

Training Award Varieties

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Changes from Version 11.0 are annotated in blue.



Scoutmaster's/Scouter's Key



Key

The Boy Scouts of America began to recognize adult leaders who completed specified training and service in 1927 with the introduction of the **Scoutmaster's Key**, which recognized Scoutmasters who completed a five-year plan of training and service.¹ In 1932 the **Scouter's Training Award** recognized those Scouters other than Scoutmasters who completed the five-year plan.² The **Skipper's Key** was approved in December 1939 and phased out in 1948 (but reinstated in 2002).³

In 1948 the **Scouter's Key** replaced the Scoutmaster's Key. The only design change was from a First Class to a universal emblem device on the Key. It could be earned by Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Senior Scout Advisors and Commissioners. The Five-Year Training Plan was changed to the Three-Year Training Plan. At the same time, the Scouter's Training Award was renamed the Scouter's Award, and the design changed from a V to an A background. This was needed since the V stood for the Five-Year Training Plan.⁴ Since the Scouter's Award was changed back to Scouter's Training Award in 1954, I will call it the STA throughout.⁵

Prior to 1956, Den Mothers earned the Scouter's Training Award. In May 1956 the **Den Mother's Training Award** was established. In 1967 women were allowed to serve as Cub Scout committee members, and men were allowed to serve as den leaders (a new term). Accordingly, the **Den Leader's Training Award** was established, though men could not earn it until September 1969 due to the tenure requirements. Similarly, that year the new position of Den Leader Coach was established, and the **Den Leader Coach's Training Award** was established, but could not be earned until September 1969 (*Scouting*, Feb. 1969). These were both replaced by the **Den Leader Award** and **Den Leader Coach's Award** in 1988. In 2012 the DLTA was reinstated for all den leaders.

Illustrated below are the basic forms of the awards:



Scouter's Training Award 1932-48



Scouter's Training Award 1948-55



Scouter's Training Award 1956-Present



Den Leader's Training Award 1956-88



Den Leader's Training Award 2012-Present



**Den Leader
Coach's Award
1956-88**



**Skipper's Key
1939-41+**



**Skipper's Key
?-1948**



**Skipper's Key
2002-Present**



1928 Scoutmaster's Key?



Regular Scoutmaster's Key

First on the left is what may be the initial issue of the Scoutmaster's Key, or a ribbon prototype, or may be a later unofficial replacement ribbon. "The owner of this key medal said he got it from an old Scouter who was awarded this way back in the late 20's." The ribbon is like the later Skipper's Key ribbon (see above). It appears to be the right proportion, and most ribbons are wider. The ribbon is sewn across the back, as the BSA ribbon bars were beginning in 1934. The medal has the 10K in the middle of the back as one of mine is. However, that medal has an unmarked key, and this has what appears to be "10K" on the key itself. The loop on mine is not openable, and this appears to be the same. I cannot guarantee this is authentic, but I believe it is very likely.

I know of the following six varieties of the Scoutmaster's Key awarded from 1928-48 (excluding the one above). It is distinguished by a First Class badge superimposed on the key device. No devices (which see) were worn with it. It came in several varieties:

- A medal without ribbon, with 10K horizontally on the back of the First Class.
- No bar support, spin wheel locking clasp, 10K on the First Class and key tail.
- No bar support with a spin wheel locking clasp, 10K on the key tail.
- STER Pat 2066969 on gold color bar support, spin wheel locking clasp, 10K on the key tail. NOTE: Patent 2066969 was granted January 5, 1937, so all bar supports with that number post-date 1937.
- Pat 2066969 on gold color bar support upside down, spin wheel locking clasp, 10K on the key tail.
- Pat 2066969 on gold color bar support right side up, spin wheel locking clasp, 10K on the key tail.
- Pat 2066969 on silver color bar support, spin wheel locking clasp, 10K on lower right bar of Key.



**Pre-1937 Back Scouter's
Without Patent Training
Number Award**

I know of three-four varieties of the Scouter's Training Award from 1932-48. It is distinguished by the V device (representing the Five-Year Training Plan) with a fleur-de-lis (FDL) superimposed. I have two varieties:

Rough olive or dark green ribbon with no hallmark on the medal, no nipples under the pins. Some varieties have STERLING on the V.

