

Greetings from your Southeast Louisiana Council (SELAC) National Eagle Scout Association (NESAs) Committee's Awards Subcommittee. We are happy to announce that effective today, Wednesday, September 11, 2024, we are now accepting nominations for the following awards. Below is detailed information on each award, including its criteria, submission deadlines, and necessary forms and supporting documentation. If you have questions, please contact the SELAC NESAs Awards Subcommittee Chair, Kevin Jura, at (850) 393-4550 or kfjura@gmail.com.

List of Awards

- Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA)
- National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award (NOESA)
- NESAs Silver Wreath Award

Nomination Submission Methods

ALL DESA, NOESA, and NESAs Silver Wreath Award nominations must be submitted to the SELAC NESAs Awards Subcommittee using one of the following three (3) methods: 1) email, 2) US mail, or 3) in person. Please follow the submission directions below:

Email: Please email all *completed* nominations, *including* all supporting documentation, as (a) PDF file(s) to:

- Kevin Jura (kfjura@gmail.com) **and cc**
- Torrey Hayden (Torrey.Hayden@scouting.org) **and**
- Nancy Allen (Nancy.Allen@scouting.org).

US Mail: Mail the *completed* nomination, *including* all supporting documentation, to:

Southeast Louisiana Council, BSA
NESAs Awards Subcommittee
Attention: Kevin F. Jura, Chair
Post Office Box 1146
Metairie, LA 70004-1146

In Person: Deliver the *completed* nomination, *including* all supporting documentation, to Torrey Hayden or Nancy Allen at the SELAC Offices in a **sealed** envelope addressed to:

“The Attention of Kevin F. Jura, Chair – SELAC NESAs Awards Subcommittee”

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Kevin F. Jura at (850) 393-4550 or kfjura@gmail.com.

Yours in Scouting,
Awards Subcommittee
National Eagle Scout Association Committee
Southeast Louisiana Council, BSA

DISTINGUISHED EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA) was established in 1969 by the National Eagle Scout Association to recognize Eagle Scouts who achieve extraordinary national-level recognition, fame, or eminence within their profession and/or service to the nation and have a strong record of voluntary service to their community.

The DESA is thus NESA's highest honor for Eagle Scouts.

Stringent criteria begin with a minimum of 25 years "Time in Service" from the official record date an Eagle rank was earned. That requirement was determined by the average time most nominees need to establish a career, earn peer recognition, awards, fame/eminence, and other factors considered for DESA selection.

Nomination Requirements

- Nominees must have earned the Eagle Scout rank through the Boy Scouts of America at least 25 years before submission.
- The nomination must state specific reasons with supporting facts, such as how the nominee has received extraordinary national-level recognition, fame, or eminence within a particular profession.
- A nominee should also have a strong record of voluntary service to his community. Such service is concurrent to a distinguished career, not in place of one.
- Service to Scouting is not required.
- Nominations are forwarded to the National Eagle Scout Association by the sponsoring Council according to published procedures. It is the responsibility of the local Council within the territory of the nominee's primary residence to submit a nomination. In cases where a nominee may maintain two residences, a nominating council must obtain written concurrence of the second council.

Special Considerations

- A time-tested policy to keep nominees unaware of their nominations works well to avoid embarrassment and disappointment. It is also not uncommon for BSA's top distinguished awards nominees to be considered more than once.
- In that same spirit, the presentation should only be scheduled after NESA has formally notified the Council of the DESA Committee's decision in writing.
- Ideally, the DESA is best presented at an event/meeting of the recipient's peers rather than a Scouting function for maximum positive effects among peers and related publicity.
- The presentation should be made within the territory of the Council, submitting the nomination and, whenever possible, by a Distinguished Eagle Scout.
- Presenting it with a Council's fundraising activity, such as a special DESA dinner, is also appropriate.

Required Documentation

- DESA Nomination Form (<https://nesa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/DESA-Nomination-Form-Fill-2024-04-09.pdf>)
- Nominee’s current CV (preferred) or detailed resume
 - Include a detailed list of awards, honors, books/articles written, or other information pertinent to the nominee’s accomplishments in the nominee’s professional field community service.
- Minimum of 3 *detailed* Letters of Endorsement (*see* “Supporting Documentation” below for more information on what should be included in a Letter of Endorsement)
- Copy of Nominee’s Eagle Scout Award (if possible – inability to include this item will *not* prevent the nomination from being considered)
- Copy of Nominee’s National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award (NOESA) (if applicable or possible – inability to include this item will *not* prevent the nomination from being considered)

Supporting Documentation

- Supporting documentation should be submitted for review with the signed application. No minimum number of pages is required for review; however, a substantial percentage of nominations are declined due to insufficient supporting materials.
- You should put forth your best effort in presenting the nominee’s complete qualifications for the award. The volunteers of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award Selection Task Force make the decision, and that decision is final.
- To render a fair decision, the DESA Selection Task Force must receive detailed information documenting the candidate’s achievements in his field and volunteer service to his community. The descriptions of the nominee’s accomplishments should be specific.
- Explain clearly the relative significance of awards and honors received by the nominee.
- Letters of endorsement should contain facts about the nominee’s achievements and recognitions. Information submitted with the nomination form should demonstrate how the candidate has “distinguished” himself from other field colleagues.

