

1998

MARYLAND SCOUTER HONORED FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Douglas S. Schwab, Cumberland, Md., is the 1998 recipient of the **Woods Services Award**. Presented by the BSA and the Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center, the award recognizes exceptional service and leadership in the field of Scouts with disabilities.

Schwab founded and has served as Scoutmaster of Cumberland's Troop 89 since 1977, counseling Scouts in the Disabilities Awareness merit badge and taking his troop to camp every summer. He was presented with the award at the BSA's national annual meeting in May in San Antonio, Tex.

Nominations for the 1999 Woods Services Award are due at the BSA national office by Dec. 31, 1998. The winner will be announced by May 1, 1999. For information or nomination forms, write to BSA Council Services Division, S212, 1325 W. Walnut Hill Ln., P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079

1999

A CALIFORNIA SCOUTER IS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Patrick Smith, El Segundo, Calif., is the 1999 recipient of the **Woods Services Award**. Presented by the BSA and the Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center, Langhorne, Pa., the award recognizes exceptional service and leadership in the field of Scouts with disabilities.

Smith has served as both a Scoutmaster and an Explorer Advisor of youth with disabilities. In his years of service, he has also provided a summer camp program for Boy Scouts with disabilities, taught sessions on Scouts with disabilities at the BSA's National Camping School, and administered a district Disabilities Awareness merit badge camporee.

As a special education teacher, he assisted with Special Olympics and other school-related activities, and promoted Scouting for special education students at Lanterman High School in Los Angeles.

Each council can nominate a person for the award. Completed nomination forms (No. 89-258G) are due in the national office, S212, by Dec. 31

2000

NORTH CAROLINA SCOUTER IS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Lewis H. Wood of Danbury, N.C., is the 2000 recipient of the **Woods Services Award**. Presented by the BSA and the Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center, Langhorne, Pa., the award recognizes exceptional service to and leadership in the field of Scouts with disabilities.

Wood has positively influenced the lives of dozens of youth with learning disabilities, multiple physical disabilities, and neurological impairment. He helped found Troop 440 in 1980 and has served as Scoutmaster since 1989, working with parents, teachers, and doctors to understand the needs and challenges of each boy. Two of his Scouts have attained the Eagle rank and now serve as assistant Scoutmasters.

His years of service also include providing program opportunities for Boy Scouts with disabilities, such as long-term summer camping, special hikes, and other appropriate activities, and involvement in community service projects, including Scouting for Food.

Wood involved Troop 440 with a more traditionally programmed troop that he also leads. This collaborative effort benefits the boys of Troop 440 and increases the awareness, understanding, and acceptance of others by those Scouts who do not have major disabilities.

Wood was nominated for the award by the Old Hickory Council, Winston-Salem, N.C., which noted that his contribution was made in a challenging rural county made up of many small communities.

Each council can nominate a person for the Woods Services Award. Nominations for 2001 (form No. 89-258H) are due in the national office, S212, by Dec. 31, 2000.

2001

WISCONSIN SCOUTER IS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Debra Delie, of Marshfield, Wis., is the 2001 recipient of the **Woods Services Award**. Presented by the BSA and the Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center, Langhorne, Pa., the award recognizes exceptional service and leadership to Scouts with disabilities.

A special education teacher, Delie has positively affected the lives of hundreds of youth with disabilities. Recognizing that youth were not able to participate in most Scout unit situations, she was instrumental in starting the first Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Venturing crew, and Explorer post for youth with disabilities in the Marshfield area. Eleven of her Boy Scouts have attained the Eagle rank.

Her many years of service have also included providing a long-term summer camp program for Boy Scouts, serving as disabilities adviser for the council advancement and properties committees, and serving as assistant district commissioner, guiding unit leaders who have Scouts with disabilities.

Delie was nominated by the [Samoset Council](#), which noted that she has made her exceptional contribution despite having been diagnosed with a degenerative bone disease. She currently serves as a Venturing crew Advisor and disability awareness camp director, and in July she took 12 Boy Scouts with disabilities to the national Scout jamboree.

