Eagle Scout Awards: Youth & Adult

Mecklenburg County Council · Eagle Scout Committee · 2026–2027

Recognitions, scholarships and nomination timelines for Eagle Scouts and adult Eagles

Key upcoming dates

- **Dec 1, 2026** NESA scholarship portal opens
- **Dec 31, 2026** Unused 2026 NOESA & Silver Wreath quotas expire
- **Jan 4, 2027** Council Eagle Project of the Year nominations due
- **Feb 1, 2027** NESA scholarships close
- **Feb 15, 2027** SAR state winners due at national
- **Feb 28, 2027** Council submits ESSPY to NESA
- **Mar 1, 2027** American Legion & VFW Scout of the Year
- **Mar 7, 2027** Celebration of Achievement, CPCC Parr Center, 2 pm
- **Mar 31, 2027** NJCOS scholarships close
- **Apr 1 – Jul 31, 2027** DESA nomination window

Youth awards & scholarships

Award	For / Level	Recognizes	Deadline	Who applies	Link
Council Eagle Scout Project of the Year (MCC)	Youth · Council	Best 2026 Eagle project in the council; feeds NESA ESSPY	Jan 4, 2027 to council NESA committee (Eagle BOR in 2026)	Eagle, parent, or registered volunteer (Scout consents)	**MCC form ↗**
NESA Adams Service Project of the Year (ESSPY)	Youth · Council → Territory → National	Exceptional Eagle project; Territory $350, National $3,500	To council by Jan 31, 2027 (NESA rule); council uploads Feb 1–28, 2027	Nominator to council; council to NESA	**nesa.org ↗**
NESA Scholarships (Cooke, Hall, McElwain, Palmer, Legacy, Tappan, Hutchinson)	Youth · National by Territory	Academic and service merit; $4,000–$50,000	Portal Dec 1, 2026 – Feb 1, 2027, 11:59 pm CT; Eagle BOR by Jan 24, 2027	Eagle Scout applies online	**nesa.org ↗**
SAR Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest	Youth · Chapter → State → National	500-word patriotic essay; $200–$10,000	State winners due at SAR HQ Feb 15, 2027; NC chapter date earlier (not published)	Eagle under 19 in 2027, to local SAR chapter	**sar.org ↗**
American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year	Youth · NC Dept → National	$10,000 national; three $2,500 runners-up	Nov 1, 2026 – Mar 1, 2027 to NC Dept HQ; Dept to National by Apr 1	Eagle Scout, packet to NC American Legion	**legion.org ↗**
NC American Legion Scouting awards	Youth · State (NC)	Eagle Scout of the Year; high-adventure trek grants up to $1,200	NC forms not posted online; follow national Mar 1	Via NC Department	**NC Legion ↗**
VFW Scout of the Year	Youth · Post → Dept → National	Eagle, Gold, Summit, or Quartermaster; $5,000 / $3,000 / $1,000	Mar 1, 2027 to a local VFW Post; Dept Apr 1; National May 1	Scout (max 18, in high school) via one Post	**vfw.org ↗**
Council Eagle Scout of the Year (MCC)	Youth · Council	Top Eagle Scout of the year; presented Mar 7, 2027	Not published on council page (unverified)	Council committee (process not posted)	**MCC page ↗**
NJCOS Vernon, Arkans & Weil Eagle Scholarships	Youth · National	Jewish Eagles with Ner Tamid or Etz Chaim emblem; $5,000 each	Oct 1, 2026 – Mar 31, 2027	HS senior emails Chairman@JewishScouting.org	**NJCOS ↗**
Distinguished Conservation Service Award (replaced Hornaday)	Youth · National	Two significant conservation projects; Eagle project can count	Rolling; no deadline published	Scout applies to conservation@scouting.org	**Scouting ↗**

Adult awards

Award	For / Level	Recognizes	Deadline	Who applies	Link
NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout Award (NOESA)	Adult · Council (NESA approves)	Notable career or community achievement; 2 per council/yr + 1 per 100 Eagles over 100	No fixed date; yearly allotment expires Dec 31; allow 3–5 weeks	Council designee only; individuals may not submit	nesa.org ↗
NESA Silver Wreath Award	Adult · Council	Service to NESA; NESA member 2+ years; 2 per council/yr	Must reach NESA within quota year; quotas expire Dec 31	Council NESA committee emails nesa@scouting.org	nesa.org ↗
Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA)	Adult · National	Extraordinary national-level distinction in a field; NOESA recipients eligible	NESA accepts Apr 1 – Jul 31, 2027	Council of nominee's primary residence	nesa.org ↗
NESA Distinguished Service Award	Adult · National	Distinguished service to NESA	Oct 31, 2027 for 2028 recognition (2026 date passed)	Email NESA national committee	nesa.org ↗
Distinguished Conservationist	Adult · National	20+ years of conservation service at regional/national level	Rolling; no deadline published	Nomination by a conservation organization	Scouting ↗
NESA Legacy Society / Life Membership	Adult · National	Membership and giving recognition (not competitive)	Rolling	Individual joins	nesa.org ↗

Notes & uncertainties

- Local council is Mecklenburg County Council (mccscouting.org). Council ESSPY deadline (Jan 4) is earlier than NESA's (Jan 31); use Jan 4 locally.
- Council Eagle Scout of the Year page lists past winners but no criteria or deadline. Territory ESSPY prize shows $300 on the council page, $350 on NESA's.
- Not verified, so not listed: NC SAR chapter deadlines (ncssar.org), NC American Legion form dates, Knights of Columbus Eagle awards, local Charlotte Eagle scholarships.
- Eagle Palms are earned, not applied for. Hornaday Awards were discontinued and replaced by the Distinguished Conservation Service Award. Links checked Nov 3, 2026.