

2017 VIGIL HONOR CANDIDATES



SHAWNEE LODGE 51

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The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position or office to one or more of the following: their lodge, the Order of the Arrow, or the camping program.

Under no circumstances should tenure in Scouting or the Order of the Arrow be considered as reason enough for Vigil Honor recommendation. The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can bestow upon its members.

Vigil Honor members have an honorable tradition to uphold.

Graham W. Arnold

Eagle Scout Wyatt Arnold has been one of the most active and dedicated members of his chapter since his induction. He is a hard-working member of the ceremonial teams, performing the Pre-Ordeal, Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies sometimes all in the same weekend. Wyatt aided the Lodge by performing the Brotherhood ceremony at the Order of the Arrow Summer Camp, sacrificing his time that could have been spent participating in programs. His passion for Scouting seems to never waver, and his willingness to serve his fellow Arrowmen only grows stronger. He is a bright role model for in his Chapter and continues to work in the interest of our Lodge. For these reasons, we excitedly nominate Graham W. Arnold for the Vigil Honor.

Tony L. Arnold

Scouter Tony Arnold inspires all the Scouts in his troop and chapter to become the very best leaders they can be. He has served his district's committee in several capacities such as finance and nominating chairman, as well as District Vice Chairman. Tony has served his chapter as a ceremonial team adviser. A Scoutmaster for many years, Tony's leadership has breathed new life into his troop. He uses his position as Scoutmaster to encourage the youth of his troop to staff camporees and klondikes as a way to help further develop their leadership skills. For his selfless manner and drive to aid scouts, we humbly nominate Tony L. Arnold for the Vigil Honor.

Karl R. Aufenthie

Eagle Scout Karl Aufenthie has cheerfully devoted his time to the Order of the Arrow and the camping program. He has worked multiple years on both the council's summer camp and speciality camp staffs. Karl has stayed active in the Order of the Arrow and has served as his chapter's secretary. He has also been very active as a ceremonialist in many of his chapter's crossover ceremonies. Besides his work with the Order of the Arrow, Karl has also served his troop as Senior Patrol Leader as well as other leadership roles. For his contributions to the camping program and his leadership with heart, we enthusiastically nominate Karl R. Aufenthie for the Vigil Honor.

Anthony E. Barry

Scouter Tony Barry does everything he can to support the Scouting program. Tony serves his district as Membership Chairman and chapter as Associate Chapter Adviser. He is a pioneer member of the Certified Angler Instructor group that travels the region promoting and teaching fishing skills to all levels of Scouts. For his service, Tony has been recognized by his chapter with their distinguished arrowman award. For being a constant example of servant leadership, we proudly nominate Anthony E. Barry for the Vigil Honor.

James H. Berding

Scouter Jim Berding has demonstrated unlimited service to the Order of the Arrow, Venturing and the Scouting program. Jim has served as the Crew Advisor for his Venturing Crew, taking his crew on many camping and high adventure trips. Jim has been dedicated to helping his Chapter as the Chapter Adviser, serving as a valuable mentor to the youth leaders in his chapter. For his outstanding dedication to Venturing, the Order of the Arrow, and the Scouting program, we eagerly nominate James H. Berding for the Vigil Honor.

Ethan A. Bopp

Eagle Scout Ethan Bopp has been an incredible asset to his chapter, troop and our council's camping program. A dedicated ceremonialist, he has performed countless ceremonies since his induction to the Order. Eager for more opportunities to lead in the service of others, he became his chapter's Ceremonial Chairman, Chapter Secretary and currently serves as Chapter Chief. Ethan has served on our Council's Summer Camp Staff, providing leadership, passion and enthusiasm for Scouting. He has given greatly of his time and has shown impressive leadership skills and dedication to the Order. For his passion for leadership in the service of others, we wholeheartedly nominate Ethan A. Bopp for the Vigil Honor.