2002

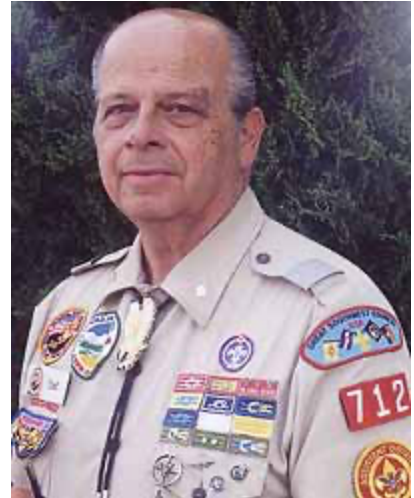
NEW MEXICO SCOUTER IS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Frederick B. Hampton of Albuquerque, N.M., is the 2002 recipient of the **Woods Services Award**.

Presented by the BSA and the Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center, Langhorne, Pa., the award recognizes exceptional service and leadership to Scouts with disabilities.

During 23 years of service, Hampton has impacted the lives of hundreds of youth with various disabilities and influenced the disability awareness of thousands of non-disabled youth. He was instrumental in organizing and leading a Boy Scout troop for youth with cerebral palsy in Peapack, N.J., and two Cub Scout packs for mentally challenged boys in Westchester County, N.Y. In each case, he paired the pack or troop with a unit of Scouts without disabilities.

Hampton has been the chairman of the disability challenge activity at four national Boy Scout jamborees and serves as a Disabilities Awareness merit badge counselor. He has provided an annual camp program for children with Down syndrome and for the past three years has served as council coordinator of Scouting for youth with disabilities.



Frederick B. Hampton

Hampton is also active in AT&T Telephone Pioneers of America, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Junior Achievement, Friends of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, and the Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church.

2003

MINNESOTA SCOUTER IS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Alexandra (Sandy) Klas, of St. Paul, Minn., is the 2003 recipient of the **Woods Services Award**. Presented by the BSA and the Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center, Langhorne, Pa., the award recognizes exceptional service and leadership to Scouts with disabilities.

During 48 years of service, Klas has impacted the lives of thousands of young people with disabilities of all types and severity. She initiated the [Indianhead Council's](#) special needs emphasis and its Special Needs Division, and served as chairman of the division from 1984 to 1991. The Indianhead Council has recognized her many contributions with the Silver Beaver Award, Distinguished Community Builder Award, and Special Needs Award.

In addition to Scouting, she has served as officer and board member of a variety of other organizations, including statewide president for three years of the Minnesota Association for Children and Adults With Learning Disabilities. She is a life trustee of Hamline University and has received a variety of awards from state and local agencies for her accomplishments throughout the special needs community.



Alexandra (Sandy) Klas
Photograph Courtesy of Dawn Villella

2004

TEXAS SCOUTER IS RECOGNIZED FOR HER EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Janet Pepperday of the [Sam Houston Area Council](#) in Houston, Tex., is the 2004 recipient of the **Woods Services Award**. Presented by the BSA and the Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center, Langhorne, Pa., the award recognizes exceptional service and leadership to Scouts with disabilities.

A special education teacher who works with mentally and physically disabled youth in the Pasadena (Tex.) Independent School District (PISD), she has served as an assistant district commissioner for the Houston council's Special Needs Scouting (SNS) division since 1992.

Pepperday, who is legally deaf, has made a significant contribution in training leaders of traditional Scouting units in strategies and skills for making Scouting a positive experience for mainstreamed Scouts with disabilities.

In 1995, she began the first in-school SNS unit in the PISD, Troop 739 at Bondy Intermediate School; and nine other units in the PISD have been modeled after her successful classroom-Scouting program.

Pepperday also serves each year on the staff of the council's special needs camporee and is a merit badge counselor for the Disability Awareness merit badge.

Her many other Scouting honors include the Silver Beaver, Distinguished Commissioner Award, District Award of Merit, and the Scroll of Honor from the Diocese of Galveston-Houston Catholic Committee on Scouting. Outside of Scouting, she has been a Texas state finalist for teacher of the year.



Janet Pepperday
Photograph Courtesy of John Pepperday

2005

MISSOURI SCOUTER IS RECOGNIZED FOR HER SERVICE TO YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Jane L. Grossman of Chesterfield, Mo., has been selected as the 2005 recipient of the Woods Services Award. Presented by the BSA and the Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center, Langhorne, Pa., the national award recognizes exceptional service and leadership to Scouts with disabilities.

Since 1987, Grossman has served in a variety of positions for special needs Scouting, impacting the lives of thousands of youth with disabilities. She has supported or given leadership to all the special needs program activities throughout the Greater St. Louis Area Council, including many leadership positions on the council's special needs committee.

