

NEW HORIZONS DISTRICT



**GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA COUNCIL, BSA
2020 District Award of Merit
&
Spark Plug Award Recipients**

Tom Jones

Our first recipient is described as someone who “serves his Pack, Troop, District, and Council diligently.” He has been a cub scout den leader at every level of the program, and currently serves his local unit as an Assistant Scoutmaster. Our honoree has also been a member of the District Training Staff for 8 years, equipping countless leaders to be effective in their roles. He has also staffed OKPIK for several years, where he is described as always “showing his scouting spirit and passion for training.” He has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, and Program Director for NYLT, training scouts to lead their troops and crews. In the words of one of several who wrote letters of recommendation, “Wood Badge teaches us that one goal of any leader is to leave a legacy. In many special ways, this recipient has touched the lives of hundreds of scouts and their families through his important contributions to our troop.”

William Neukum

Our next recipient has been involved in Scouting in the Greater St. Louis Area Council for over 3 decades. He has served his local unit in the positions of Assistant Cubmaster, Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman, Venturing Crew Advisor, and Charter Organization Representative. In addition, he serves as a Unit Commissioner. His leadership in scouting started at home; his father is an Eagle, he is an Eagle, all of his sons are Eagles. He has led treks to Philmont, Sea Base, and Northern Tier. He has served as a merit badge counselor for at least 25 years, and has spent many a weekend helping scouts from other units succeed on the challenge courses, climbing routes, and rappelling program areas at our council camps. He has helped raise untold amounts of money for the council through his work as a Friends of Scouting trailblazer, and crew chief. Since his youngest son aged out of the program 8 years ago, he has continued to stay involved at the unit, district, and council level. In short, his unit describes him as being the center pole of their tent. In the words of one who submitted a letter of recommendation, our recipient is “a Scouting icon.”

Nelleke Maxwell

Our next recipient has been involved in scouting for over 13 years. She was a founding member of a Cub Scout Pack, and served there as a den leader before moving to a different unit. In her second pack, she served as a den leader for 3 years and Scouting for Food chair for 4 years. In her troop, she has provided leadership for various high adventure crews and uses her comfort in the outdoors to motivate scouts to challenge themselves in ways they might not have thought possible. She is a merit badge counselor, and provides leadership for several of the council's program areas requiring specialty certifications. She performs well under pressure, as shown this summer during a weather event at Northern Tier that led to multiple canoes capsizing. She assisted the remaining scout in her canoe after they became separated from the rest of the crew, leading him through appropriate steps for survival and rescue then supported the rest of the crew after they were reunited. Our recipient serves her current unit as a committee member and treasurer. In her role as treasurer, she spent untold hours unraveling years of complex records, correcting accounting issues and creating new policies and procedures to ensure the Troop's ability to operate on a solid financial footing for years to come. She volunteers her time with other units so that they may enjoy horsemanship, rock climbing, rappelling, and fishing activities, as well. Outside of scouting, our recipient is actively involved in serving youth through her work at Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis and her children's schools, and provides leadership for her neighborhood Home Owners Association.

Joseph Bradley

Our next recipient is a relative newcomer to the New Horizons district, but has over 22 years of experience in Scouting. As one author of a recommendation stated, "His experience prior to joining our district is the gift that will keep on giving for years to come." Another said "I recently saw this individual's scouting resume, and I'm impressed, but not surprised." He has served as a Den Leader, Pack Trainer, Cubmaster, Committee Member, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop OA Advisor, Merit Badge Counselor, Unit Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioner, and Associate Lodge Advisor. He cantors at his local parish, and you may have heard the dulcet tones of his voice at a roundtable or two. Outside of Scouting, he serves on the executive board of the GO! St. Louis Marathon, which encourages individuals and families in the St. Louis region to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle. GO! St. Louis serves youth through the read right and run initiative, whose goal is goal is to develop reading-proficient, community-minded and physically fit children in grades K-8 by challenging them to READ 26 books, RIGHT the community with 26 good deeds, and RUN 26.2 miles over a 26 week period. He is a physician, and serves as an Assistant Professor at Washington University's School of Medicine, sharing his knowledge and expertise with the next generation of doctors. Most recently, our recipient has not only maintained our District Roundtables amidst all of the COVID restrictions, he's grown participation significantly. He's done all this with great enthusiasm and a smile on his face, despite the devastating loss of his family's home to a fire in 2020.