Smooth solid green ribbon with 1/20 10K GF on the V, nipples under pins.

NOTE: Any V Training Awards with PAT 2066969 on the bar support post-date January 5, 1937, the date the patent was awarded.

There are six Cub Scouter awards, neck ribbons supporting a Cub universal insignia. Five were instituted in 1988, the Tiger Cub Award was instituted in 1992. I illustrate and identify them below, but have made no study of them. The neck ribbon medals were not reordered by National Supply in 2000. The awards (square knots) were retained [through 2012/3](#). In 2001 the position of Den Leader Coach was done away with, so the award also lapsed.



Cubmaster Award



Den Leader Award



Webelos Leader Award



Den Leader Coach



Cub Scouter Award



Tiger Cub Award

The Pack Trainer Award was announced in 2006, and [could](#) be earned beginning on September 1, 2008. The only recognition [was](#) a square knot. In 2012 the **Cubmaster Award** was deleted effective December 31, 2013, returning to the Scouter's Key. The **Den Leader Award, Webelos Den Leader Award and Tiger Cub Den Leader Award** were changed to the **Den Leader Training Award** with one knot and three devices, Tiger, Cub,

and Webelos, so it could be earned three times. The **WDLA and TCDLA** were discontinued December 31, 2012. The **DLTA** medal was reinstated in blue and gold, see above. The **Cub Scouter** and the **Pack Trainer** awards were deleted effective December 31, 2013, in their place Cubbers earn the **Scouter's Training Award**.



SM Key Scouter's Key



Ribbon and pin



Loop



Medal front



R wing R wing
1/20 10K GF 1/20 10KGF
in a box

Scouter's Key (Scoutmaster's Key)

The Scoutmaster's Key came out in 1928, and was used until 1948. It is illustrated at left. The distinguishing characteristic is the First Class badge over the Key symbol. (Note: If a man served three years as a Scoutmaster and the remainder of the five years as a Commissioner, he was also allowed to earn the Scoutmaster's Key.) On the reverse, they are marked with "10K," indicating that they are 10K solid gold.

In 1948 the First Class was replaced with a universal Scout emblem (fleur-de-lis, or FDL). Now Cubmasters, Advisors, Squadron Leaders, Skippers and Commissioners could earn the Key as well as Scoutmasters. The Key was also changed at this time to 1/20 10K gold filled, i.e. a layer of 10K gold not less than 1/20th of the total weight was laid over base metal.

The 1948-circa 1973 Scouter's Key was manufactured by Robbins Co. of Attleboro, MA. It is distinguished by a ribbon mounted through a brass ribbon slot, the ribbon brought down in front, and secured by sewing through small holes made for the purpose. As you can also see, there is a spin-wheel locking clasp. Patent 2066969 was granted January 5, 1937, so all bar supports with that number post-date 1937. Versions after that, up to about 1965, have "PAT 2066969" in the circle. After about 1965, the marking was removed.

The loop connecting to the medal was openable. It has a small catch, and a spring-loaded prong fits into a hole in the other side of the loop. You can (with difficulty) remove the device and use it as a separate piece of jewelry. Some of the later loops are actually marked with "1/20 12K GF" to show they are gold filled.

The front of the design remained consistent throughout the period. Very early medals use pins to attach the FDL to the Key. I believe that ended by about 1954.

Robbins medals are distinguished by an R wing hallmark, or an r hallmark, or sometimes by no hallmark at all. I have identified a pin version of the A (see below, similar to the second Key on the left) awarded in the fall of 1954. The 1/20 10K GF back (3rd left) was on a Key awarded with the CAW device, issued 1957-58. The R wing device ended about 1960-62. There are many variations. From left to right, in chronological order, as best I know it, are the following:



R wing Small 1/20 10K GF None 1/20 10K GF
 1/20 10K GF 3-bar R wing



1/20 10KGF r in a large box r in a small box
 1/20 over 10K 1/20 over 10K

r



Normal vs. Thick SK Body

Dic Slunaker of Yuma received this version in 1965. Based on pins and STA ribbon color, the 3-bar version of the R-wing is believed to come last in order.

