



## PRESS RELEASE

### Scouting America, Longhouse Council Recognizes Service by Awarding Silver Beaver and District Award of Merit



Syracuse, NY — [June 26, 2025] — Scouting America, Longhouse Council hosted its Annual Recognition Dinner, celebrating the exceptional service of Scouters from across the region. The evening highlighted the impact of volunteer leadership in strengthening the Scouting experience for thousands of young people.

The prestigious Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor a council can bestow on a volunteer for distinguished service, was awarded to Tom Cooney and Bill Thieke for their long-standing commitment and exceptional service to Scouting at the council level.

Additionally, the District Award of Merit, recognizing outstanding service to district-level Scouting, was presented to John Hai, David Aitken, and Darcie Velez for their contributions to their respective service areas.



“These individuals represent the best of what Scouting is all about,” said CEO Edwin Theetge. “Their leadership, generosity, and dedication to serving youth have left a lasting mark on our council and communities.”

About Scouting America, Longhouse Council

The Longhouse Council serves thousands of youth across Central and Northern New York, delivering programs that build character, teach responsibility, and instill lifelong skills. Through the Scout Oath and Law, Scouting America prepares young people for a lifetime of ethical leadership and service. For more information about Scouting programs in Central and Northern New York, visit [www.CNYScouts.org](http://www.CNYScouts.org).

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