Rick C. Bopp

Scouter Rick Bopp has shown true dedication to the high ideals of Scouting. As part of his dedication to the Scouting program, he has helped to start the council's Okpik training program. In his troop, Rick has served in many positions including Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman, and Order of the Arrow Troop Representative Adviser. He also played an instrumental part in helping his cub pack succeed in all aspects. Rick was recognized with the Silver Beaver for his lifetime of service to youth. For his dedication to his troop and district, we sincerely nominate Rick C. Bopp for the Vigil Honor.

Ronald J. Byington

Scouter Jay Byington has shown unrelenting cheerful service in his quest to advance the Scouting program. Jay has supported his troop in multiple capacities and he is currently serves as his district's Advancement Chairman as well as assisting with his chapter's ceremonial team. He has also shown dedication by serving as the council's Camp Director of STEM Camp and also helped organize his district's Cub Scout One Day program. With eager hearts, we gladly nominate Ronald J. Byington for the Vigil Honor.

Patrick M. Bynum

Eagle Scout Patrick Bynum has truly shown what it means to live a life of cheerful service. While working on the council camp staff and National Youth Leadership Training staff, he has unreluctantly gone out of his way to serve his fellow staff and campers. He develops a fraternal relationship with all that he encounters in and out of Scouting. Patrick has served as a Lodge chairman and currently serves as the Lodge Treasurer. He constantly lives by the Scout Oath and Law. For all of these reasons, we firmly and proudly nominate Patrick M. Bynum for the Vigil Honor.

Carol A. Casolari

Scouter Carol Casolari has served her district and the council for many years. Carol has ensured that youth have every opportunity to earn religious awards by organizing Pope Pius XII and Ad Altare Dei award classes. She has also served tirelessly on the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the St. Louis Archdiocese where she has helped organize Catholic Encounter Weekends and Catholic Adventure Weeks. Carol has been recognized with the Bronze Pelican and St. George award for helping youth grow in their faith. For her dedicated, unwavering and cheerful service, we humbly nominate Carol A. Casolari for the Vigil Honor.

Dale M. Christiansen

Scouter Dale Christiansen is an ardent supporter of the Order of the Arrow and the Scouting program. With his support and enthusiasm for the Order of the Arrow, Dale uses his position as Scoutmaster to encourage youth members of his troop to become increasingly involved. He is currently serving his chapter as the Service Adviser, and with his assistance his chapter has seen a rebirth in their service program. Dale has been recognized with his chapter's arrowman of the year award. For his continued enthusiasm for service and his support of the Order of the Arrow, we cheerfully nominate Dale M. Christiansen for the Vigil Honor.

Benjamin J. Cunningham

Ben Cunningham has shown significant dedication to the Scouting program through his generous attitude and consistent energy. Ben demonstrated his commitment to the ideals of the Order of the Arrow with an impressive service record which includes staff positions with National Youth Leadership Training, Order of the Arrow Summer Camp, and University of Scouting. Ben has served as his chapter's Second Vice Chief and now serves as the Lodge Recording Secretary. For his committed efforts in bringing a successful program to his fellow scouts, we enthusiastically nominate Benjamin J. Cunningham for the Vigil Honor.

Jack T. Cunningham

Jack Cunningham has demonstrated his commitment to the growth of the Scouting community through his humble attitude and reliable work ethic. Jack currently serves as his Chapter's Chief and is a vital member of his chapter's Brotherhood team. He has served as a campmaster for his district. Jack has been an integral part of the National Youth Leadership Training staff for several years. For his consistent effort to improve the Scouting program, we proudly nominate Jack T. Cunningham for the Vigil Honor.

Noah M. Decker

Eagle Scout Noah Decker has been tirelessly dedicated to the Order since his induction. Noah has served his chapter as Chapter Second Vice Chief as well as Chapter Chief. He has served on Council Camp Staff as well as a ceremonialist on numerous occasions. He was recognized with his chapter's arrowman of the year award for his service. Noah fulfilled the role of chairman for the Order of the Arrow Summer Camp and helped lead a life changing week for many brothers. For his true dedication to Scouting and the Order of the Arrow, we proudly nominate Noah M. Decker for the Vigil Honor.

