

THE LILY PAD!

PROVINCIAL AWARDS NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019



Awards – Make it Happen! *Joy Andersen Provincial Awards Adviser*

“Awards”. What comes to mind when you hear this? Is it that “feel good” tingle reminding you of an award you have received, or is it a let down feeling because you have not been recognized for the extra work you put into Guiding? Or, maybe the first thought is the “auk I have to write the reference letter that I promised”. After talking to Guiders over the past few months I realize there are many responses to “AWARDS” but wouldn’t it be nice if everyone’s first response was the “feel good tingle”?

It has been my experience that every Guider in every area does the best she can for the girls. Remember we are all volunteers who have varying amounts of time, skills and experience to offer. Giving Guiders a pat on the back through formal or informal awards can often help to make their volunteer time easier.

I have also been thoroughly impressed by many, many Guiders and what they do in Guiding. They enrich the lives of the girls and their fellow Guiders. Shouldn’t they be acknowledged for the extra work they put into our organization?

Whose job is it to make sure awards for deserving Guiders happen? The answer is easy. It’s all of our responsibility. Each of us knows someone who deserves an award. Nominate them. It is not a difficult process. Ask your Area Awards Specialist or send me an email at awards@bc-girlguides.org.

Make someone happy. Make someone experience a “feel good tingle”!

Upcoming dates to remember!

February 15th

- **Adult Scholarship, Bursaries, Grants** deadline for submission.
- **Awards submissions deadline** for awards being reviewed at the *provincial* level. This is for awards being presented to the recipient after May 1st. National Award submissions can take 4 to 6 months to get reviewed.

March 15th

Youth Scholarship and Bursaries deadline for submissions.

March 15-17th

Area Awards Advisers meeting
Provincial Office

May 4th

Provincial Annual General Meeting and Awards Presentations at the new Provincial office.

FAQ's *Vicky Ford*

I've been asked to provide a letter – what should I write about?

Typically, you would write a letter as though you were writing a reference for someone – how they have impacted the Guiders and girls they work with, how they have gone above and beyond the requirements of their position, how they demonstrate their commitment to Guiding values and the promise and law. Give specific examples and describe their personal qualities.

Which award nominations are reviewed at the Area level?

Unit Guider Awards, Commissioner Award, BC Guider Appreciation Award, Thanks Pins, Bronze, Silver, and Gold Merit Awards.

How long does it take for an award nomination to be reviewed?

Plan ahead! It can take a minimum of 2 months for awards to be reviewed at the Provincial level; Medal of Merit, Book of Honour. For National Awards; Honourable Life Membership, Fortitude Award, and the Beaver Award can take 4 months to review. Check with your Area for their timelines for their submissions.

Who is responsible for ordering the award pins?

The committee that is presenting the award is responsible for ordering the pins from National. Keep in mind that it may take several weeks to receive the pins. The Book of Honour pins are supplied by the Provincial Awards Committee and the BC Guider Appreciation pin can be ordered through the provincial office.



Scholarships, Grants, Bursaries *Thilini Leitan*

Thinking about funding your educational pursuits can be overwhelming and challenging. There are many things that go into planning for one's education and often applying for bursaries, grants and scholarships ends up at the bottom of the to-do list. I would strongly encourage you and the girls in your units to dedicate time to applying. The financial benefits that come from receiving a scholarship can really help with your future. Here are some tips and advice that may be helpful.

1. Don't procrastinate! Look at the application early and be mindful of the deadlines for submission. Dedicate time to reading the requirements thoroughly to be well prepared.
2. Most applications require references from people you know. Planning in advance allows you to pick someone who will give you a great reference. It also gives the person time to develop a detailed and well thought out reference for you.
3. Keep a running list of your accomplishments and experiences either in hard or soft copy. This provides you with something to refer to when you are writing a personal statement or when answering questions in a scholarship application.
4. Follow the instructions exactly. Sometimes those applying for scholarships don't follow the instructions indicated or answer all the questions on the application which causes them to be disqualified. Even if you feel a question doesn't apply to you, answer it and explain why the question isn't applicable. Also, word counts are there for a reason, follow them and ensure your references do so as well.

Good luck with your application!

BC Book of Honour (BOH) *Christine Tessier*

The Book of Honour is a personal and lasting form of recognition that was created by BC Council to recognize outstanding BC Guiders and girls who exemplify the spirit of Guiding through keeping the Promise and Law.

The Book of Honour helps to fund the BC Bursary of Honour which is presented each year to one BC member graduating from Grade 12.

Each recipient of the BOH receives a presentation folder containing her photo and a personalized tribute to her involvement in Guiding. The support letters, submitted with the application form, provide the content for the tribute. Pages with identical content are included in the area specific travelling binder and in the current archival binder.

The current application form is available on the BC Girl Guides website. The form must be completed and submitted with a minimum three letters of support and a total of at least \$100 collected from individuals. The application should be sent to the area awards adviser or area commissioner for approval. The application cannot be processed without the signatures of the nominator as well as the area awards adviser or area commissioner. Please allow a minimum of three months for processing of this award. **Please save an electronic or hard copy of the application and support letters in case of loss.**

If possible, please submit three photos with the application form. The photos should be a head and shoulders shot of the award recipient, in uniform if possible. If the three photos have not been submitted with the application form, please take the photo when the award is presented. Place one in the recipient's presentation folder and forward two copies to the provincial office indicating the name of the recipient and clearly mark the envelope with Book of Honour. Photos can be submitted electronically to the email address listed below.

A list of donors who have submitted more than \$10 and have requested income tax receipts should be submitted to the provincial office. Be sure to include names, mailing address and amount donated.

If you have any questions please send an email to bookofhonour@bc-girlguides.org



Congratulations Erin DeBruin on receiving the Medal of Merit! Erin has been a great asset to the Provincial Camp Committee; training Adventure Trip Leads and guiders for back country adventure trips and expeditions, and developing Trex Rendezvous.

Erin was key in the InReach program implementation. She pushed for a province-wide emergency number leading to the BC 1-800 emergency number.