

**SCOUTS-L**

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**HEROISM**

**Date:** Tue, 12 Jul 1994 23:02:34 -0400 (EDT)  
**From:** "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>  
**Subject:** Heroism and Meritorious Action  
**To:** SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>

A few months ago I had the pleasure of helping a Scoutmaster recommend a Star Scout for recognition with the Medal of Merit. The Scout was helping his father with heavy yard work at a weekend house that was pretty remote. They had worked hard and probably should have stopped, but the father wanted to get the job done. The father was using a heavy hedge clipper above his head and slipped and started back at it. His son noticed bleeding and got his dad to stop. His dad tried to explain the blood away as a minor cut from when slipped. Fortunately the Scout recognized exhaustion and shock at work, talked his dad into sitting down and examined the wound to find a severed artery. With no telephone and no place to run to for help the Scout stopped the bleeding and talked through the problem. Their only choice was to drive to a hospital a few miles away. Problem: the Scout was too young to drive and didn't know how. With presence of mind the Scout worked with his dad to get him their truck, kept the bleeding under control and continued to do so while the father drove, sometimes with his sons hand to help at the wheel. They made it, the father was soon stiched up and in good shape and the Scout didn't think it worth mentioning, so it only came out several weeks later when the father complimented Scout training to the Scoutmaster. Needless to say we thought it was pretty impressive. The Scout's application made it through Council and is being reviewed by National.

Thought you might enjoy a true story with a truly good ending.

Also, I am curious as to whether any of the rest of you internet Scouters have similar stories to recall. While BSA's Boy's Life Magazine does a great job of running a once a month cartoon feature of a Scout saving a life, I'm just convinced that there are a lot more good stories out there. They also make great campfire stories with a punch and sometimes lend themselves to a Scoutmaster's minute. They also can add a bit of good news to a District or Council newsletter.

I am also curious about how such acts of heroism or meritorious actions are recognized in other Scouting organizations and interested in hearing of same.



**Too often all we hear about in the media are stories with a negative shock value aimed at ratings. I suspect that we have a lot of good news stories that are worth sharing and telling other Scouters in our own home districts.**

**Michael F. Bowman, a/k/a Professor Beaver  
Dep. Dist. Commissioner, GW Dist., NCAC, BSA  
mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU**

**From CHAGGERTY%ARIZBPA.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU Ukn Jul 14  
21:21:05 1994**

**From: "Chris Haggerty, Sierra Vista, Arizona"  
<CHAGGERTY%ARIZBPA.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>**

**Subject: Re: Heroism and Meritorious Action  
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-  
L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>**

**Some months ago Boy's Life ran a story about one of the boys in my district. It had to do with the Bear attack we had at our Camp in the Chiricahua Mountains. One of the scouts under attack in his sleeping bag would not play dead (be still) and his friends could not convince him to do so so this scout chased the bear off using sticks and stones (and some noise). The youths attached survived.**

**Chris Haggerty, District Advancement Chairman,  
Cochise District, Catalina Council, Sierra Vista, Arizona  
Bitnet: CHAGGERTY@ARIZBPA.BITNET (TCP/IP is Internet)  
TCP/IP: CHAGGERTY@BPA.ARIZONA.EDU or  
CHAGGERTY%UABPA@CCIT.ARIZONA.EDU**

**"Whenever you find that you are on the side of the Majority, it is time to reform." Mark Twain**

**Date:** Fri, 15 Jul 1994 08:39:58 EDT  
**From:** hilding holroyd <blustone!chagall!hilding@UUNET.UU.NET>  
**Subject:** Meritorious Action  
**X-To:** uunet!tcubvm.is.tcu.edu!scouts-l@uunet.uu.net  
**To:** Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>

Three (3) scouts from my troop about 2 years ago received the Medal of Merit for the saving of a life.

The older scouts (ostensibly Ventures, but not officially) were on a hike in northern NJ with several leaders. One of the leaders, who was a father of one of the boys, collapsed on the trail - mild heart attack. One scout, his son, stayed with the leader and 2 went to get help. That is after they performed correct procedures for shock, heat, etc. and made the leader comfortable.

The leader was evac'ed via helicopter.

Since that time, I was honored to present two of these young men with their Eagle rank.

