



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I count earning BSA badges toward the Award?

- Yes, earning BSA badges are an accepted goal and activity and can be applied to the Personal Development category.

Can I count BSA or Eagle projects toward the Award?

- Yes, service projects completed with BSA are allowed to be applied to the Award areas of Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, or Physical Fitness.

Can I count a BSA camping or activity trip as an Expedition?

- Yes, trips associated with BSA can be applied to the Expedition area of the Award. In the Expedition write-up, explain how you individually planned and lead this trip. Scouts are allowed to submit camps such as Philmont and Sea Base for their Expedition trip.

Can I count my BSA leadership toward the Award?

- Yes, leadership is a value of the Congressional Award and actively being a leader in your community is encouraged. This can be applied to areas of Personal Development.

Who can be a validator for my BSA goals and activities?

- A validator should be an adult who is knowledgeable of the activities and can verify your participation. This could be a Scoutmaster or a community member who oversaw your service.

Common Scouts x Congressional Award Activities

Voluntary Public Service:

- Scouting community service projects, and Eagle Scout projects may count for this category. They should still follow the guidelines of not benefiting a religious or political organization, receiving no compensation for service, and projects benefitting the general public.
- Validators for this category can be an adult troop leader, or an adult supervisor. Fellow youth Scout leaders are not allowed.

Personal Development:

- Earning merit badges, completing Scouting or Eagle projects, etc. This category does not have the same guidelines and can be more open to interpretation.
- Validators, same as above.

Physical Fitness:

- Any physical fitness goals achieved during Scouting, or while working toward a fitness merit badge, can be applied here. This category can be more open to interpretation.
- Validators, same as above.

Exploration:

- Any Scouting trip where the participant endured independent planning and leadership. Common examples we see are camping trips, the Philmont trip, etc. Be sure the participant explains in their write-up how they independently planned and led their trip. It is understood that adult supervision and collaboration with other Scouts is natural of typical Scouting trips.
- Please note, if physical fitness goals occurred during an exploration as an activity, the participant cannot use those hours toward both the Physical Fitness category and the Exploration category, or otherwise double-dip the same activity. They can only apply activities to one category.
- Validators, same as above.