Julia Lasater

Our next recipient is described as “an incredibly dedicated, hardworking, and valued member” of her troop. Despite her demanding career in the legal profession, she has found time to serve as a Den Leader, Cubmaster, Pack Committee Chair, Troop Committee Member, Troop Committee Chair, Merit Badge Counselor, and PTO President, as well as serving on the board of directors of her local library system. She also takes advantage of every training opportunity that comes her way, in order to continue producing a quality program for the youth in our District. She serves on the Council’s Committee for Special Needs Scouting, working hard to bring all that Scouting has to offer to every youth. As a prosecutor for St. Louis County, she specializes in sexual assault and child abuse cases, ensuring that those who would harm our most vulnerable citizens are brought to justice. She has held positions on the Executive Board of the Missouri Bar Association, and is a past president of the St. Louis County Bar Association. She has led the team responsible for managing the Preschool at her church as board president. In recognition of her outstanding service to the community and to the legal profession, she was appointed by Governor Parson appointed as an Associate Circuit Judge for the 21st Judicial Circuit.

Michael Hulsizer

Our final recipient has been involved in Scouting for over 40 years. He has held positions as a Den Leader, Assistant Cubmaster, Merit Badge Counselor, Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, and Venturing Crew Advisor. He has helped with the Friends of Scouting Campaign as a Trailblazer and Crew Chief. He's served as Camp Director of a Cub Scout camp for 5 years, and has been involved with the Council STEM committee, including stints at Cub Scout Nova Twilight Camp, and STEM U. He was selected as a program area lead for ScoutFest. He is an Eagle Scout, a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow, and a recipient of the Distinguished Arrowman Award. He has served as an Elangomat Advisor, a Lodge Chief, a Chapter Chief, and a Lodge First Vice. He's been to NOAC 3 times, and has completed just about every training course Scouting has to offer, often returning as a Training Staff Member. Outside of Scouting, our honoree chairs the Department of Psychology at Webster University, and will take office as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences this month. Perhaps most notably, he currently serves as Chair of the Family Friends of Scouting campaign. In this capacity, he is responsible for orchestrating Friends of Scouting presentations for more than 130 units. He actively recruits the best presenters and crew chiefs. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, he and his Friends of Scouting team were able to achieve better than 75% of the district's giving goal. As the author of one letter of recommendation puts it "He is one of the most dedicated Scouters I've ever met. I know that our district is much better off for having his leadership and volunteer efforts. For this, I believe he deserves our district's highest recognition."

2020 Spark Plug Award Honorees

Pack	303	Alicia Sheehan
Pack	304	Melinda Call
Pack	304	Jeanne Flowers
Pack	305	Joshua Brinkley
Pack	310	Eric Breitenbach
Pack	352	Eric Evans
Pack	457	Clayton Smith
Pack	496	Mark R. Thomas
Pack	621	Amy Meyer
Pack	787	Marc Tenholder
Pack	792	Amy Wolff
Pack	888	Miles Williams
Pack	781	Brian Jackson
Troop	303	Jen Hahn
Troop	313	Wendy Ludbrook
Troop	352	Sara DeKoter
Troop	352	Sara Heartlein
Troop	360	Tom Moser
Troop	603	Chris Wright
Troop	623	Richard Schuth
Troop	627	Paola Brush
Troop	631	Rich Collop
Troop	631	Neeltje Maxwell
Troop	677	Carl Altman
Troop	680	Tod Stewart
Troop	803	Lara Lewis
Troop	803	Ranjul Dayal
Troop	809	Jon Hotra
Troop	981	Matt Collier
Troop	981	Mark Siebel
Troop	496 B	Kari Frank
Troop	496 G	Kelli Brown
Camping Committee		Tom Owen
Order of the Arrow		Jim Steinbrenner

