

THE AMERICAN LEGION SCOUTING CHAIRMAN TELECONFERENCE REPORT

1. A listing of the 2014 American Legion sponsored **Boy Scout Units** within your Department information has been provided courtesy of the Boy Scouts of America and represents the reporting periods of January 31, 2014 through January 31 2015.
 - a. This information can be found at: www.legion.org/scouting.

2. In honor of Past National Commander, Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. and awarded annually to the department that has rendered the most outstanding service during the period July 31 – August 1 to the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
 - a. The **Belgrano Award** is based on the number of troops organized, strength of existing troops and general welfare of the Scout movement under Legion sponsorship within the department.

 - b. The 2015 award recipient is the Department of California.

3. Ethan Cople from Elkhorn, Nebraska was selected the 2015 American Legion Eagle Scout of the year and will receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the American Legion. Runners-up recipients of the \$2,500 are Michael Parker from Maryville, New York, Jacob Kelley from Cottage Grove, Wisconsin and Braeden Benedict from Ranch Palos Verdes, California.
 - a. Thirty-two applications were submitted from the following departments: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

 - b. The 2016 Nomination Form can be downloaded from our website at: www.legion.org/publications/223495/eagle-scout-year-nomination-form-2015 .

4. The American Legion National Headquarters staff continues to provide to those Scouts that attain the rank of **Eagle Scout** and **Sea Scout Quartermasters**, a **Certificate of Achievement** signed by the National Commander.
 - a. Certificates can be completed and downloaded at <http://www.legion.org/scouting> .

5. Awarded by The American Legion National Headquarters, the **Square Knot Award** is designed to recognize The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting programs.
 - a. The award consists of a gold and purple square knot, which maybe worn on the Scout uniform, certificate and congratulatory letter from the national commander of The American Legion.
 - b. 15 Square Knots have been awarded in 2015.
 - c. For more information about the award, contact my office directly our download an award brochure at:
www.legion.org/publications/160903/scouting-square-knot-award-brochure .
6. For 59 days this summer, three teenage Boy Scouts and a Vietnam veteran rode their bikes across the entire country on a mission to provide comfort for a select and important few. On Aug. 15, that mission came to a successful end, as the crew of "Bike Trip America" arrived at One World Trade Center in New York City after starting June 18 in Astoria, Ore., and pedaling 3,600 miles along the Canadian border to raise nearly \$20,000 for the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program.
 - a. For more information, see
<http://www.legion.org/operationcomfortwarriors/229567/scouts-cross-country-bike-trip-shatters-donations-goal> .
7. Res. No. 22, 2015 Nat'l Conv., Dept. Of TX, Revise Eligibility Requirements for The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year, consolidated with Resolution #46 (WA) since the two Resolutions read the same.
 - a. This resolution calls for The American Legion to support the eligibility options for the National Eagle Scout of the Year award and scholarship be modified to include being the son or grandson of a Sons of The American Legion member.
 - b. Held for further study, 2015 NEC Fall meetings.
8. The American Legion Scouting brochures will be available very soon.

Please **continue** promoting the concept of Scouting by **urging** American Legion Posts in your Department to consider sponsoring more Scouting Units. **Scouting continues to exemplify the true spirit of Americanism.**