David A. Dubois

Scouter Dave Dubois has been involved with Scouting since he was a Cub Scout and became an Eagle Scout as a youth. He is involved in the council with the Catholic Committee on Scouting and his district as the Camping Chairman. He encourages Scouts to strengthen their leadership skills by getting involved in Camporees, National Youth Leadership Training, and Summer Camp staffs. Dave makes sure the Scouts have the opportunity to participate in trips to high adventure bases and specialty camps. For his dedication to Scouting and its participants, we eagerly nominate David A. Dubois for the Vigil Honor.

Kenneth W. Edgar IV

Eagle Scout Kenny Edgar has shown what it means to be a servant leader. In the Venturing program, he has served his District as the Vice President of Program, District President, and is currently serving as the Council Vice President of Program. He has worked on the Council Summer Camp Staff. Kenny has served on District Klondike and Camporees staffs. He has received the Greater St. Louis Area Council Venturing Leadership Award. For his unwavering service to Venturing and camping programs, we proudly nominate Kenneth W. Edgar IV for the Vigil Honor.

Kenneth J. Etter

Scouter Ken Etter has provided exemplary service to his district, the council and the camping program. A member of the council's professional staff, Ken has worked tirelessly to grow the Scouting program in his District. As a camp director, Ken revived and implemented programs that resulted in a more engaging experience for our campers. Ken has been awarded the Bronze Pelican Religious Award for his service as Staff Advisor to the council's religious committees. For his tireless devotion to Scouting and the camping program, we cheerfully nominate Kenneth J. Etter for the Vigil Honor.

Kevin J. Griffin

Eagle Scout Kevin Griffin has shown tremendous enthusiasm for the Scouting program. Kevin has served his chapter as Secretary and currently serves as First Vice Chief. He has provided leadership to his troop as their Senior Patrol Leader and his district as a Camporee Campmaster. Kevin has served on staff at National Youth Leadership Training and the Cub Scout College at STEM University. Kevin has gone above and beyond for the Scouting program and it is with our confidence in his continued service that we excitedly nominate Kevin J Griffin for the Vigil Honor.

Kathy L. Hall

Scouter Kathy Hall has worked tirelessly to provide opportunities to the youth in her community. Kathy has been a longtime Scoutmaster of her troop, and staffs her district's cub and Boy Scout Advancement Workshops. She is currently serving as the District Commissioner. Kathy has served on Wood Badge staff and has been recognized for her service to Scouting with the Silver Beaver award. In addition to her tireless record of service, Kathy has the distinction of being the first African American Female Scoutmaster. For her unfailing dedication to Scouting and the camping program, we proudly nominate Kathy L. Hall for the Vigil Honor.

Kevin F. Hennessey

Scouter Kevin Hennessey has worked tirelessly to help improve the Scouting Program. Kevin has served as a Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, and as a committee member for his troop. He has been instrumental to his chapter's ceremonial teams, helping coach ceremonial team members, as well as helping remake the regalia needed. Kevin has also distinguished himself among the Catholic Committee on Scouting as he has helped plan many Catholic Cub Days, Catholic Encounter Weekends, and Catholic Adventure weeks. It is for these reasons that we fervently nominate Kevin F. Hennessey for the Vigil Honor.

Randolph L. Kaul

Scouter Randy Kaul has a very strong love for the Scouting program and it is shown by his willingness to help in any way he can. He has served his troop as the Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Chair and Advancement Chair. Randy is currently serving his Venturing crew as their Crew Advisor. He is currently serving his District on the Protestant Committee, the Memorial Good Turn Committee and as District Venturing Advisor. For his service, his Chapter recognized him with their Chapter Distinguished Arrowman Award and his District presented him the District Award of Merit. For his enthusiastic leadership to the Venturing program and Scouting, we proudly nominate Randolph L. Kaul for the Vigil Honor.

Bennett J. Kedge

Eagle Scout Bennett Kedge has faithfully served the Order of the Arrow and the camping program. He has served his chapter as the camp promotion, service and ceremonial team chairman. During his service as a chairman Bennett has also continued to be a ceremonialist and has performed constantly at every opportunity possible. Bennett is currently serving as his chapter's First Vice Chief and has served his district as a camporee campmaster. For his unwavering and dedicated service we cheerfully nominate Bennett J. Kedge for the Vigil Honor.