The scan to the left illustrates a new (to me) variety, a “thick body” Key. It has the **r in a small box** hallmark, but the body of the key, in all dimensions, is about 50% thicker. This is the only one of these I have noticed.



Transitional medal,
 Robbins and Stange parts

I found an interesting transition piece, containing a Robbins Key medal and loop, and a Stange (see below) wheel clasp and sewn ribbon. Two things may have occurred. 1) The Robbins Company, when it lost the contract, had some leftover medals, and sold them to Stange, or 2) someone removed and attached it to a Stange medal. This particular medal was given to Richard Townsend in the early 80s, well after the transition occurred, as a replacement medal for one he earned.



Stange Loop

In about 1973, the BSA switched to the Stange Company. Several changes were made during their tenure, from about 1973-79.

All the ribbons were pressed into the ribbon mount. The attaching ring was now just a solid pressed ring. The first clasps were spin wheel locking clasps, then changed to a crude clasp. Finally, the ribbons were no longer tacked (sewn) at the edge to keep them in place. The slippage you see in the third back is now a common problem. Stange changed the medal front and back initially, but did not change during their time. The front had significant die changes, with six stripes (vice four), 13 dots instead of 13 stars on the shield, new tail and wing feathers, and re-shaped stars of Truth and Knowledge. The hallmark is an Old English S with 1/20 G.F.



Wheel clasp Crude clasp No sewing Front Back



CREST CRAFT

Approximately 1980, the BSA again changed suppliers, to Crest Craft. They had a short run of gold-filled medals, ending in the early 1980s. The ribbon and mounting characteristics did not change. The front of the medal remained very similar, but changes were made to the feet, the feather boundaries, and the head. The hallmark now read CREST CRAFT. I have found only two varieties, 1/20 10K and 1/10 10K G/F. The F is very unclear on my sample. This is the only time that the gold content is 1/10, and it may be a typo. However, the 1/10 is also found on CREST CRAFT veteran pins, so it should be accurate.



New FDL

**CREST CRAFT
1/20 10K**

**CREST CRAFT
1/10 10K G/F**



"Brass"

Gold filled medals became too expensive, so sometime in the early 1980s the BSA changed to a gold colored base metal I call brass. The major characteristics of the medal did not change. It still had a pressed, unsewn bar with a crude clasp. The color of the bar changed to "silver." There may be a variety with a brass bar like the CREST CRAFT Key, because one other medal has it. There appear to be minor changes in the medal die, in the marbling of the FDL, the stars of Truth and Knowledge are smaller, and the shield is not raised as much. The back of the key has a crosshatch version, and a smooth back version. There are no hallmarks.



Brass FDL

Crosshatch back

Smooth back

Now, let's put it in sequence, with some dates. A "?" indicates an educated guess that the item should exist, or that the order is uncertain there.

The numbering system is:

1. 1928-48 - First Class Scoutmaster's Key or V Training Award
2. 1948-72 - Robbins manufacture
3. 1973-79 - Stange manufacture
4. 1979-80s - Crest Craft manufacture
5. 1980s-present - anonymous manufacture

All dates are approximate. Letters indicate approximate order.



Type 1

Type 2



Type 3

Type 4

Scouter's Key — FDL on key background, broad (8 mm) white band on green ribbon. The question mark at the sequence number indicates we are unsure. Item 2c has been verified as issued in 1952. Item 2d has both a right side up and an upside down "PAT 2066969."

