



Introducing the CYC America 250 Scouting Awards Administered by the CYC Activities Committee

In celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States, the Connecticut Yankee Council Activities Committee is proud to introduce a special series of **America 250 Scouting Awards** for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and adult leaders. These recognitions invite Scouts and Scouters to explore America's heritage through learning, service, adventure, and civic engagement—while connecting directly with our 2026 District and Council programs.

This guide outlines the **Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts**, which appear on the following pages.

How the Awards Work

Youth Awards

- Scouts may complete **any** of the five awards—or **earn all of them**.
- Scouts who complete *all* awards earn the special **George Washington Super Award**.
- Requirements may be completed with a **patrol, troop or individual**.
- Awards may be worked on **in any order**, individually or alongside other awards.
- **Unit leaders** verify completion—no council approval or advancement entry needed. Just use the link below to order the patches.

Adult Recognition — Nathan Hale Leadership Award

- By teaching or leading one of the awards, adults qualify for the **Nathan Hale Leadership Award**. Register for the patch at the link below.
- Instructors may also order patches for any awards they helped teach.

Patch Information & Order Form

- Online Order Form Here: <https://mycouncil.ctyankee.org/Event/America250awards>
- **Cost:** \$5 per patch
- Pickup at the Council Service Center
- **First order:** on or about **March 1** (approx. 3-week delivery)
- **Final order:** on or about **June 20** (approx. 3-week delivery)

We look forward to celebrating **America's Semiquincentennial** with you and your Scouts!

Yours in Scouting,
John Hanks
CYC Activities Chair
activities@ctyankee.org

Questions? See Q&A page 11 (last page).

CYC 250TH AMERICA AWARDS

Scouts can earn any choice of the Awards number 1 to 5.
Sea Scouts can earn any 4 of the awards plus Award #6



Super Hero Award
George Washington

1.



Science & Discovery
Benjamin Franklin Award
Page 4

2.



Participation
Gen Israel Putnam Award
Page 5

3.



Diversity
James Armistead Lafayette
Page 6

4.



Youth of the Revolution
Sybil Ludington Award
Page 7



Adult Leader Award
Nathan Hale
Integrity, service, and the highest
devotion to duty.
Page 3

5.



Women of the Revolution
Abigail Adams Award
Page 8

6.



Sea Scouts
Capt. John Paul Jones
Page 9



Teaching Guide & Nathan Hale Adult Leader Award

Nathan Hale was a courageous Connecticut schoolteacher-turned-soldier who gave his life spying for the American cause during the Revolutionary War.

Patches Can be Ordered at
<https://mycouncil.ctyankee.org/Event/America250awards>

Dear Instructor,

Thank you for teaching the Connecticut Yankee Council's America 250th Anniversary Awards. These awards are locally developed learning experiences, not merit badges or national advancement requirements.

They are designed with flexibility, allowing leaders to adapt activities to their unit's program, youth ages, and available resources. The focus is on meaningful learning and participation, not rigid checklists or testing. Leaders are encouraged to integrate these awards into meetings, outings, campouts, service projects, or existing advancement work.

Worksheets for each award are provided on the following pages.

Teaching Tips

- Encourage discussion on leadership, service, and sacrifice
- Use maps, videos, documents, or scenarios
- Include hands-on or experiential activities
- Connect lessons to the Scout Oath and Law

Leaders who teach these awards qualify for the Nathan Hale Leadership Award and may order patches for the awards they instruct.

These are unit-administered awards, and patches must be ordered by the unit

John Hanks
CYC Activity Chair
activities@ctyankee.org



Benjamin Franklin Award Worksheet

Scout Name: _____

When completed, please turn in to your Unit Leader or Award Instructor.

Science & Discovery Benjamin Franklin Award

Benjamin Franklin was a curious and creative American who taught himself through reading and exploration. His inventions, experiments, and hard work proved that imagination and problem-solving can change the world.

Scouts may use work completed for any listed merit badge to help satisfy the requirements below.

1. Explore an Experiment—Date completed _____

Conduct a science experiment or hands-on demonstration and explain the results.

Merit Badge Tie-Ins: Electricity, Electronics, Weather, Chemistry, Nuclear Science, Engineering

2. Invent or Improve—Date completed _____

Design, build, or propose an invention or improvement that solves a real-world problem.

