



# SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

November 2021

## GET READY! GET SET! GET DONE!

Units should be completing the “Get Ready” tasks for recharter and starting the “Get Set” tasks. All paperwork can be submitted online, so get those records up to date, collect fees, make sure YPT is current for all adults, and contact any members you haven’t seen lately and encourage them to return! **GET READY! GET SET! GET DONE!**

## WINTER CAMP, DECEMBER 26-31

Winter Camp is a great way for your youth to spend a week at Camp Strake and to pick up some merit badges as they learn and enjoy time with other scouts. [Sign up now to attend.](#)

## CITIZENSHIP IN SOCIETY MERIT BADGE

On November 1, the Boy Scouts of America launched the Citizenship in Society merit badge, the first new merit badge for youth in the Scouts BSA program since 2017. The Boy Scouts of America has a commitment – both to developing a culture where every youth, volunteer, and employee feels a sense of belonging, and to building communities where every person feels respected and valued. The Citizenship in Society merit badge is an important initiative within that larger commitment. It provides Scouts with opportunities to learn more about our world by encouraging them to explore information on diversity, equity, inclusion and ethical leadership — and to learn why these qualities are important in society and in Scouting. To earn the merit badge, Scouts must conduct research; explore resources; have conversations with merit badge counselors, peers, parents and community members; and identify actions they can take to ensure inclusivity and belonging in Scouting and society in general. One of the unique features of Citizenship in Society is that there is no merit badge pamphlet with prescribed approaches or ideologies. There also are no requirements meant to drive a particular response or lead a Scout down a path toward a predetermined conclusion. Instead, Citizenship in Society encourages Scouts to embark on a journey of discovery. In this case, it’s a journey of self-discovery as they explore a variety of topics around diversity, equity and inclusion and belonging, and then discuss how they apply their findings to life as a Scout and as a good citizen in society. While a merit badge counselor may ask the Scout to identify their sources of information, the counselor will not be providing Scouts with answers. Instead, they will help facilitate discussions that aid Scouts in their understanding. **The merit badge will become Eagle required on July 1, 2022.** Additional details will be provided by the National Youth Program team in coming weeks. A legacy of empathy and respect is already built into the DNA of the BSA as seen in the [Scout Oath and Scout Law](#) and [other existing merit badges](#), such as the Citizenship in the Community, Disability Awareness and American Heritage merit badges, which require Scouts to not only learn and grow their understanding of diverse perspectives, but also to take positive action. More information, including the full requirements for the merit badge and materials for merit badge counselors can be found at [scouting.org/dei](https://scouting.org/dei).

## 2021 SILVER BEAVER RECIPIENTS

The Silver Beaver Award is the highest form of recognition that a local council can bestow on a volunteer. In 1931, BSA President Mortimer L. Schiff recommended to the national board that an award be devised for recognition of distinguished service to youth in the area of a local council, and the concept of the Silver Beaver Award recognition was established. The Sam Houston Area Council has participated in this recognition program since its inception, presenting Silver Beaver Awards in 1931 to W. A. Childress and to E. A. Hudson. Beginning with those first two awards, more than 1,500 adult leaders in our council have been recognized in this manner. The Council Recognition Reception is held annually to honor the recipients of the Silver Beaver Award and [heroism awards](#). The Council Recognition Reception will be held before the annual [Key Leader's Conference](#) on January 8, 2022 at 10:00 am at the Cockrell Scout Center. The Silver Beaver is an award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. Members of this year’s class are:

- Brian Boling
- Jose Chapela
- Doug Dailey
- Alyssa Hightower
- Jim Jolly
- Troy Meinen
- Junior Raimond
- Melissa Spears
- Merrie Thomas
- Clay Williams



- Gidget Swift
- Bruce Tough
- Ronny Zapata

## CALENDAR

- 11/12 Commissioner Retreat
- 11/13 University of Scouting & College of Commissioner Science
- 11/20 Popcorn Distribution
- 12/15 All Recharter Online Submissions Due
- 1/8 Key Leaders' Conference

## CONNECT, SERVE, INSPIRE!

CONNECT with every Scout in your unit and invite those that you haven’t seen in a while to come with you to SERVE your community. INSPIRE them to remain active in Scouting and to recharter for the upcoming year of Scouting.

Have a great idea, pressing concern, success story? Email [squareknotnotes@yahoo.com](mailto:squareknotnotes@yahoo.com). We serve \*you\*!  
Do you call communication feedback a Cogift? It truly is!