

The Silver Beaver Award

Established in 1931 and presented for distinguished service to young people within a BSA local council, the Silver Beaver Award is the highest recognition that a Council can bestow on a Scouter.

Silver Beaver Awards are presented on the basis of the number of units in a Council. To qualify for the award an individual must first be nominated and a registered adult member of the BSA; then the Silver Beaver Nominations Committee has the challenging task of reviewing all the nominations. They review the nominees' accomplishments, service to Scouting, professional associations, and service to the community at large. The committee must select those recipients who merit the honor of receiving the prestigious award. More than 50,000 recognitions have been conferred to date nationally.

Silver Beaver Awards are bestowed at appropriate local functions. This year, the Spirit of Adventure Council, Boy Scouts of America proudly recognizes the following dedicated Scouters with the Silver Beaver Award.

Mark Alaimo

Dennis Livoli

Terry Guzman

Jim Shea

Phil Heffernan

Darren Valentine



Silver Beaver Award Recipient



MARK ALAIMO

Mark began his Scouting career in 1989 as a Wolf Scout in Lawrence, MA. He earned the Arrow of Light Award in 1994 as a member of Pack 61 in Methuen, MA before crossing over into Troop 51 in Methuen, MA. Mark earned the Parvuli Dei religious emblem as a Cub Scout, then Ad Altare Dei as a Boy Scout. He then completed his Ordeal and became a member of the Order of the Arrow in 1998 at Lone Tree Scout Reservation before sealing his membership in 1999 at Camp Onway in Raymond, NH as a Brotherhood member. The culmination of Mark's youth involvement in the Boy Scout program was earning the Eagle Scout Rank in 2000 – primarily as a result of the “encouragement” he received from his family and his Scoutmaster, Paul T. Hale.

Mark has remained an active member of the Troop 51 Troop Committee since 2000 and had been involved in district activities within Yankee Clipper Council. Since 2015, Mark has served as a member of the Executive Board of the Yankee Clipper Council and the Spirit of Adventure Council. In this capacity, Mark has helped the council navigate through a complex merger and program evolution as we have advanced our innovative “base camp” model to introduce our pragmatic programs to demographics not traditionally served by Scouting. Most recently, Mark has become involved in Pack 61 Methuen as his sons have started their Scouting careers. He also serves as a Catholic religious emblems counselor.

Outside of Scouting, Mark is active with the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Lawrence, MA and the Knights of Columbus. Mark recently served two terms as Grand Knight of Saint Monica Council 14725 in Methuen and two terms as Faithful Navigator of the Father James B. O'Donnell, OSA Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly in Lawrence, MA.

Professionally, Mark is a Certified Public Accountant, a Personal Financial Specialist, a Certified Financial Planner, and an Accredited Estate Planner. Currently, he serves as a Principal with Lopez, Chaff and Wiesman Associates, where he provides accounting, taxation, business and personal financial planning services to a diverse client base of small business owners and successful families.

Mark and his wife Meredith make their home in Methuen, MA with their four children – Julia, Dominic (Wolf), Peter (Lion), and Paul.

Silver Beaver Award Recipient



TERRY GUZMAN

Terry's Scouting journey began as a Kindergartener with the Girls Scouts in East Boston. She went on to be a Scout, and a Junior. When the last of the Girl Scouts leaders moved out of state, the program ended. She watched as some of her younger brothers became Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Her involvement in Scouting returned when her son Josh entered Kindergarten himself. He started asking her to join Cub Scouts that year. She spent the rest of his Kindergarten year telling him, "Not Yet." He spent the year telling her he wanted to become an Eagle Scout. She signed him up the day after school ended.

Terry's Scouting leadership journey started as a Tiger Parent. She then became a Den leader. When Terry's daughter became interested in Venturing, Terry took on a Crew Advisor role.

Council spoke to the Guzman's about starting a Scoutreach Unit serving the neighboring community of Chelsea. With no hesitation, Terry said yes. The need was great, but so has been the rewards. Starting with 4 Cub Scouts, that group has now grown to 16 Cubs and the Troop has grown from 4 to 18.

The first year of STEM camp at Camp Sayre, Terry was asked to volunteer one day as a Den Leader. She ended up volunteering the entire week. Two years later, she and her husband agreed on taking the role of Co-Directors for the Cub Scout STEM camp, which they have done every year since. Her involvement in STEM camp also led to her running the Cub Scouts STEM program at the sadly rained out SOAR 2016 and the Cambridge STEM day camps.

