

Award and Judging Criteria

The NOESA in the National Capital Area Council

The National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) Outstanding Eagle Scout Award (NOESA) was introduced in 2010, during Scouting's Centennial year. The award honors Eagle Scouts who have excelled on a local, state, or regional level and is the regional counterpart to Scouting's national-level Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA). NESA is Scouting's Eagle Scout alumni organization, founded in 1972.

The NOESA does not require recipients to be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America. They are instead Eagle Scouts who have achieved extraordinary success in professional and civic life, and they serve as Scouting's finest examples of good men.

The volunteer and professional leadership of the National Capital Area Council (NCAC) aggressively seeks nominees for each year's NOESA Class. The preliminary selection of all NOESA recipients nationwide is always at the local council level, after which the selections are carefully reviewed and then awarded as national recognitions from the Boy Scouts of America. Local council approval goes through the NESA Committee Chairman—in NCAC this committee is called the "Gathering of Eagles" (GOE)—along with the Council President and the Council Scout Executive. For more information on the Gathering of Eagles, please e-mail GOEinfo@scouting.org.

The National Capital Area Council's NOESA judges select honorees based on the following judging criteria:

- Service to Scouting or within the Scouting community is not the purpose of the award. A significant number of Eagle Scout nominees have noteworthy involvement as Scouting volunteers. Great weight is given to candidates whose nominations reflect the specific NOESA criteria of "achievements outside of Scouting," "peak of their notoriety," "prominence at the state or regional level," "long-term impact" and "cornerstones of the community." Major state and regional sustained professional achievement at the top of a candidate's field along with significant "avocational" distinction (which in some cases involves Scouting service) distinguishes selectees from non-selectees.
- The award of the NOESA in NCAC should never become an expectation for "super Scouters" or given as a "second Silver Beaver Award."
- Younger candidates are especially welcome, specifically addressing the criteria to "elevate the stature of Eagle Scouts in the public's eye." However, candidates are not selected because they are outstanding young men who have recently received the Eagle Scout Award. The least number of years between the Eagle Court of Honor and receiving the NOESA, in NCAC, has been twenty years.
- Eligibility for the NOESA is described at http://nesa.org/PDF/542-057_WB.pdf.
- Neither self-nominations nor nominations by parents are selected, nor are nominations where narrative addresses criteria for the Silver Beaver Award rather than criteria for the NOESA.
- Judges select only those Eagle Scouts whom they believe meet all of the criteria and celebrate the outstanding professional and civic achievement of exemplary men.

They are Scouting's, and America's, best.

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