Hilding W. Holroyd                      Advancement Chairman, Tr 250  
Lakewood, NJ                              Jersey Shore Council  
Eagle Class '68                              Japeechen Lodge (Brotherhood)  
"I used to be a FOX!", NE-IV-54

Bluestone  
Voice:(609)-778-7900 fax: (609)-234-2877  
uunet: uunet!blustone!hilding  
internet: blustone!hilding@uunet.uu.net

**Date:** Fri, 15 Jul 1994 02:52:07 EDT  
**Reply-To:** SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>  
**From:** Patrick Lam <ROYAL03@MUSICM.MCGILL.CA>  
**Subject:** Re: Meritorious Action in Canada  
**X-To:** SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PSUVM.PSU.EDU  
**To:** Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>

>A few months ago I had the pleasure of helping a Scoutmaster recommend a  
>Star Scout for recognition with the Medal of Merit. The Scout was helping  
>didn't think it worth mentioning, so it only came out several weeks later  
>when the father complimented Scout training to the Scoutmaster.  
Needless  
>to say we thought it was pretty impressive. The Scout's application made  
>it through Council and is being reviewed by National.

Good story.. Scouting does help in life, eh? (I think I mentioned here the Sea Scout who rescued two kids in a boating accident 40 years ago? Too bad I don't have many details.. :-)

I don't think it was a case of 'not worth mentioning', it's just that you don't usually go and just tell people what you did with no reason to in cases like this.. it can make you sound like you're bragging.

Though saving a life is something to be proud of, after all..

>I am also curious about how such acts of heroism or meritorious actions  
>are recognized in other Scouting organizations and interested in hearing  
>of same.

Scouts Canada offers Gold, Silver and Bronze Crosses:

Gold for gallantry with special heroism and extraordinary risk  
(Alistair Ingram (17) and Iain Ingram (14) from Calgary, Alta., rescued two women thrown into icy sea water after their canoe capsized. Using Sea Scout knowledge, Alistair relayed instructions to the women, lifted them into his boat, and, once on shore, treated them for shock and hypothermia. Iain participated in the rescue as well. Both brothers acted with great courage in a situation of extreme risk)- Leader, Feb 1994  
Silver for gallantry with considerable risk

(I don't think I'll quote, that was long enough.. slightly less risk involved).

**Bronze for gallantry with moderate risk**

**Medal for Meritorious Conduct for especially meritorious conduct not involving heroism or risk of life**

**Also, in the same article is the Jack Cornwell Decoration, for having undergone great suffering in a heroic manner.**

**Certificates are given for Gallantry and Meritorious Conduct: gallantry with slight risk and worthy of recorded commendation and for meritorious conduct worthy of recorded commendation.**

**The Medal of Merit is awarded differently than in the BSA- it goes to Scouters for especially good service to Scouting.**

**There's also a Bar to the Medal of Merit for further especially good service to Scouting (which would in itself justify another medal), a Silver Acorn for especially distinguished service to Scouting, and a bar to the Silver Acorn which works the same way as the bar to the medal of merit.**

**Now.. what I always wondered is if we're not just promoting stupidity with the Gold Cross award systems? You could look at the deeds as acts of courage, or acts of stupidity. Meritorious Conduct involves no risk, but the others do.. and I'm not so sure that rewarding people for putting themselves in extraordinary risk is smart. What do you think?**

**pat**



**Date:** Fri, 15 Jul 1994 08:09:22 EDT  
**From:** Lynn Whited <whited@ASTROSUN.TN.CORNELL.EDU>  
**Subject:** Re: Heroism and Meritorious Action  
**X-To:** SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@pucc.Princeton.EDU  
**To:** Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>

A Senior Girl Scout in our council, recieved the Medal of Honor this year for saving her uncles life. The Girl Scout's uncle had major heart attack (Sorry I can't remember all the details) while she was with him. Her Senior advisor had encouraged her to take Red Cross First Aid and CPR. She was able to administer CPR until the ambulance arrived. Because she witnessed the heart attack, and administered the CPR immediately her uncles life was saved. The incident was noticed because the scout thanked her advisor for encouraging her to take the Red Cross courses.