Sequence	Hallmarks	Ribbon	Pin	Loop
1a ? 1928-	1 st Class pin, 10K mid tail & back of FDL	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Unsupported	Openab
1b ?	1 st Class, pin, 10K lower tail	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Unsupported	Openab
1c ? 1937+	1 st Class, pin, 10K mid tail	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel ster pat2066969	Openab
1d ?	1 st Class, pin, 10K mid tail	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
1e?	1 st Class, pin, 10K upper tail	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Upside down	1/20 12
1f?	1 st Class, pin, 10K horiz	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
1g?	1 st Class pin, 10K back of FDL*	Slot, 2 hoses, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
* 1g: came in last style of brown box with national seal (#2).				
2a. 1948-	Pin, box R wing 10K 1/20 GF	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2b.	Pin, 1/20 10K GF over R wing	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2b1.	Pin, 1/2010KGF only	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
*2b1: came in NYC style of brown box with National seal (#1)				
2c. 1952-54?	Pin, R wing 1/20 10K GF	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2d. 1954?-56+	Weld, R wing 1/20 10K GF	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2d1.	Weld, R wing 1/20 10K GF with 1/20 10K GF on top of key	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat	Openab
2e.	Weld, 1/20 10K GF R wing	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2e1.	Weld, 1/20 10K GF 3-bar R wing	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2f.	Weld hereafter, none	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2g? 1960-61	1/20 10K GF	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2h?	1/2010KGF	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2h1	1/20-10KGF	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2h2	r 1/20 10K GF	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2i.	1/20 10K GF r	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2i1	1/20 10KGF	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2j?	1/20 10KGF over r	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2k.	r	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2l?Early 60s	1/20-10K GF r	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2m.	1/20 – 10KGF	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel pat2066969	Openab
2m1. unknown	/20 10XGF	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	unknown	Openab
2n. 1965	r 1/20 10K	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel no pat	Openab
2o.	Large r 1/20 over 10K in box	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel no pat	Openab
2p. 1968	Small r 1/20 over 10K lower	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel no pat	Openab
2q. 1965-73	Small r 1/20 over 10K in box	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel no pat	Openab
2r.	Small r 1/20 over 10K in box, body of Key 50% thicker	Slot, 2 holes, sewn	Wheel no pat	Openab
2.5 (mixed!)	Small r 1/20 over 10K in box	Pressed, sewn	Wheel no pat	Openab
3a. 1973-76	☺ 1/20 G.F. smooth back	Pressed, sewn	Wheel no pat	Closed
3b. 1973-76	☺ 1/20 G.F. textured back	Pressed, sewn	Wheel no pat	Closed
3c. 1977-78	☺ 1/20 G.F. textured back	Pressed, sewn	Hook	Closed
3d. 1978-79	☺ 1/20 G.F. textured back	Pressed, unsewn	Hook	Closed
4a. 1980-	Crest Craft 1/20 10K	Pressed, unsewn,brass	Hook	Closed
4b.	Crest Craft 1/10 10K G/P	Pressed, unsewn,brass	Hook	Closed
5a.	None, textured back	Pressed, unsewn brass	Hook	Closed

5b.	None, textured back	Pressed, unsewn wht	Hook	Closed
5c.	None, smooth back	Pressed, unsewn wht	Hook	Closed
6.	2009-current None, mottled back	Pressed, unsewn wht	Clutch back	Closed



1932-48 1948-55



1955-present V medal



Sterling 1/20 10K GF

Scouter's Training Award

The remainder of the awards is very similar in most respects to the Scouter's Key. Therefore, in dealing with them, I will point out differences rather than repeating all the similarities.

The Scouter's Training Award was initiated in 1932. It has three major varieties. First is the V and solid green ribbon. The V was emblematic of the Five-Year Training Program, and it took five years to earn the award. There was also a cloth patch, with eight segments around it, relating to the eight requirements for earning the Scouter's Key or Scouters Training Award. Those were: Elements of Scout Leadership, Troop Camping, Health and Safety-First Aid, Principles of Scout Leadership, Specialization, Advanced Certificate, Two Weeks in Camp, and Five Years Service. The patch is illustrated to the left at about half size.

In 1948 the time was reduced to three years, so the FDL was superimposed on an A, but the solid green ribbon remained. From 1948 through 1956 it was called the Scouter's Award, but then changed back to Scouter's Training Award. In 1956 a narrow (3 mm) white stripe was added in the center of the ribbon. The Den Mother's Training Award was established at the same time. Also, BSA deleted the solid green square knot representing the Scouter's Training Award. All Scouter's would wear the green and white square knot to represent the Key, Award, or DMTA. I speculate that the color scheme was chosen to be complementary to the knot, since all contained green and white.

