUL to the recipient. A presentation could occur:

- At a section or group meeting
- At a camp or other event
- At a formal recognition ceremony
- At any sort of annual general meeting
- At a person's home

## How quickly should the presentation be arranged?

Recognition should be Timely, Meaningful and Impactful. Setting an arbitrary timeline is a disservice. However, long delays to get the "perfect time" is also a disservice.

## Who makes the actual presentation?

Ideally, people who the recipient consider important to them in some way - not always possible but should be kept in mind. Scouters, family, commissioners can all play a vital part in your presentation.

## Can several presentations be done at the same event or ceremony?

Yes. Be careful of the concept of an assembly line presentation process. This does not provide a great deal of meaning for each individual. If you have a large recognition ceremony with several recipients "one" way to help is to ensure each person coming forward is "honoured" is to briefly state some of the highlights for that person. Another option is to have someone "with meaning to the person" stand up and briefly say something.

## Sounds like the presentation portion is a lot of work.

It can take some effort. It is, remember, one of the most important parts in the recognition. By putting in the required effort to ensure we have a meaningful presentation, we make the entire process worthwhile.

## Example:

"I presented a Medal of Merit many, many years ago to a Scouter. The presentation was done in front of a few fellow Scouters. The location was in the middle of a creek at one of our camps. The Scouter has gone on to receive several subsequent awards – BUT the only one he ever talks about is the MM. Several years before the MM presentation the Scouter joined Scouting with his child and was eager to help anywhere, he could. The camp property team was pulling out a portable bridge from the creek. The Scouter in question was in the middle of the creek helping and "took a tumble". He got up totally soaked and laughing at the situation. Ending up being a great time by all. He always talked about the creek incident and was a frequent helper on the property team. What better place than the middle of that very creek to present the medal. It was a very memorable presentation for all present." Scouter John P.

## Remember...

If presenting at an event is desired, ask the organizers first to ensure there is time

Do your research and present based on the member's comfort level

Involve family members and close scouting friends increases the recognition impact



Thanks!

Customize each presentation for each recipient so they feel special and unique

Take pictures and share appropriately

## National Recognition Network Mission

To celebrate the significant achievements of our members and their resulting impact on the Scouting Movement. Visit [scouts.ca/thanks](https://scouts.ca/thanks) to tell us about your outstanding members; We'll do the rest!