Lynn Whited  
Brownie Troop 401 / Junior Program Consultant / Seven Lakes Girl Scout Council  
ljw5@cornell.edu or whited@astrosun.tn.cornell.edu

**Date:** Fri, 15 Jul 1994 06:44:00 MST  
**From:** "Chris Haggerty, Sierra Vista, Arizona"  
<CHAGGERTY%ARIZBPA.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>  
**Subject:** Re: Meritorious Action in Canada  
**To:** Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>

Pat,

Good Point about rewarding poeple for putting themselves in extraordinary risk. It does seem a bit risky. Working with water safety I always find myself stressing the concept of never trying to do a swimming rescue unless you are trained and HAVE THE ABILITY. (Both are required or you end up with a double drowning most of the time.) What I wanted to point out is that the American Red Cross is planning to eliminate all contact (except spinal injury managment) from their Lifeguarding Course. This is due to presure from the National Safety Council. It does make some sense. Lifeguarding is geared to the professional Lifeguard who has no business being without equipment (resuce tubes seems to be the main stay now days).  
The equipment is of course to be used between the rescuer and rescuee.

Chris Haggerty, District Advancement Chairman,  
Cochise District, Catalina Council, Sierra Vista, Arizona  
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"Whenever you find that you are on the side of the Majority, it is time to reform." Mark Twain

**Date:** Fri, 15 Jul 1994 10:01:43 -0500  
**From:** George Huffman <HUFFMAN\_GEORGE\_W@LILLY.COM>  
**Subject:** Re: Heroism and Meritorious Action  
**X-To:** SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@pucc.Princeton.EDU  
**To:** Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>  
**Status:** RO  
**X-Status:**

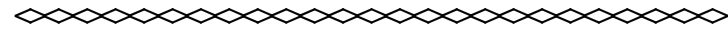
Mike et al.,

This past year I had the honor of recommending an adult leader and three Scouts for awards of merit. The four were returning from a Philmont shakedown hike when they encountered a vehicle off the road with two frantic women who flagged them down. The driver of the vehicle (father/husband of the two women) had suffered a heart attack and the two ladies had managed to get the car off of the road. The gentleman was not breathing and had no pulse. The adult leader removed him from the vehicle and began CPR procedure. He discovered the gentleman had a stoma and began resuscitation via the stoma. The Scouts called for help via radio, calmed the wife and daughter, directed heavy traffic, and assisted in the CPR procedure. Emergency help arrived and took over. The gentleman recovered. This spring, the adult leader (David Bardos of T 131, Carmel, Ind.) received the Medal of Merit and the boys received Certificates of Merit. For those who are unaware, resuscitation via stoma is messy and in this case dangerous; a great deal of blood was involved.

I think it is important to be aware of these situations and take the initiative

**in recommending these deserving individuals. This particular recommendation required some real digging as the hospital would not release names of the victim, police and emergency crews would not provide reports (fear of litigation), and witnesses were uncooperative.**

**George**

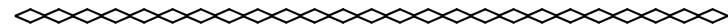


**George W. Huffman                      Lilly Research Laboratories DC 1523**

**Huffman\_George\_W@Lilly.com      Lilly Corporate Center**

**(317)276-4251                      Indianapolis, IN 46285**

**"Anyone who takes seriously anything I say shouldn't be allowed on the network in the first place."**



**Date:** Thu, 4 Aug 1994 10:40:16 -0600  
**From:** Bob Eskridge <bob@DOUG.NMSU.EDU>  
**Subject:** Re: Amtrak crash - Scouts Address

>Lines: 18

>

>Pioneer Valley Council

>847 Meadow Street

>Chicopee, MA 01013

>

>ATTN: Troop 114

>

>The council phone number is 413-684-3542.

>

>The lady at the council sounded very surprised when I told her I was calling

>from New Orleans. But she did indicate that they have had a lot of calls

>from the press, and from people wanting the address to write to the boys.

>

>YIS,

>

>Gerald Belton

>gbelton@cris.com

Gerald,

I have a corrected phone number and address for you. 413.594.9196. The street address is 861 Meadow Street.