The Scouter's Training Award clasp, bar, and loop are like the Key. The V version has at least two ribbon varieties and four medals. Medals are plain, or have STERLING or 1/20 10K GF on the V or FDL. The STA V has five stars on the shield and two full-bodied Truth and Knowledge stars. The bars do say STER for sterling. As illustrated, some have nipples around the pins, some do not.

Robbins made the STAs from about 1948-73, and the FDLs are the same throughout the period, identical to the Scouter's Key. The hallmarks show a similar pattern, with the difficulty that the reverse of the A obscures a portion of the mark, sometimes introducing some uncertainty. Only one has the A marked with 1/20 10K GF, the first green/white ribbon example.

The Stange, Crest Craft, and anonymous STAs follow the pattern of the Scouter's Key exactly. The existence of those with a question mark (?) is an educated guess, not a proven fact. The first appearance of the base metal



1/20 10K GF on FDL



Pre-1937 pin bar, no pat #



Robbins A



R wing



1/20 on left arm



1980s-2008



2008-Present



STA was in 1980, where Mary Gray documented her husband's STA with the card.

Sequence	Hallmarks	Ribbon	Pin	Loop
1. 1932-	V, pin, no marks, no nipples	Rough green ribbon	Plain bar, no pat #	Openable
1a. 1937-	V, pin, sterling on V, no npl	Olive ?	Wheel ster pat 2066969	Openable
1b. 1937-48	V, pin, none, no nipples	Olive ribbon	Wheel ster pat.2066969	Openable
1ba.1937-	V, pin, ROBBINS, 1/20 10K GF no nipples	Rough green ribbon	Wheel ?? pat2066969	Openable
1b1.	V, pin, left 1/20 10K GF on V	Rough green ribbon	Wheel pat 2066969	
1c. 1937-48	V, pin, right 1/20 10K GF on V	Smooth green ribbon	Wheel ster pat.2066969	Openable
1d. -48	V, pin, 1/20 10KGF	Solid green ribbon	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2a. 1948-50	A, pin, 1/20 10KGF R wing	Solid green ribbon	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2b.	A, pin, box R wing 10K 1/20 GF	Solid green ribbon	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2c.	A, pin, R wing 1/2010KGF	Smooth green ribbon	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2d.	A, pin, ???0 10K ?? over R wing	N/A	N/A	N/A
2e.	A, pin, 1/20 10K (GF?)	Rough green ribbon	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2f.	A, pin, 1/20 10K GF	Rough green ribbon	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2g. 1952-54	A, pin, R wing 1/20 10K GF	Rough green ribbon	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2h.	A, pin, R wing 1/2010KGF	Rough green ribbon	Bar mount spinlock	Openable
2i.	A, pin, no marks	Rough green ribbon	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2j	A, pin, R wing 1/20 10K GF	Solid green ribbon	Wheel, unsupported bar	Openable
2k. -1956	A, weld, R wing 1/20 10K GF	Rough green ribbon	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2l. 1956	A, weld, R wing 1/20 10K GF & 1/20 10K GF on R leg of A	Green w/white stripe	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2m.	A, weld, R wing 1/20 10K GF & 1/20 10K GF on L let of A	Green w/white stripe	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2n. 1956-	A, weld, R wing 1/20 10K GF	Green w/white stripe	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2o.	1/20 10K GF over 3-bar R wing	Green w/white stripe	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2p. 1956-61	1/2010KGF	Green w/white stripe	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2q. 1961	1/20 10K	Green w/white stripe	Wheel pat 2066969	Clip (repl?)
2r. early60s	1/20-10KGF	Green w/white stripe	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2s.1965	r 1-20-10-K	Green w/white stripe	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2t.	r (only, possibly partial 0)	Green w/white stripe	Wheel pat 2066969	Openable
2u.	1/20 10K GF over r	Green w/white stripe	Wheel no patent	Openable
2v.	Large r 1/20 over 10K	Green w/white stripe	Wheel no patent	Openable
2w. 1968	Small r 1/20 over 10K lower	Green w/white stripes	Wheel no patent	Openable
2x. 1965-73	Small r 1/20 over 10K	Green w/white stripe	Wheel no patent	Openable
3a. 1973-76	⊕ 1/20 G.F. smooth back	Pressed bar, sewn	Crude hook	Closed
3b. 1977-78	⊕ 1/20 G.F. textured back	Pressed bar, sewn	Crude hook	Closed
3c. 1978-	⊕ 1/20 G.F. textured back	Pressed bar, unsewn	Crude hook	Closed
3d. 1978-	⊕ 1/20 G.F. smooth back	Pressed bar, unsewn	Crude hook	Closed
4a. 1980-	CREST CRAFT 1/20 10K	Pressed, unsewn, brass	Crude hook	Closed
4b.	?CREST CRAFT 1/20 10K G/F	Pressed, unsewn, brass	Crude hook	Closed
5a.	None, smooth back	Pressed, unsewn, white	Crude hook	Closed
5b. 1980s-	None, textured back	Pressed, unsewn, white	Crude hook	Closed
5c. -2008	None, smooth back	Pressed, unsewn, white	Crude hook	Closed
6. 2008-current	None, mottled back	Pressed, unsewn, white	Clutch back	Closed