Merit Badge Tie-Ins: Engineering, Inventing, Robotics, Model Design & Building, Programming

3. Discover & Explain—Date completed _____

Research and present one of Benjamin Franklin's scientific contributions or a related modern discovery.

Merit Badge Tie-Ins: American Heritage, Science, Nuclear Science, Engineering, Communications

4. Apply Science in Service _____

Use science or technology to help others, improve safety, or benefit the community.

Merit Badge Tie-Ins: Sustainability, Energy, Environmental Science, Weather, Emergency Preparedness

Requirements may be completed as part of merit badge work, troop activities, school projects, or independent study. Unit leaders verify completion—no council approval or advancement entry required.

**General Isreal Putnam Award Worksheet****Scout Name:** _____**When completed, please turn in to your Unit Leader or Award Instructor.****Participation
General Israel Putnam Award**

General Israel Putnam was a bold Connecticut leader whose courage, determination, and decisive action earned him a reputation as one of the Revolution's most fearless commanders. Best known locally for leading the Continental Army during the harsh winter encampment at Redding, Connecticut (now Putnam Memorial State Park), his leadership reminds us that true character is shown through perseverance, service, and leading others in challenging times.

Requirements (Complete all four)

- 1. Participate in America 250 Events — Date completed _____
Take part in one or more District or Council America 250th Anniversary events, activities, or camp programs that celebrate our nation's history, heritage, or service.
 - Jan 23–25 — Saugatuck Klondike Derby at Hoyt: Winter 1776 – Scouts of the Revolution.
 - May 15–17 — Aquila District Putnam Muster
 - May 15–17 — Saugatuck STEM Camporee at Hoyt
- 2. Lead or Support a Unit Activity — Date Completed _____
Help plan, lead, or actively support a troop, crew, ship, or patrol activity connected to America's 250th Anniversary. This may include a meeting program, campfire, skills station, presentation, ceremony, or special outing.
- 3. Explore Local Revolutionary War History (Do ONE):
 - Participate in a community or town America 250 event, OR
 - Research your town's role in the Revolutionary War and share your findings with your unit, patrol, or troop.
- 4. Serve Your Community* — Date Completed _____
Participate in a community service project that demonstrates leadership, teamwork, or responsibility. Service may be completed with your unit, school, church, or community organization.

Scouts may complete these requirements individually, as patrols, or as a unit. Unit leaders verify completion. No council approval or advancement reporting is required.

*Rank or merit badge service projects as well as unit organized service projects can be used to meet this requirement.

**James Armistead Award Worksheet****Scout Name:** _____**When completed, please turn in to your Unit Leader or Award Instructor.****Diversity**
James Armistead Lafayette

James Armistead Lafayette was an enslaved African American who played a decisive role in the American Revolution by serving as a double agent for the Continental Army. His intelligence directly contributed to the American victory at Yorktown. After the war, with the support of the Marquis de Lafayette, he gained his freedom. His story reminds us that America's independence was achieved through the contributions of people from many backgrounds—often without recognition or equal treatment.

Award Requirements (Complete all four)

- 1. Learn & Discuss Research James Armistead Lafayette and share three key facts about his role in the Revolutionary War, including the risks he took.
- 2. Explore Diverse Leaders Research one Black or Native American contributor from the Colonial or Revolutionary era and explain their role and significance.
- 3. Act with Inclusion & Service Participate in a service or leadership activity that promotes inclusion, respect, or teamwork. Reflect on how it helped others.
- 4. Share the Story Create and share a brief presentation, display, reflection, or digital project highlighting three Revolutionary-era contributors from different backgrounds.

Suggested Eagle-Focused Path

Scouts working on **Citizenship in the Nation**, **Citizenship in Society**, and **Communications** can complete most or all James Armistead Lafayette Award requirements simultaneously through thoughtful planning and reflection.

This award complements—but does not replace—any merit badge requirements. Unit leaders verify completion. No council approval or advancement reporting is required.

**Sybil Ludington Award Worksheet****Scout Name:** _____**When completed, please turn in to your Unit Leader or Award Instructor.****Youth of the Revolution
Sybil Ludington Award**

Sybil Ludington was just 16 years old when she rode through the night to warn local militia of an approaching British force—covering nearly twice the distance of Paul Revere. Her actions demonstrate that age does not limit leadership, courage, or impact. Young people played critical roles in the American Revolution, often taking real risks to support their families, communities, and the cause of independence.