Bob

Robert L. Eskridge  
Intelligent Reasoning Systems, Inc.  
Box 30001/3ARP  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-0001  
bob@doug.nmsu.edu  
Ph: (505) 646-7682 Fax: (505) 646-7869

Date: Thu, 4 Aug 1994 09:56:12 -0400  
From: Larry Rinaldo <lrinaldo@R02DG05.R02.EPA.GOV>  
Subject: Re: Train Derailment in Batavia, NY

From the Associated Press in the New York papers:

----- Newspaper Article -----

## **TRAIN CRASH INJURES 100 in NEW YORK**

**BATAVIA, NY (AP) -- Ever prepared, the Boy Scouts aboard an Amtrak train did their duty after it plunged down an embankment in the dark yesterday: They pulled out their flashlights and helped passengers from the wreckage.**

**About 110 people were injured in the wreck, at least five seriously.**

**The Lake Shore Limited, bound for Chicago with 340 passengers and 20 crew members, screeched off its rails and whipsawed its rear nine passenger cars down the 20-foot embankment into the woods at about 3:45 a.m.**

**Members of Boy Scout Troop 114 from Southwick, Mass., helped injured passengers off the train, carried luggage for elderly people and carted a baby carriage down the tracks. One scout crawled back into a derailed car to retrieve diapers for a woman traveling with her baby.**

**"These boys lived up to all the scout oaths and every scout law," Scoutmaster Bob Davis said. "Sometimes they look like a motley bunch. But when it gets down to it, they're ready for anything."**

**The cause of the wreck was under investigation.**

**Passengers described an eerie calm as the train derailed on a straight stretch of heavily traveled Conrail track 30 miles east of Buffalo. "It got very surreal for a minute," said Jim Lamb, who boarded in New York City. "The train started to wiggle, and then it tipped over. It was all very calm. There was no screaming or exclamations."**

**None of the 18 scouts, who were headed to New Mexico for a 12-day hiking trip, was injured. Most were riding in the front of the two-engine, 16-passenger-car train; only the last nine cars went down the embankment.**

**Boy Scout Scott Crepeau had gone back to a rear car with a see-through roof so he could gaze at the night sky. "After I realized I wasn't hurt, I looked around to see how I could help," Crepeau said.**

Eagle Scout Brad Fleming slept through the derailment. When he woke up, he and other scouts tried to calm children in their car. "We all had our flashlights out and ready," Fleming said.

Skylights were smashed and seat cushions dangled out windows. The twisted tracks were littered with baby bottles and baby clothes.

John Lauber, a National Transportation Safety Board investigator at the scene, said that gouge marks suggested the wheels of at least one car were off the track three miles before the train deailed. The crew of a parked freight train saw sparks coming from the Amtrak train moments before it derailed, he said.

Preliminary estimates put the train's speed at about 75 mph, slower than the 79 mph speed limit in the area, Lauber said.

The tracks were inspected Tuesday and no problems were found, said Rudy Husband, a Conrail spokesman in Philadelphia. There were no recent reports of track vandalism, Husband said.

----- end of article -----

**I am:**

**Larry Rinaldo**

**U.S. EPA**

**Internet: lrinaldo@unixmail.r02.epa.gov 26 Federal Plaza**

**Unit Commissioner**

**New York, NY 10278**

**...I used to be a Fox!!**

**(212) 264-5591**

**(212) 264-8100 FAX**

**Date:** Thu, 4 Aug 1994 08:21:50 EST  
**From:** paul sweeney <sweeney@PSPDPC89.WAL.AB.COM>  
**Subject:** Train Derailment in Batavia, NY

I thought I would pass along some Scouting related news regarding the Amtrak derailment yesterday in Batavia, NY.

Quoting from the Boston (MA) Globe of Aug. 4:

"Among those who continued their trip yesterday were 22 Boy Scouts from Troop 114 in Southwick, Mass....They were heading to New Mexico for a hiking expedition.

...Scott Crepeau, 16, was one of several scouts who narrowly avoided tumbling down the embankment. He had left the observation car seconds before it flipped over.

...[Carolyn] Hogue said her husband and several other men scrambled through the observation car trying to find a way out until a Scout from the Southwick troop came to their rescue. The boy peered into the car and yelled that one of the windows was broken and could be an escape route.

Hogue said the boy put a blanket down to ensure no one was hurt squeezing out the 3-foot by 2-foot opening.

