

# INTRODUCING: The Medal of the Map

by Gillian de Graauw

## What is this New Award?

The Medal of the Maple for Distinguished Youth Service is an award created by the members of the National Youth Committee. It was designed to honour those youth who have significantly contributed to the Movement and the spirit of Scouting through community service, extraordinary Scouting participation and a solid system of personal values.

## Why was the Award Created?

The award was created by the National Youth Committee to meet a demand from both youth and adults; to create an award that admires excellence and dedication and recognizes commitment within our youth who serve this Movement as leaders, Scouters in Training, Activity Leaders, etc. It was designed to ensure that youth receive appropriate recognition and respect for their outstanding contribution to Scouting. Providing recognition contributes to a recipient's self-esteem and helps highlight the roles that youth play in leading our Movement.

## The Medal of the Maple Symbolism

Each award recipient receives a medal, a uniform badge and a certificate. The medal design is of a maple leaf surrounded by a rope circle. Inside the maple leaf is a fleur-de-lis. The medal hangs on a red and white striped ribbon, worn around the neck.

The badge is a stylized bar with elements of the medal, allowing for members to wear it once they become adult leaders and move beyond the youth program. Information as to placement on the uniform is available in section 8000 of BP&P on the national web site.

The National Youth Committee chose to call the award the Medal of the Maple as the maple leaf is a symbol of Canada. Found in virtually every area of Canada, the maple tree is strong, solid and under ideal conditions, can have a long life span. The fleur-de-lis, as well as the rope circle, represent the Scouting Movement and our pioneering skills. The red and white ribbon once again reflects our Canadian identity, which is fitting for a national award.

## Award Criteria

All youth that display outstanding service and commitment to the Scouting Movement are eligible for the Medal of the Maple. In terms of the award criteria, "outstanding" is defined as service and commitment that excels and exceeds the performance of the ordinary duties and expectations of a youth within their sections, groups, local councils or other pertinent Scouting associations and bodies. Aside from this broad definition, youth must meet the specified criteria below.

1. Be a member of Scouting for no less than three years, be currently registered and participating as a youth in the following defined youth programs. It is anticipated that most recipients will be registered as a Scout, Venturer or Rover however Beavers and Cubs that display exceptional skills and thoroughly reflect the Scouting spirit will also be eligible. This will be based on their participation, community involvement and dedication. The awarding of Beavers and Cubs will be decided by the council commissioner and the council youth commissioner, who may consult with the Deputy Executive Commissioner - Youth for input if desired. Please note that awards to Beavers and Cubs are only to be done in exceptional circumstances.
2. Show outstanding leadership and teamwork capabilities in their area, group, council or national Scouting body.
3. Help organize, run or coordinate events that better their community, other Scouts and/or the Scouting community at large.
4. Positively benefit other youth members as a direct result of their work, dedication and/or personal values.
5. Provide service and display a commitment that exceeds the faithful performance of the ordinary duties and expectations of a youth within their sections, groups, local councils or other pertinent Scouting associations and bodies.

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# Medal for Distinguished Youth Service

## Wearing the Award

The medal may be worn on a youth's official uniform for occasions/events described within the section handbooks. The badge may be worn on the uniform in the area designated for Scouting Awards in the diagrams included in section 8000 of BP&P. It may be worn into adult years of service to display the recipient's success.

## Cost

There is no cost to councils as the Medal of the Maple Award for Distinguished Youth Service is part of the National Honours and Awards Program.

## How to Nominate a Youth

The award can only be presented to youth who are nominated by another member of Scouting - youth or adult. To apply, the nominator fills out the Medal of the Maple Award for Distinguished Youth Service nomination form, found on the web site at [www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca), Honours and Awards. Once completed, the form must be forwarded to either the council youth representative or the council commissioner. Adjudication and award presentation will be done throughout the year as deemed necessary by the commissioner and the youth representative.

ing to the guidelines, youth and council commissioners set up an adjudication process that best suits their individual council.

## When Will the Award Be Available?

The Medal of the Maple Award is to be launched in our Centennial year (fall 2007), to symbolize the importance of youth involvement in our Movement's success. It will remain one of the national awards.

## Need More Information?

More information can be found on the National web site ([www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca)) and through council youth commissioners.

The Medal of the Maple for Distinguished Youth Service is an award to inspire and challenge youth members. We are pleased that there is now a national award designed solely for the purpose of recognizing the wonderful work that youth perform daily within Canadian Scouting. X  
- Gillian de Graauw is the Deputy Executive Commissioner - Youth and sits on the Operations Advisory Committee for Scouts Canada.

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