Award Requirements

(Complete any FOUR or more)

- 1. Study Sybil's Ride Research Sybil Ludington's ride and explain why it mattered and the challenges she faced.
- 2. Youth in Action Learn how young people helped during the Revolution and share one example.
- 3. Map & Movement Trace Sybil Ludington's route (or another messenger route) and discuss why speed and communication were important.
- 4. Communication Under Pressure Take part in or lead a distance-communication activity and reflect on its challenges.
- 5. Leadership Through Service Complete a service or leadership activity showing initiative and responsibility.
- 6. Compare Revolutionary Youth Research another young Revolutionary-era figure and compare their role to Sybil Ludington's.
- 7. Present the Story Create a brief presentation, reflection, or digital project on youth contributions during the Revolution.
- 8. Modern Parallel Identify a modern example of youth leadership and connect it to Sybil Ludington's actions.

Activities may be completed individually or as a group. Unit leaders verify completion. No council approval or advancement reporting is required.

**Abigail Adams Award Worksheet****Scout Name:** _____**When completed, please turn in to your Unit Leader or Award Instructor.****Women of the Revolution
Abigail Adams Award**

Abigail Adams was a powerful voice during the American Revolution—an advocate for education, equality, and civic responsibility. Through her letters, leadership at home, and influence on early American leaders, she helped shape the values of the new nation. Her call to "Remember the Ladies" reminds us that women played essential roles in America's founding, even when their contributions were often overlooked.

Award Requirements (Complete ANY THREE)

- 1. Research Women of the Revolution Research one woman who contributed to the Revolutionary cause and explain her impact on her family, community, or the nation. Examples: Abigail Adams, Phillis Wheatley, Sybil Ludington, Molly Pitcher, Martha Washington, Deborah Sampson, Ona Judge.
- 2. Interpret "Remember the Ladies" Create a short written reflection, presentation, or digital project explaining what Abigail Adams meant by "Remember the Ladies" and why the message still matters today.
- 3. Historical Skills & Responsibilities Explore one responsibility commonly carried by women during the Revolutionary era (such as managing households, producing goods, communication, or supporting military efforts) and explain its importance.
- 4. Recognize Women Leaders Today Identify a woman who demonstrates leadership or service today (in your family, school, community, or unit) and explain how her actions reflect the values Abigail Adams championed.

Activities may be completed individually or as a group. Unit leaders verify completion. No council approval or advancement reporting is required.

**Captain John Paul Jones Sea Scout Award Worksheet****Scout Name:** _____**When completed, please turn in to your Unit Leader or Award Instructor.****Sea Scouts of the Revolution
Captain John Paul Jones Award**

Captain John Paul Jones is remembered as the father of the United States Navy. During the American Revolution, he led daring naval missions, demonstrated exceptional seamanship and leadership, and famously declared, "I have not yet begun to fight!" His courage, discipline, and mastery of the sea helped establish America as a maritime nation—values that continue today in Sea Scouting.

Award Requirements (Complete all four)

- 1. Seamanship & Navigation Demonstrate a Sea Scouting skill related to navigation, piloting, sailing, or ship handling (charts, bearings, knots, rules of the road, or underway operations).
- 2. Maritime History & Leadership Research one naval action, voyage, or leadership decision of John Paul Jones and explain how it reflects leadership, teamwork, and perseverance at sea.
- 3. Safety & Readiness Participate in or lead a maritime safety activity such as man-overboard drills, emergency procedures, weather awareness, or vessel safety checks.
- 4. Service on the Water Take part in a service project that benefits waterways, marinas, vessels, or the maritime community (cleanups, maintenance, safety education, or support of a Sea Scout ship).

Sea Scout Advancement Tie-In

Activities for this award may also count toward Sea Scout advancement, as approved by the Skipper or Mate.

- Ordinary: Basic seamanship, navigation, safety, and service
- Able: Advanced boat handling, navigation, safety drills, and leadership
- Quartermaster: Planning and leading maritime activities, navigation, and community service

Leader Note: This award complements—but does not replace—rank requirements. Unit leaders verify completion.



George Washington Super Award Worksheet

Scout Name: _____

Scouts BSA Earn 1 to 5 awards.

Sea Scouts any 4 of the 1 to 5 plus #6.

When completed, please turn in to your Unit Leader or Award Instructor.