James D. Kurtz

James Kurtz has dedicated himself to working continuously to improve his chapter and district. He has done so through his service as Elangomat chairman and he pushes members of his troop to be active in the Order of the Arrow. James has served on many district camporees in varying capacities including campmaster, logistics chairman and klondike staffer, continuing to serve as needed. For James' constant and dedicated service we proudly nominate James D. Kurtz for the Vigil Honor.

Frederick Lee Sr.

Scouter Fred Lee is a great role model of the Scouting way. Being a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award and his District's Award of Merit, Fred has been most dedicated to helping his troop perform to the best of its abilities. Having been a Scoutmaster for numerous years, Fred Lee has helped countless Scouts reach their goals of achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. For all of these reasons, we hastily nominate Fred Lee for the Vigil Honor.

Michael G. Lohff

Scouter Michael Lohff has been unselfishly serving the Scouting program for countless years. Under his leadership Mike has helped many Scouts to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout. He eagerly promotes the Order of the Arrow in his troop. Through his leadership, Mike has encouraged the young men of his troop to take roles in chapter and lodge positions, as well as his Scouts serving on National Youth Leadership Training staff. He has given his Scouts the chance to experience high adventure opportunities and attend summer camp every year. For these reasons we humbly nominate Michael G. Lohff for the Vigil Honor.

Ellen K. Mercante

Scouter Ellen Mercante lives a life of cheerful service through her dedication to Scouting. She has served on staff for many camporees, and is always willing to help wherever needed. She currently participates in her district's camping committee. In addition to her steadfast support of camping in her district, she also helps with district dinners, giving Friends of Scouting presentations, and bringing her cheerful and helpful demeanor wherever she goes. For her dedication to her district and the camping program we happily nominate Ellen Mercante for the Vigil Honor.

Brian H. Mischel

Scouter Brian Mischel has demonstrated transcendent service to Scouting and the Order of the Arrow. He currently serves as his chapter's adviser. Additionally, he has served as District Advancement Chairman, Unit Commissioner, and as an Assistant District Commissioner. Brian has served on National Youth Leadership Training staff. His chapter has recognized him with their Arrowman of the Year award twice. For his district service, Brian was awarded the District Award of Merit. For his loyal service to his district and chapter, we cheerfully nominate Brian H. Mischel for the Vigil Honor.

Brandon M. Norfolk

Eagle Scout Brandon Norfolk truly exemplifies the principles of Scouting and the Order of the Arrow. He has served his chapter as Chapter Secretary, two terms as Chapter First Vice Chief and is currently serving as Chapter Chief. Brandon has also been an instrumental part of his chapter's ceremonial team. He has served on numerous Camporee and Klondike staffs. Brandon has shown dedication and service to his Scouting community and to the Order of the Arrow. We proudly nominate Brandon M. Norfolk for the Vigil Honor.

Christopher S. Rackley

Eagle Scout Sean Rackley has proven himself a valuable member of the Order of the Arrow and of the Scouting program. He has served his troop as Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Order of the Arrow Troop Representative. In his Chapter he has taken leadership roles such as Brotherhood Chairman, and is currently serving as Chapter Secretary. Sean has also served on National Youth Leadership Training staff for several years. For his readiness to serve, we gleefully nominate Christopher S. Rackley for the Vigil Honor.

Austin M. Reed

Eagle Scout Austin Reed is routinely helpful, friendly, accommodating and forward-thinking. He is a master ceremonialist for his chapter's ceremonial teams. Austin is an integral part of the council's Summer Camp Staff delivering a dynamic program to Scouts and Scouters. He works cheerfully in the interest of improving his chapter and our lodge and continues to selflessly give his time in support of the values of our Scout Oath and Law and our Obligation as Arrowmen. For these reasons, we proudly nominate Austin M. Reed for the Vigil Honor.

Evan E. Searcy

Eagle Scout Evan Searcy is a significant part of his chapter and troop. Evan has served his troop as Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. He serves on his chapter's ordeal and brotherhood ceremonial teams. Evan has taken on leadership roles in his chapter serving as Ordeal Chairman, and is currently Chapter First Vice Chief. For all his continuing service his Chapter has bestowed upon him their distinguished arrowman award. For his cheerfulness of service we diligently nominate Evan E. Searcy for the Vigil Honor.