Unusual STA Pin



STA Pin Linked to Den Mother Pin



Reverse of STA and DM Pins

An unusual STA pin was offered for sale in 2006, illustrated at left. It is 1”x7/8” in size, larger than a standard pin. It lacks the ring and cross-bar, and does not have normal hallmarks, but a connected HW, and a vertical pin. The A has a crossbar, and pins, where the pins are normally in small nipples with no crossbar. I wonder if this was made by soldering a Tenderfoot pin to an A? I would, at first consideration, question if this was official issue.

The STA was awarded to Den Mothers from its origin until 1956. A way to recognize Den Mothers is illustrated at left, with an A pin linked to a Den Mother pin. The Den Mother pin associated with it is a version that was phased out beginning in 1948, but the A was not issued until 1948 at the earliest. Note the FDL is held on with pins, and though not visible, the box it came in had the “Headquarters New York City” seal on it. The move out of NYC was made in 1954. Note the pin and back is different than the other shown at left. This item was offered for sale in 2007.



DMTA/DLTA



Robbins

Hallmark on ◇



Stange

Den Mother’s Training Award / Den Leader’s Training Award

The Den Mother’s Training Award was introduced in 1956. Prior to then, Den Mothers earned the Scouter’s Training Award. A friend of mine earned hers under the old Five Year Training Program with the V. The DMTA became the DLTA in 1967 with the introduction of the new Webelos program and allowing men and women to serve in the Den Leader and committee member positions. The DLTA was phased out on December 31, 1988 with the introduction of the Den Leader Award that year. Again, the white and green color scheme was because in 1956 there was only one training knot, green and white, which we know today as the Scouter’s Key knot. See below for the reinstated DLTA.

The DMTA/DLTA was exactly the same as the Key/STA in manufacture, except for reversing the colors of the ribbon and the back of the medal itself. The DMTA/DLTA/DLCTA all use a diamond (◇) background (Cub outline) with FDL on top. The Robbins DMTAs were manufactured with an arc of metal and an oval boss connecting the sides of the diamond behind the FDL. This obscured any hallmark on the FDL itself, so the hallmark was placed on the arc and boss. I am aware of one where the hallmark is on the lower right leg of the diamond. This comes in a red box, probably the first edition of the medal. Stange, Crest Craft and the successor supplier used small nipples on the back of the diamond to attach to the FDL, so the FDL hallmark is fully visible.

Two lapel pins have shown up on eBay, one vertical and one horizontal. The first shown is from a later Robbins batch (Type 2, 1969-72), the second shown is Type 5a/b. They became available by April 1961 (#5100D) and were available past March 1976, but remarkably few show up on eBay.



