



Scouting Report 2024 Mid-Winter Conference Department of Washington

I apologize for not presenting this report in person, but both my wife and I have been tied up in multiple appointments with doctors, cataract surgeries and physical therapy. Also, the continuous frequent closures of the mountain passes have been a concern.

The Department of Washington was honored to have our nominee for the prestigious American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year selected for the 2023 award. Jackson Adams of Walla Walla was a strong candidate and he has made a favorable impression on all who have met him. Although there was not an opportunity to have him receive personal recognition at the Convention in Wenatchee, he did receive his scholarship check and a durable award was sent to him. I am hoping I can arrange for him to be available for the Convention in Kennewick this year if he is home from studies at Northwestern University.

Nominations for the 2024 scholarship and award are due to the Department Headquarters not later than March 1st. Late, incomplete or non-qualifying nominations will not be considered by the selection committee. As is the case with all major scholarships, the first consideration is "Did the applicant follow instructions?" Regrettably, a significant number of nominations in the Department have failed to follow instructions. The current nomination form may be downloaded at <https://www.legion.org/publications/254137/eagle-scout-year-nomination-form>.

The American Legion Square Knot Award for adults has not been sought very frequently by Legion, Auxiliary or SAL members involved in Scouting within Washington. The last application received apparently has been lost during the Department turmoil before the suspension of the charter, so we will need to have the applicant initiate the process again. The current rigorous criteria and brochure for the award may be downloaded at <https://www.legion.org/scouting/award>.

The BSA lawsuit issues appear to be a thing of the past, though the fallout has taken its toll on the availability of Scouting for youth, especially for Cub Scouts. It appears as though most Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units and SAL Squadrons within the Department did not abandon Scouting and continue to offer this program to youth in their communities. Two Legion Posts made sure Eagle Scouts associated with them were nominated for the Eagle Scout of the Year last year. Many other Eagles associated with Posts, Units and Squadrons have not been nominated because they do not meet all qualifying criteria. We need to work on that.

I look forward to again having qualified Scouters in each District to serve on the Scouting Committee and push this fine Americanism program, the oldest in The American Legion.

Jim Davidson – Chairman