Keith S. Smith

Scouter Keith Smith has shown his love for the Scouting program through his continual and diverse efforts of giving to others. Keith has stepped up and put his whole energy into making the Scouting program successful for our youth. While serving as his district's Advancement Chair, Keith coordinated efforts to help hundreds of Scouts attain the rank of Eagle Scout. He continues to serve as an adviser to youth in his chapter, offering his advice and guidance to the officers and chairmen in all aspects of the ceremonial team process, as well as in the areas of Brotherhood Conversion and Elangomat training. For his perseverance in bringing the Scouting program to the youth of the Council, we eagerly nominate Keith S. Smith for the Vigil Honor.

Griffin C. Stoeckel

Eagle Scout Griffin Stoeckel has a contagious enthusiasm for Scouting. He is very active in his troop, inspiring excitement in younger scouts. Griffin has served on many Camporee Staffs in his District and served the lodge as an Order of the Arrow coordinator while serving on camp staff. His service and excitement for the Scouting program does not only keep him involved, but encourages other Scouts to become leaders. He has served in various positions at the Chapter, Lodge and Section levels, often holding several positions at the same time. For his dedication and willingness to lead and serve, we proudly nominate Griffin C. Stoeckel for the Vigil Honor.

Max K. Taksel-Fukushima

Max Taksel exemplifies what it means to have a cheerful spirit. Max has served his Chapter as Secretary, First Vice Chief and is currently serving as Chapter Chief. Max is an avid ceremonialist for his chapter, ensuring that the ceremonies are as good as they can be. Max has also provided remarkable leadership as a staff member for the National Youth Leadership Training Program. For his undying dedication and extraordinary cheerful spirit, we ecstatically nominate Max K. Taksel-Fukushima for the Vigil Honor.

Markell K. Tompkins

Markell Tompkins truly exhibits what it means to serve cheerfully. Markell has served his chapter previously as his chapter's secretary and Second Vice Chief before being elected to his current position as Chapter Chief. He has also served on the council's camp staff and on National Youth Leadership Training staff. Markell's enthusiasm can be seen no matter how he is serving Scouting. Whether in his troop or the Order of the Arrow. Markell's leadership and drive has restored the communication in his chapter. For these reasons, we joyfully nominate Markell K. Tompkins for the Vigil Honor.

Jesse V. Trigg

Scouter Jesse Trigg has been an integral part of Scouting for many years. She has served her troop as an Assistant Scoutmaster and Order of the Arrow Troop Representative adviser. In addition, Jesse has also served her district as advancement chairman. Jesse has been an active member of the Order of the Arrow since her induction. For her dedication to her troop and the Scouting program she has been awarded the Scoutmaster's Key and the Silver Beaver. For her numerous contributions to the youth of her district, we proudly nominate Jesse V. Trigg for the Vigil Honor.

Michele A. Wissmann

Scouter Michele Wissmann has faithfully served her troop, crew, and district. She has served her troop as a Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster, and her crew as Crew Advisor. In her District she has served as District Venturing Advisor, growing the Venturing program in her area. Michele has been an important part of the Sea Scout program in our council for several years. For her continuing service to her troop, crew and district we joyfully nominate Michele A. Wissmann for the Vigil Honor.

Bentley A. Zinselmeyer

Eagle Scout Bentley Zinselmeyer has shown profound dedication in all reaches of Scouting. Bentley has served as a chairman for his chapter's Camp Promotion and Ceremonial Team committees and is currently serving as Lodge Dues Chairman. For his District, Bentley has served on numerous Camporee staffs including serving as Campmaster. Bentley has spent his summers serving on National Youth Leadership Training Staff. In his troop, Bentley has been a role model for all Scouts having served as his troop's Senior Patrol Leader. It is with our deep gratitude for all that Bentley has done that we cheerfully nominate Bentley A. Zinselmeyer for the Vigil Honor.