Ever prepared, the Scouts did their duty at the accident scene, passengers said. The boys pulled out flashlights and helped passengers from the wreckage. They carried luggage for the elderly and carted a baby carriage.

'These boys lived up to all Scout oaths and every Scout law,' Scoutmaster Bob Davis said."

Fortunately no one was reported seriously injured in the incident.

If anyone on the list knows of someone from this troop, please extend my personal congratulations to everyone involved. This is another shining example of how much that "It's only an hour a week!" promise really means!!

| Paul Sweeney    sweeney@wal.ab.com    |



| Webelos Leader Pack 7 Lowell, MA | | Voice:  
(508)452-6502 | | Snail Mail: 20 Penn  
Av., Lowell, MA 01852 |

Date: Sat, 13 Apr 1996 17:55:27 -0400 (EDT)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
To: mclean@mail.loc.gov  
cc: Bob Sargeant <SARGEANT@CUA.EDU>  
Subject: Re: Honor Medal

Loche,

You wrote:

>I am Cubmaster of Pack 1943 here in Alexandria. I have a scout who  
>jumped in the pool and held his 4-year old cousin up until adult help  
>arrived. We have recognized him at the den meeting. Should I do more?  
>What are the procedures?

Please tell me as much as you can about your Cub's actions. When did this happen? Who witnessed it? What were the circumstances? How deep was the water where the four-year old was in trouble? How long had the four year old been in the water? Was the Cub registered at the time? Depending on the circumstances, your Cub might be a candidate for the Boy Scouts of America Honor Medal for heroism at the risk of his own life, a medal presented by the National Court of Honor.

If the facts suggest this award would be appropriate or another lifesaving medal, I will help you through our Commissioner staff and District Executive to get an application for the appropriate award and see that it gets processed in good order (which may take six months). Once a application is put together it will take a couple of months for review by a volunteer committee in our Council and then will be presented to the Scout Executive and Executive Board. After they approve and make a positive recommendation the application would then be forwarded to BSA's National Office for a similar review cycle. I would be honored to help in seeing that such a deserving young man was properly recognized for saving a life, whether by local or national recognition.

**Loche, I am copying this to Bob Sargeant our District Commissioner.**

**Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle  
Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training,  
G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - mfbowman@capaccess.org**

**From: LMCL@lmcl.loc.gov  
Date: Fri, 24 May 96 11:19:19 EST  
Reply-To: lmcl@lmcl.loc.gov  
To: mfbowman@capaccess.org  
Subject: Pack 1943 Hero**

**I wrote you around the 12th of April to tell you Pack 1943 had recognized one of its registered Cub Scouts, Thomas Rothe--Wolf--age 7, for saving his cousin's life. You requested more information. I sent a list of questions to the parents of the boy. As could be expected, there have been several communication failures. At last, here is the father's (and future Cubmaster) response.**

**"During spring vacation, this past April, Thomas and his family visited relatives in Los Angeles, California. At the time of the incident, Thomas was playing in his aunt and uncle's pool, in the shallow end, near the steps. Also in the pool were his 8 year old cousin and his 4 year old brother. Four grownups were sitting in chairs, reading at the pool. The pool was enclosed by a flexible fence that runs along the pool's edge, with a gate near the steps.**

**The gate was open, when Thomas's 4 year old cousin, Jamie, rode his tricycle head first into the pool. None of the adults were aware of what had happened until they heard cries of help from Thomas who had managed to grab hold of his cousin and the tricycle, keeping his cousin's head above water. Shortly thereafter, his aunt jumped into the pool to assist.**

The incident was over in a minute. Thomas was able to stand on the bottom of the pool in order to hold his cousin up; therefore, the water was approximately three and a half feet deep -- deep enough that his cousin, who cannot swim, could have drowned. This was not a situation where the scout's life was at risk."

I will let you and Bob Sargeant decide which of the awards, if any, the scout deserves. It would seem to me that he would qualify for a local council certificate of merit, a medal of honor, or a heroism award, depending on what circumstances these have been awarded in the past. I will be glad to communicate with you further if you have any questions.

**Loche McLean**

**Internet: [mclean@mail.loc.gov](mailto:mclean@mail.loc.gov) (24 hr)**

**[lmcl@lmcl.loc.gov](mailto:lmcl@lmcl.loc.gov) (7-4 EDT)**

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