Defining Who is “Distinguished”

Their colleagues typically recognize DESA recipients as the best in their field. As evidence of distinction, these men are nationally known and have an impressive record of peer recognition. Based on the documentation provided, the DESA Selection Task Force will determine whether the candidate is worthy of the DESA. As such, it is the council’s responsibility to honor the candidate’s life work by sufficiently and thoroughly documenting his qualifications.

Timeline

Submission Period to the SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee† January 01st – June 15th
 SELAC Submission to National NESA Committee July 31st‡
 NESA National Committee Initial Eligibility Review August 1st – September 30th

NESA National Committee Reviews and Votes on Nominations..... October 1st – November 30th

National NESA Committee Notifies Council NESA Committee.....December 1st – 9th

Current Year DESA Recipients Notified and Publicly Announced.....December 10th – 14th

† The SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee accepts nominations for the DESA year-round. However, any nomination submitted on/after July 15th of each year will only be considered for the *following* calendar year (i.e., a submission made on/before July 15, 2024, will be considered for the DESA class of 2024, while a submission made after July 15, 2024, will be considered for the DESA class of 2025.

‡ If July 31st falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the nomination will be submitted to the National NESA Committee on the Friday immediately preceding July 31st (i.e., July 29th or 30th) of that year.

National NESA DESA Website

<https://nesa.org/awards-and-recognition/distinguished-eagle-scout-award/>

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

The National Eagle Scout Association established the NESAs Outstanding Eagle Scout Award (NOESA) to commemorate the Boy Scouts of America's 100th Anniversary in 2010. Since its inception, the award has become an important recognition among Eagle Scouts, recognizing their distinction, with less stringent* requirements required for the prestigious Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA).

Known by its acronym, a NOESA is approved by NESAs national award committee via nomination through a local council NESAs committee. The award is presented solely to Eagle Scouts who demonstrate remarkable achievements beyond their Scouting endeavors by excelling in their careers/vocations at local, regional, or national levels. NOESA recipients Inspire others through their positive actions, demonstrating excellence in their chosen professions, hobbies, community service, and adherence to religious beliefs. Notable past recipients include authors, explorers, television personalities, military leaders, scientists, medical doctors, academics, clergy, government officials, prominent business figures, and entrepreneurs.

The presentation of the NOESA must be conducted with the honor expected of a national-level award and preferably presented by a Distinguished Eagle Scout or other distinguished citizen. When properly presented in a dignified manner, a local Council's recognition and related publicity of NOESA recipients serves to elevate the public stature and reputation of Eagle Scouts while enhancing community goodwill.

* The DESA requires a 25-year period regarded as the minimum average time necessary to achieve fame, eminence, or distinction within a profession. Additionally, the DESA requires far more rigorous justification, documentation, and investigation before approval.

Nomination Requirements

- The nominee must be an Eagle Scout in good standing with the Boy Scouts of America and must either be registered with or have their primary residence within the boundaries of the nominating council.
- No specific timeline is required to qualify for this award after earning the Eagle Rank. Therefore, in extremely rare cases, a truly outstanding youth, such as an Olympic athlete, may be eligible for selection.
- The nominating council should retain details regarding actions and accomplishments that led to the nominee's consideration for the award. Only the data required by the nomination form should be submitted to the National Eagle Scout Association.
- Nominations must be sent to the National Eagle Scout Association by the council's designee; individuals may not submit nominations.

Special Considerations

- Each council NESAs committee may present two NOESA honors per year, with an option of awarding an additional NOESA for every 100 Eagle Scout ranks earned or a fraction of more

than 100 awards certified during the previous year. Unused allotments will not be carried over into future years.

- Nominees should not be informed of nomination; presentation should only be scheduled after NESA has provided NOESA credentials to the council. Allow two to four weeks for processing.
- Approvals are based on policies and procedures in effect when the National Eagle Scout Association receives nominations.
- The award may be presented at a meeting of the recipient’s peers or a Scouting function. The presentation should be made within the council submitting the nomination and, whenever possible, by a previous award recipient. It is appropriate that the award is presented as part of a fundraising activity.