One of her greatest contributions has been the training of persons throughout the council on how to work with Scouts with disabilities. Combining her special needs expertise and Boy Scout training, she developed workshops for Cub Scout leader pow wows, Scouting "universities," and other venues. (One course she developed trains leaders for serving Scouts with attention deficit disorder.) She is also a Disabilities Awareness merit badge counselor.



Jane L. Grossman

Photograph Courtesy Of Jane Grossman

Nationally, Grossman was a presenter at the 2003 Outdoor Leader Seminar at the Florida Sea Base, and for several years she has served on the faculty of the Scouts With Disabilities Conference at the Philmont Training Center in New Mexico.

Grossman has received the District Award of Merit for noteworthy service to youth at the district level and the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to youth within the council.

2006

NORTH CAROLINA SCOUTER IS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Walter M. (Buster) Brown, Elon, N.C., is the 2006 recipient of the **Woods Services Award**, presented by the BSA and the Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center, Langhorne, Pa., for exceptional service and leadership to Scouts with disabilities.

Brown's involvement with Scouting began in 1959 with the local district special needs committee. Since then, he has impacted the lives of thousands of youth with disabilities by serving in a variety of positions on the district, council, area, region, and national levels.

At the national level, Brown served as chairman of the BSA's National Special Needs Committee, assisting in updating reference materials and adding additional tools to help volunteers support programs for youth with disabilities. His efforts have helped to insure that the needs of these youth are a part of BSA literature, facilities, and program. Brown's Scouting involvement also has been recognized with the Distinguished Commissioner award, the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, and the Silver Antelope award.

2007

ILLINOIS SCOUTER RECEIVES WOODS SERVICES AWARD

Kathleen Marie Henderson of Aurora, Ill., is the 2007 recipient of the **Woods Services Award**, presented by the BSA and Woods Services, a nonprofit organization in Langhorne, Pa., that serves children and adults with developmental, emotional, and brain-injury related disabilities. She received the award for exceptional service and leadership to Scouts with disabilities.



Kathleen Marie
Henderson

Since 2000, Henderson has been involved in Scouting on a unit, district, and council level in a variety of positions. She has served as a district training committee member, unit commissioner, district special-needs coordinator, and council special-needs committee member.

Several years ago, while making a presentation about Scouting to her local school district special-needs PTA, she met a member of the International Order of the Alhambra, a fraternal organization dedicated to enriching the lives of those with disabilities. An informal partnership was created, and Henderson helped form several Scouting units that now serve more than 1,000 Scouts with special needs.

She was also instrumental in developing the goals, mission statement, and objectives for the Three Fires Council's special-needs committee and in recruiting volunteers from Scouters, Scouts, and the community to be involved with the program.

As a result, Scouts with disabilities now earn awards and participate in all Scouting activities, such as the annual Christmas party, Lake Michigan boat cruise, zoo visits, baseball games, and more.

Henderson has been recognized with the unit commissioner Arrowhead Honor, the District Award of Merit, and the Silver Beaver Award for her service to youth in the council; and by the International Order of the Alhambra with the St. Francis Award for outstanding leadership in support of youth with disabilities.

2008

NOT-SO-SECRET SERVICE



Randy Bishop's connection to Scouting and desire to do Good Turns for the disabled runs deep.

That's why the BSA recently honored the 54-year-old Broomfield, Colo., resident with the 2008 Woods Services Award for "exceptional service and leadership in the field of Scouting for Youth with Disabilities."

Though born with Stickler Syndrome, a connective tissue disorder that causes problems with vision, hearing, bone, and joints, Bishop joined Scouting and earned the Eagle Scout rank in 1971.

Outside of his day job as an electronic measurement specialist at Xcel Energy in Denver, Bishop works with Stickler Involved People, serving as the national treasurer for this grassroots organization of 27,000 in the United States. He serves as a liaison between district leaders, youths, parents, and community leaders.

Bishop helps coordinate two special-needs camporees each year called Champions of Challenge.

Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center in Langhorne, Penn., established the Woods Services Award in 1978 to honor service to youth through Scouting on a local and national level. The center named the award to honor the memory of Luther Wellington Lord, who served as a residential supervisor with the company for more than 23 years.

