

## Indiana Grand Lodge Eagle Award Program

### Program Overview

# FREEMASONRY AND SCOUTING

The Freemasons have long been a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts of America by supporting the development of Scouting units, serving as volunteers, and assisting their Masonic lodges in forming and sponsoring Scout units. The relationship between individual Masons and Scouting, which has existed since the founding of Scouting in America, has resulted in great benefits for both Freemasonry and Scouting. This partnership has been recognized with the Daniel Beard award for adult Scouters who are Freemasons. Daniel Beard, one of the founders of the Boy Scouts of America, was a Mason and for 30 years was the national Scout Commissioner. His impact upon Scouts and Scouting through the ideals that he helped found are the cornerstones of the Scouting today.

With the large number of men in the Scouting movement and their many common interests, it was fairly natural that Scouter's lives would become interwoven in different ways. Many attended the same churches and schools, had similar hobbies and most loved the outdoors. Due to the principles inculcated in Scouting, which in many ways parallel those in Masonry, many Scouters as adults gravitated towards the Masonic order and found they attended lodges with other Scouters. The common interest in Scouting gave them strong bonds to other Scouters within the Craft and community.

The parallels are easily found and in fact nothing can be found in the Scout Law and Promise that is not found in Masonry. The first important thing is that each Scout must make a promise to abide by certain guiding principles and subscribe to the Scout Law in the same way a Mason does in his obligation, promising to practice Masonic precepts. The Scout and Mason must both believe in God and cannot be accepted in either organization if they are atheists. Like Masonry, the Scout Movement does not involve itself in any form of political activity.

The Grand Lodge of Indiana, in recognition of the long standing partnership with the Boy Scouts of America, developed the Indiana Masonic Eagle Award to recognize the achievements of individual Eagle Scouts in the State of Indiana. This award highlights the hard work, perseverance, and dedication of the new Eagle Scout to Scouting. This distinctive award is presented by the Indiana Grand Lodge to Indiana Eagle Scouts. The recipient receives a commendation from Grand Lodge and a letter from the Grand Master.

### Criteria

1. The Indiana Boy Scout completes all the BSA requirements for the Eagle Scout Award and all paperwork is submitted to the local BSA council for review and approval.
2. The Scout is notified of his approval to receive the award through BSA council.

3. The Scoutmaster, local BSA council, or Member from an Indiana Masonic Lodge provides the Scout with the information about the Indiana Grand Lodge Masonic Eagle Scout Award.
4. The Scout downloads the Masonic Eagle Scout Award application and fills in all the applicable information
5. The Scout selects his preferred Indiana Grand Lodge method of award presentation (Eagle Award Ceremony at his Court of Honor, or Local Masonic Lodge Ceremony)
6. The Scout submits the application signed by the Scout and his Scoutmaster to the Indiana Grand Lodge.

### **Process**

1. Submitted Masonic Eagle Scout Award application is received, reviewed and approved by the Indiana Grand Lodge.
2. The Indiana Grand Lodge prepares the award certificate and the letter for the Grand Master and Grand Secretary signatures
3. Grand Master signs the certificate and the letter. The Grand Secretary signs the certificate.
4. The Indiana Grand Lodge notifies the presenter of the Masonic Eagle Award presentation package including presentation script and date of presentation.
5. The Masonic Eagle Award Package containing the Letter and certificate is sent to the designated recipient for presentation. The package can be sent to the Scoutmaster or to a Masonic Lodge.
6. The presentation is made at a designated ceremony by a member of a local lodge or designated Indiana Grand Lodge presenter.

[Click here to download the Masonic Eagle Award Application](#)

[Click here to find additional information about the Masonic Boy Scout Daniel Carter Beard Award](#)