Required Documentation

- NOESA Nomination Form (<https://nesa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NOESA-Nomination-Form-9.6.23.pdf>)
- Nominee’s current CV (preferred) or detailed resume
 - Include a detailed list of awards, honors, books/articles written, or other information pertinent to the nominee’s accomplishments in the nominee’s professional field community service.
- Minimum of 3 *detailed* Letters of Endorsement
- Copy of Nominee’s Eagle Scout Award (if possible – inability to include this item will *not* prevent the nomination from being considered)

Supporting Documentation

- Supporting documentation should be submitted for review with the signed application. No minimum number of pages is required for review; however, a substantial percentage of nominations are declined due to insufficient supporting materials.
- You should put forth your best effort in presenting the nominee’s complete qualifications for the award. The volunteers of the SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee make the decision, and that decision is final.
- To render a fair decision, the SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee must receive detailed information documenting the candidate’s achievements in his field and volunteer service to his community. The descriptions of the nominee’s accomplishments should be specific.
- Explain clearly the relative significance of awards and honors received by the nominee.
- Letters of endorsement should contain facts about the nominee’s achievements and recognitions. Information submitted with the nomination form should demonstrate how the candidate has “distinguished” himself from other field colleagues.

Timeline

Submission Period to the SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee† January 01st – October 15th

SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee Initial Eligibility Review.....October 16th – November 15th

SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee Review & Voting.....November 16th – December 15th

SELAC Submission to National NESA Committee.....December 16th‡

Current Year NOESA Recipients Notified and Publicly Announced.....January 15th – 31st

† The SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee accepts nominations for the DESA year-round. However, any nomination submitted on/after October 15th of each year will only be considered for the *following* calendar year (i.e., a submission made on/before July 15, 2024, will be considered for the DESA class of 2024, while a submission made after July 15, 2024, will be considered for the NOESA class of 2025.

‡ If December 16th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the nomination will be submitted to the National NESA Committee on the Friday immediately preceding December 16th (i.e., December 14th or 15th) of that year.

National NESA NOESA Website

<https://nesa.org/awards-and-recognition/outstanding-eagle-scout-award/>

NESA SILVER WREATH AWARD

In the mid-1970s, the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) committee established the NESA Silver Wreath Award for service to NESA. Local Councils with active NESA Committees may recognize individual leadership and/or service by committee members via the Silver Wreath Award. The award was suspended in the 1980s and reinstated in late 2023.

Guidelines for Approving Nominations

- Recipients must be a member in good standing in NESA for at least two years.
- Each Council NESA Committee may nominate two awards per calendar year. Where one of the Key Three is nominated the other two members must approve.
- No more than one of the Key Three can be nominated in a calendar year and in such cases, the individual considered from among the Key Three cannot take part in the selection process.
- The National NESA Committee may also use discretion to independently select and approve two awards per subcommittee to recognize NESA activity/service that extends beyond the local Council NESA Committee, such as within territory, and/or national levels. The National NESA Committee may also grant this award upon approval of the NESA President and does not count towards the Council allotment of Silver Wreath of the year awards.
- Nominees may earn the NESA Silver Wreath Award one time only.
- The Silver Wreath may not be granted posthumously

Required Documentation

- NESA Silver Wreath Nomination Form
(<https://nesa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Silver-Wreath-Nomination-12.27.23.pdf>)
- Proof of a minimum of 2 current years of good standing (or Life Membership) in NESA.
- Maximum of 2 Letters of Recommendation[†]

[†] Letters are not to exceed 1 page in length. Supporting letters should provide supporting evidence of worthiness to be honored with the NESA Silver Wreath Award recognition, not just personal recommendations, endorsements, or recapitulation of the nomination.

Timeline

Submission Period to the SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee[†].....January 01st – October 15th
SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee Initial Eligibility Review.....October 16th – November 15th
SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee Review & Voting.....November 16th – December 15th
SELAC Submission to National NESA Committee.....December 16th[‡]
Current Year NOESA Recipients Notified and Publicly Announced.....January 15th – 31st

- † The SELAC NESA Awards Subcommittee accepts nominations for the NESA Silver Wreath year-round. However, any nomination submitted on/after October 15th of each year will only be considered for the *following* calendar year (i.e., a submission made on/before October 15, 2024, will be considered for the NESA Silver Wreath class of 2024, while a submission made after October 15, 2024, will be considered for the NESA Silver Wreath class of 2025).

- ‡ If December 16th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the nomination will be submitted to the National NESA Committee on the Friday immediately preceding December 16th (i.e., December 14th or 15th) of that year.

National NESA Silver Wreath Award Website

<https://nesa.org/awards-and-recognition/silver-wreath-award/>