2009 Joe Harrington, Three Fires Council
2010- Steve Larson, Northern Star Council,
2011 - Alan Spaulding, Pacific Harbors Council.
2012- None
2013- Anthony L. Mei, Marin Council

Anthony L. Mei (Tony) of Novato, California, is the 2013 recipient of the Woods Services Award. This award is presented by the Woods Services Foundation each year to one person nationally for his/her service to Scouts with Special Needs.

Tony has been actively involved with Special Needs Scouts since 1989 in almost every position at the unit, district, council, and national level. It would be impossible to list all that Tony has done for Special Needs Scouting in any limited space, but a few of his positions need to be recognized.

Tony is currently chairman on the National Task Force for Special Needs Scouting. In this position, he has lead a team to bring Special Needs Scouting to the forefront with new training, updates of materials, new awards for leaders, and more awareness that the BSA is for ALL boys. After staffing it in 2001 and 2010, he is the team leader for the 2013 Jamboree disAbilities Awareness Challenge. Since 1998, Tony has been/is the developer and webmaster for WWSWd.org, the web site for all things related to Special Needs Scouting. He has developed and presented a variety of training courses over many years, at all levels, including one for the national advancement committee and four for the College of Commissioner Science that are currently on the national BSA website.

Tony has received the Silver Beaver, Eagle Scout, Distinguished Commissioner, Doctor of Commissioner Science, Award of Merit, Commissioner and Scoutmaster Key, Scoutmaster Award of Merit, Community Organization Award (Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Award), Ad Altare Dei, and James E. West Fellow. He is married and is the father of two Life Scouts with Special Needs.

2014 – Sonya Whitehead, Erie Shores Council



Ohio Scouter is recognized for service to youth with disabilities

Sonya Marie Whitehead of Maumee, OH, is the 2014 recipient of the **Woods Services Award**.

The Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center of Langhorne, PA, presents the Woods Services Award to one BSA volunteer each year. The award recognizes exceptional service and leadership to Scouts with disabilities.

Sonya has been actively involved as a volunteer Scout leader since 1979, and directly with Scouts with disabilities since she was recruited to staff the “disAbilities Awareness Challenge” for the 1989 National Jamboree. She continued to serve on that staff for the next four Jamborees and was selected to chair the activity at the BSA’s Centennial Jamboree in 2010. She was an integral part of the staff that developed and expanded the “disAbilities Awareness Challenge” over those six Jamborees, personally introducing three activities that focused on replicating what those with certain “invisible” disabilities experience, i.e. dysgraphia, dyslexia and hearing loss. She was instrumental in building a staff that successfully instilled in Jamboree participants knowledge and sensitivity to various types of disabilities that impact the human race. This effort hit its peak in 2010 when over 15,000 participants experienced the “disAbilities Awareness Challenge” and individually participated in over 95,000 individual disabilities awareness activities. Sonya credits her Jamboree experiences with giving her “the inspiration, motivation and knowledge to bring disAbilities Awareness back to her home council.”

In the four local councils where she has lived, Sonya has served in various positions at the unit level since 1979, including Den Leader, Cubmaster, Troop Committee member and, currently, Venturing Crew Advisor. At each level she has impacted the lives of increasing numbers of youth with disabilities. She served as a Roundtable Commissioner for ten years, where she incorporated disabilities awareness training for both Cub Scout and Boy Scout leaders. Since 2004 she has provided disabilities awareness training courses at the Erie Shores Council’s annual University of Scouting. For the past four summer camping seasons, Sonya has conducted disabilities awareness training for the staffs of the council’s Boy Scout resident and Cub Scout day camps. In 2010 she organized the council’s “disAbilities Awareness and Inclusion Committee” and continues to chair that active group, providing educational activities and support to units, council and district events as well as coordinating with community agencies.

Sonya has received the Torch of Gold, the District Award of Merit, the Distinguished Commissioner Award, the Commissioner’s Key, and the Silver Beaver. She is a James E. West Fellow and a 1910 Heritage Society Member.

Outside of Scouting, Sonya recently retired from a 37-year career as a Special Educator and was named *Outstanding Special Educator of the Year* by both the Northwest Ohio Resource Center and the State of Ohio Department of Education in 1995. She cites her brother, who was developmentally disabled, as her inspiration for lifelong service to those with disabilities. She is married to James Whitehead, and they have three Eagle Scout sons and six grandchildren.

Woods Services and Residential Treatment Center and the Boy Scouts of America join in recognizing this great Scouter—Sonya Marie Whitehead—with the Woods Services Award for 2014.

2015 – Karen Jones, Heart of America Council