Her Scouting adventure continues as her son is now close to completing his Eagle project; and she has 16 kids in the pack, a third of them female. She continues to be amazed at these boys and girls, and what they will come up with next.

Terry is a Paraprofessional for the Everett Public School system. She works in a sub separate classroom with children on the Autism spectrum. She is also a teacher for 5 to 9-year old children in her church's Generations of Faith religious program. She is also a band parent for the Everett Marching Band, and is active in the PTO.

Silver Beaver Award Recipient



PHIL HEFFERNAN

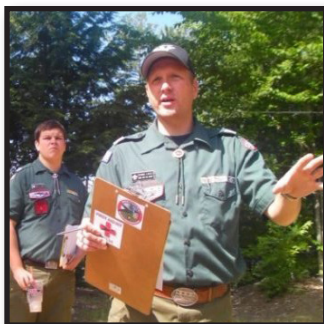
Phil Heffernan's Scouting career began over 25 years ago as a Cub Scout in Pack 212 Chelmsford. He crossed over to Troop 74 Chelmsford, earned the rank of Life Scout, and served on the Wah-Tut-Ca Scout Reservation staff in Frontier. When Phil aged out in 2002, he stayed on with Troop 74 as an Assistant Scoutmaster. He spent a number of summers as an adult leader for the troop at camp, and provided support on monthly camping trips. Phil now Scouts as an Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 7 Lowell and as a Unit Commissioner for the West Wind District.

Beyond his troop and district responsibilities, Phil's enduring love of summer camp led him to other roles supporting the camping program. Elected into the Order of the Arrow in 1998, and currently a Brotherhood member, Phil often assists on Ordeal weekends behind the scenes or working with the candidates completing their induction. Phil was also a member for six years of Wah-Tut-Ca's Property Maintenance committee. He could often be found assisting with work projects or working in the kitchen. The Chelmsford Day Camp has enjoyed Phil's support and service for over a decade. Although now in an administrative support role, Phil had usually worked with Cub Scout campers in the Webelos skill area. Phil is a tireless promoter of day camp, visiting Packs each winter and spring to encourage registration for summer camp.

One can regularly "Spot the Heff" at council program events. He is a reliable volunteer for weekends at Lone Tree Scout Reservation, New England Base Camp, or any one of the many community satellite program locations. Though he can still channel that Frontier staff member from the late 1990's and teach most any outdoor skill to a Cub Scout, it is fairly common to find him supervising a BB, Archery, or Tomahawk range. Phil also provides assistance in a Scout's journey to Eagle Scout, regularly sitting on West Wind District Eagle Scout Boards of Review and also attending Eagle Scout Courts of Honor as a council representative.

Phil has previously been awarded the District Award of Merit and the Distinguished Commissioner Service Award. When not Scouting, Phil likes to read and to spend time with his family.

Silver Beaver Award Recipient



DENNIS LIVOLI

Dennis Livoli's life-long journey on the Scouting road began with one simple statement from his mother, "I'm signing you up for Scouts". That was 1982. Joining initially with Pack 55 of Billerica where he grew up, Dennis moved on to join Troop 11 and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1992. The members of Troop 11 elected Dennis to the Order of the Arrow, where he held several positions and was bestowed the Vigil Honor in 1998.

The true highlight, and love of Dennis' journey began in 1989 at Camp Wah-Tut-Ca when at the end of his troop's week two staff members and his Scoutmaster walked him into the camp director's office where he was hired for Staff. Over the course of the next 12 summers, Dennis worked at the Waterfront, Frontier, and as Camp Commissioner, Aquatics Director, and Camp Director. Dennis never really left after that: eighteen more summers assisting the office of the Camp Director wherever needed and mentoring staff from all over the reservation but never straying too far from the Waterfront. Dennis returned to be Camp Director two more times over the years and then Waterfront Director again in 2017. Dennis currently serves as Council Aquatics Committee Chair.

In 1999, Dennis was invited to join the National Camping School aquatics staff. Dennis has taught new aquatics directors for 20 years, including this year. Dennis left the school to join us this evening and will return to teaching the future in the morning. Dennis was also part of the National Camp School delegation to the Transatlantic Council in 2012 held in Germany. He was invited, and returned in 2014, to Normandy France to assist the Transatlantic Council with the Normandy Jamboree honoring the 70th anniversary of D-Day. In addition to camp school, Dennis served on the 2013 National Jamboree Staff at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

None of this would be possible without the love and support of his family. Dennis is supported by his wife, Kelly, and their three children, Zakari (a current staff member at Wah-Tut-Ca), Kody, and Ella. Dennis' family extends to the "friends and brothers" of Northwood. Their love and support does not go unnoticed.

