

Northern Star Council Diversity Award: Purpose and Requirements

The Council's Definition of Diversity:

"The existence of human differences (including but not limited to race, culture, religion, gender, language, family status, economic status, physical and cognitive ability) which affect our relationships, institutions and interactions with others."



The Diversity Award was created by the Northern Star Council Diversity Committee to strengthen inclusiveness and create cultural awareness and understanding. There are four different levels of awards:

- Cub Scouts and Webelos
- Boy Scouts under age 14
- Boy Scouts age 14 and older, and Venturers
- Adults

The requirements are listed below. The award is a temporary patch which may be worn on the right pocket of a Scout uniform. A single patch design is earned for all levels, and different colored borders are used to distinguish the levels.

The symbol on the patch is the mythical Sankofa bird of West Africa. The Sankofa teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, forgone or been stripped of, can be reclaimed, revived, preserved and perpetuated.

Cub Scout Requirements:

Earn the Language and Culture Academic Pin

Attend a cultural event or faith service (other than one of your own)

Suggestions include:

- American Indian Pow Wow
- Chinese New Year
- Cinco de Mayo (Mexican, May 5)
- Demera (Ethiopian)
- Hmong New Year
- Hmong Soccer Festival
- Irish Cultural Festival at Landmark Center (St. Patrick's Day, March 17)
- Juneteenth
- Kwanzaa
- La Familia
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Multicultural Festival of Nations
- October Fest (German)
- Rondo Days
- Santa Lucia Celebration (at American Swedish Institute & other venues)
- *Syttende Mai* (Norway Constitution Day, May 17)

Visit a cultural or faith center

Journal your activities while earning the award and be prepared to discuss it if asked.

Summarize what you learned and submit it with the award application.

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Boy Scout Requirements for Scouts under age 14:

Earn the American Cultures or the Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge. (Use the most up-to-date merit badge pamphlets – currently they are the 2005 version for American Cultures and 2006 for Disabilities Awareness.)

Ancestry – Learn about your own genealogy building a family tree going back three to four generations.

Do one of the following:

- Research the cultural impact on U.S. sports of yours or another’s culture
- Research the cultural impact on U.S. music of yours or another’s culture
- Research the cultural impact on U.S. art of yours or another’s culture
- Research the cultural impact on U.S. food of yours or another’s culture.

Journal your activities while earning the award and be prepared to discuss it if asked. Summarize what you learned and submit it with the award application.

Boy Scout Requirements for Scouts age 14 and older:

All of the above for Boy Scouts under age 14, plus:

Plan and lead an activity/outing in which your troop interacts with another Scout unit, Venturing crew, or non-Scouting group of a culturally different background other than your own. (Activities might include helping special needs Scouts make their Pinewood Derby cars, doing a joint community service project, sharing meal preparations at camp, etc.).

Journal your activities while earning the award and be prepared to discuss it if asked. Summarize what you learned and submit it with the award application.

Venturer Requirements:

Ancestry – Learn about your own genealogy building a family tree going back three to four generations.

Plan and lead an activity/outing in which your crew interacts with another crew, Scout unit, or non-Scouting group of a culturally different background other than your own. (Activities might include helping special needs Scouts make their Pinewood Derby cars, doing a joint community service project, sharing meal preparations at camp, etc.).

Journal your activities while earning the award and be prepared to discuss it if asked. Summarize what you learned and submit it with the award application.

Adult Requirements:

Ancestry – Learn about your own genealogy building a family tree going back three to four generations to share with the unit with whom you are working.

Help the young persons in your unit (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts or Venturers) earn the diversity award. At least one half of the unit must earn the award.

Journal your activities while earning the award and be prepared to discuss it if asked. Summarize what you learned and submit it with the award application.