Lapel Pins, Type 2 and 5



1/20-10K r over
r 1/20 over 10K



DLTA 2012-Present

In the list below, the varieties with a question mark (?) may not exist. I expect them to be available, but I have not seen them. Item 2b below has both right side up and upside down “PAT 2066969.” Items 2h and 2h1 below show where the fleur-de-lis used for the SK/STA is also used for these Cub awards, even though the markings are not normally visible. In both, either the large or the small box containing “r 1/20 over 10K” is visible under the arc and oval boss. The second is illustrated on the left below.

Sequence	Hallmarks	Ribbon	Pin	Loop
2a. 1956-	1/20 10K GF on LR leg of dia	White w/narrow green	Wheel pat 2066969	Openab
2a. 1956-	?1/20 10K GF R wing	White w/narrow green	Wheel pat. 2066969	Openab
2b. -1960-	1/20 10K GF	White w/narrow green	Wheel pat. 2066969	Openab
2c.	1/20 10KGF	White w/narrow green	Wheel pat. 2066969	Openab
2d.?	? 10K GF (misstrike?)	White w/narrow green	Wheel pat. 2066969	Openab
2e	1/20-10K GF	White w/narrow green	Wheel pat. 2066969	Openab
2e1?	1/2010K GF on diamond	White w/narrow green	Wheel pat 2066969	Openab
2f. @1965-	1/20 10KGF over r	White w/narrow green	Wheel no patent	Openab
2g.	r over 1-20-10K	White w/narrow green	Wheel no patent	Openab
2h.	r over 1-20-10-K over lg r box	White w/narrow green	Wheel no patent	Openab
2h1.	1/20-10K r over r 1/20 over 10K	White w/narrow green	Wheel no patent	Openab
2i. 1969-72	1/20-10K r	White w/narrow green	Wheel no patent	Openab
2j.	1/20-10K r			
3a. 1973-76	§ 1/20 G.F. smooth back	Pressed bar, sewn,long	Wheel no patent circle	Closed
3a1 1973-76	§ 1/20 G.F. smooth back	Pressed bar, sewn.short	Wheel bar no circle	Closed
3b. 1977-78	§ 1/20 G.F. smooth back	Pressed bar, sewn	Crude hook	Closed
3c.	§ 1/20 G.F. textured back	Pressed bar, sewn	Crude hook	Closed
3d. 1978+	§ 1/20 G.F. textured back	Pressed bar, unsewn	Crude hook	Closed
4a. 1980-	?CREST CRAFT 1/20 10K	Pressed, unsewn, brass	Crude hook	Closed
4b.	?CREST CRAFT 1/20 10K G/F	Pressed, unsewn, brass	Crude hook	Closed
5a.	?None, back hatch pattern	Pressed, unsewn, brass	Crude hook	Closed
5b.	None, back hatch pattern	Pressed, unsewn, white	Crude hook	Closed
5c. -1988	None, smooth back	Pressed, unsewn, white	Crude hook	Closed
6a. 2012-	None, smooth FDL, hatch ◊	Pressed, unsewn, white	Clutch back	Closed

The new Den Leader Training Award uses the traditional Cub Scout colors of blue and gold, which makes sense because the DLTA knot is a gold knot on blue. Apparently, this took some pushing from the Cub Scout side when it was reinstated.



DLCTA

Den Leader Coach's Training Award

The Den Leader Coach's Training Award was instituted in September 1967 at the same time the position was created. No one could earn it until 1969, when two years had expired. Very few DLCTAs were earned, the least number of the four. There was a maximum of one Den Leader Coach per pack (normally) and most packs did not use the position. It too was phased out on December 31st, 1988. Because many fewer were issued, it is likely that some of the varieties were not issued, because a production run lasted longer. The only difference was the two green stripes. Below are the known varieties, more are possible.