Date Earned _____



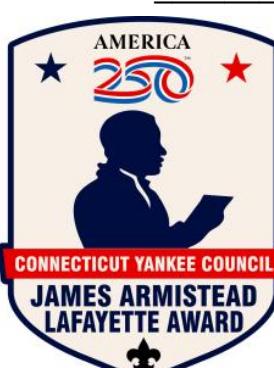
Science & Discovery
Benjamin Franklin Award
Celebrates 250 Years of Nature, Science, and Exploration

Date Earned _____



Participation
Gen Israel Putnam Award
Tie-in to District & Council 250th Events

Date Earned _____



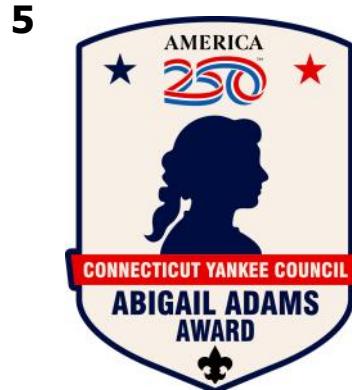
Diversity
James Armistead Lafayette
Highlighting Native and African American contributions to the

Date Earned _____



Youth of the Revolution
Sybil Ludington Award
Explore the courage and contributions of youth in the American Revolution

Date Earned _____



Women of the Revolution
Abigail Adams Award
Honoring the women whose courage and leadership shaped America

Date Earned _____



Sea Scouts
Capt. John Paul Jones

Getting Started — Scouts BSA America 250 Awards

1. **Select one or more awards** that fit your troop's program, outings, or advancement goals.
2. **Appoint a registered adult or youth leader** to coordinate instruction and activities.
3. **Review the requirements and worksheets**, adapting activities to your troop's schedule and resources.
4. **Integrate activities** into meetings, campouts, service projects, or alongside related merit badges.
5. **Troop leaders verify completion**—no council approval or advancement entry required.
6. **Order patches** through the provided link for the number earned.
7. These awards are designed to be **flexible, youth-led, and easy to run** while enhancing your troop's existing program.

Getting Started — Scouts BSA America 250 Awards (Youth-Led)

1. PLC selects one or more awards to include in the troop's program plan.
2. Senior Patrol Leader assigns youth leaders to help plan and lead activities.
3. Youth leaders review the requirements and worksheets, with adult advisors providing guidance as needed.
4. **Activities are led by Scouts

CYC America 250 Scouting Awards — Q & A
Patches Can be Ordered at
<https://mycouncil.ctyankee.org/Event/America250awards>

Q: Do we need to submit paperwork or worksheets to earn the patches?

A: No. Unit leaders verify completion. No council approval or advancement entry is required. Use the ordering link to purchase patches.

Q: Who may teach the award requirements?

A: These are unit-administered awards. Unit leaders may appoint instructors; council approval is not required. Instructors must be registered leaders and current with all **Safeguarding Youth Training** requirements.

Q: Should units identify who the award instructors are? Can one instructor teach multiple awards?

A: Yes, we recommend units clearly identify award instructors. An instructor may teach **one or all** of the awards. Worksheets in this packet should be provided to participating Scouts.

Q: How do instructors earn the Nathan Hale Adult Leadership Award?

A: Simply by teaching or mentoring the awards. The unit or instructor may order the patch—no council approval required.

Q: How do instructors receive the award patches they taught?

A: When the unit places its patch order, the person submitting the order should include any instructor patches needed for awards taught.

Q: Can youth leaders be instructors?

A: Unit Leaders can appoint older Scouts to be instructors.

Q: How are patches ordered?

A: Patches are ordered through the provided link. Units **order only the quantity needed**—no individual names or paperwork are required. Completion is verified by the unit. **Patches must be ordered by the unit; individual orders are not accepted.**

Q: Do you keep patches in stock?

A: No. Patches are produced based on orders received. Please order by the dates below:

- **First Order:** On or about March 1 (approx. 3-week delivery)
- **Final Order:** On or about June 20 (approx. 3-week delivery)

Q: How was the \$5 patch fee determined?

A: To make these patches true collectibles, we are using the **official national logo**, which requires licensing fees. Additional costs include production, tariffs, and processing fees.

Q: Are the award requirements flexible?

A: Yes. The awards are designed to be flexible and adaptable to unit programs, youth ages, and available resources. The focus is on meaningful learning and participation—not rigid checklists or testing. Awards may be integrated into meetings, outings, campouts, service projects, or existing advancement work.

Q: Who should we contact with questions?

A: John Hanks at activities@ctyankee.org.