Professionally Dennis is a Lieutenant Firefighter-Paramedic with Derry NH Fire Department. He is also an active member and supporter of The Key Foundation.

Silver Beaver Award Recipient



JIM SHEA

Jim Shea was raised in Belmont Massachusetts in a household with ten siblings. He never had the opportunity to experience scouting as a youth, but it is clear to him now that the patrol method was utilized quite effectively by his parents to maintain a manageable level of chaos within their crowded household. Jim's first exposure to scouting came when his wife Jean returned from a meeting to sign their son Zach up for Cub Scouts and proclaimed that she had somehow volunteered herself to be Zach's Den Leader, to which Jim's responded, "Good luck with that."

After a year of providing moral support for Jean, Jim volunteered to be treasurer for Pack 28 in Dunstable, and even began to participate in a few Den and Pack meetings. When Zach crossed over to Troop 28, Jim registered as an Assistant Scoutmaster and began to help with troop activities. The Scoutmaster convinced Jim to come to Camp Wah-Tut-Ca for a few days that first summer, and he was hooked.

After a little more than a year as Assistant Scoutmaster, Jim volunteered to take on the role of Scoutmaster for Troop 28. During his tenure as Scoutmaster, the troop grew to 45 scouts and averaged 4 Eagle Scouts per year. In his years as Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster, Jim helped the scouts organize high adventure treks to Philmont, Sea Base, Maine High Adventure, Northern Lights High Adventure, and hiking a section of the Long Trail in Vermont.

After three years as Scoutmaster, Jim returned to the role of Assistant Scoutmaster and continued to help with Troop activities and mentor scouts pursuing Eagle Rank. During this time Jim began to become involved in the Greater Lowell (later West Wind) District, where he has served as Unit Commissioner, a member, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Advancement Committee, and is currently the Vice Chair of the Council Advancement Committee. In addition to the positions he has held, Jim has provided support in many ways including FOS presentations, leading Merit Badge Sessions at the STEM Merit Badge College, instructing multiple University of Scouting classes, and training staff at Wah-Tut-Ca and Storer.

Jim has a BS and MBA from Babson College and has spent the bulk of his career in software development, providing donor management systems for nonprofit organizations. He lives in Groton Massachusetts with his wife, Jean, and has two adult children, Zachary (Eagle Scout) and Meredith.

Silver Beaver Award Recipient



DARREN VALENTINE

Darren was in Cub Scouts until 1978 when his family moved from Norwood to Westwood. Unfortunately they didn't get involved with a Troop in their new town. It wasn't until his son Cameron joined Cub Scouts that he became a Scouter. At that time he was asked to be a member of the Pack Committee and to be in charge of the meeting facility as he was a member of the Board of Trustees for their Chartered Organization.

It was after Cameron crossed over into Troop 3 Westwood that Darren's involvement really took off. "I remember attending Cameron's first Court of Honor with the Troop. I didn't really know what was going on, and next thing I know I hear my name called to the stage and they hand me an Assistant Scoutmaster patch. I remember thinking 'I guess I need to get a tan shirt.'"

That was in 2011. Since that time, Darren has attended a Wood Badge course, staffed a Wood Badge course, staffed multiple NYLT courses, attended multiple Course Directors Conferences, and served as an NYLT Course Director. Having been inducted into the Order of the Arrow, he is now a Vigil Honor member. Darren was an Associate Lodge Advisor with Moswetusetts and Pennacook Lodges and attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference in 2015.

Currently, Darren is the Scoutmaster for Troop 3 Westwood. Darren can be found at Troop 3 Westwood, Pack 1 Westwood, Crew 42 Quincy where his daughter Cassie is a member of the Crew, Pennacook Lodge and NYLT events...unless he is at a hockey rink for one of his daughter's events.

Darren resides in Westwood with his wife Noreen, his son Cameron, an Eagle Scout, his daughter Cassie and his rescued dog, Valentine (she came with the name). Darren has been in the Employment Industry for over 30 years and is currently the Vice President of NEED Personnel Placement in Norwood.