Sequence	Hallmarks	Ribbon	Pin	Loop
2aa. 1969?	1/20-10K r on diamond, r 1/20 over 10K in box on FDL	White w/2 narrow green	Wheel no patent?	Open
2a. 1969?	r 1/20-10K	White w/2 narrow green	Wheel no patent	Open
2b. 1969-72	1/20-10K r	White w/2 narrow green	Wheel no patent	Open
3a. 1973-76	§ 1/20 G.F. smooth back	Pressed bar, sewn	Wheel no patent	Closed
3b. 1973-76	§ 1/20 G.F. textured back	Pressed bar, sewn	Wheel no patent	Closed
3c. 1977-78+	§ 1/20 G.F. smooth back	Pressed bar, unsewn	Crude hook	Closed
3d. 1978+-80	§ 1/20 G.F. textured back	Pressed bar, unsewn	Crude hook	Closed
4. 1980-	CREST CRAFT 1/20 10K	Pressed, unsewn, brass	Crude hook	Closed
5a. 1980s	None, textured back	Pressed, unsewn, brass	Crude hook	Closed
5b. 1980s	None, smooth back	Pressed, unsewn, brass	Crude hook	Closed
6. -1988	None, textured back	Pressed, unsewn, white	Crude hook	Closed



1939-? 1st

1940-? 2nd



1939- Medal Reverse -1948

Skipper's Key

The Skipper's Key was started in December 1939, and phased out in 1948 as the Scoutmaster's Key was phased out. It was replaced by the Scouter's Key. The images on the top left are the first and second edition with a blue and white ribbon. Note that the threads tying it to the mounting bar are visible. The first edition had the loop of the key opening sideways and attaching directly to the loop through the ribbon. To my knowledge, this is the only instance in any training award series. The third edition with a solid blue ribbon is on the right. The first edition does not have PAT 2066969 on the bar, perhaps indicating that that bar was not adopted until after about 1940. This is mounted like the regular Scoutmaster's Key also. The medal reverse of all three is illustrated, with the first having a medal with STERLING on bottom of the tail, the second on the center of the lower bar. The solid blue ribbon has the STERLING on the right of the lower bar. This award required five years service as a Skipper.



?-1948 3rd

The term Scouter's Key was used beginning in 1948. Initially, there were not separate requirements for Skippers, the requirements were for Explorer



2002-08

2008-

Advisors, which a Skipper was, as well as Air Scout Squadron Leaders and regular Explorer Advisors. In 1959 a separate Sea Explorer device (see below) was instituted.

In 2002 the Skipper's Key was reinstated as a separate award, with a separate medal. However, the square knot and Sea Scout device remain as they have been since 1959. The new Skipper's Key construction resembles the current Scouter's Key, with of course, the exception that the ribbon is blue and the emblem on the Key is the Sea Scout logo in silver. In 2008, in my role as Vice-Commodore Commissioner for our local Sea Scout squadron, I ordered four Skipper's Keys for individuals who completed the requirements. Two were the variety on the left, in a plastic box with the label "MEDALLION SKIPPERS KEY MEDAL" as my previous orders (since 2003) had been. This box has a medium blue foam fill. Two of the medals were in a box with the label "SKIPPER KEY MEDAL." It too has medium blue foam fill, but one side has a dark blue plush, and the medals rest on that. Ribbon color is the same between them. However, the second Key itself is slightly changed, with the Sea Scout logo shifted downward about 1-1.5 mm, setting the anchor stock on the upper Key crosspiece, and the anchor arm visibly below the lower crosspiece. This difference is minor, not a full-fledged variety.

Sequence	Hallmarks	Ribbon	Pin	Loop
0. 1939 - ?	STERLING lower tail	Blue/White	Plain bar, no pat #	None
1. 1940? - ?	STERLING center bottom	Blue/White	Wheel PAT2066969	Open
2. ? -1948	STERLING right bottom	Solid blue	Wheel PAT2066969	Closed
3a. 2002-08	None	Pressed bar, unsewn	Crude hook	Closed
3b. 2008- ?	None	Pressed bar, unsewn	Crude hook	Closed



Explorer Key Circle V



Explorer Key FDL

Other Varieties of Training Awards.

I have 120 (42+39+24+10+5) varieties of the training award medals. I expect that there are 10 or 15 more that I do not have or know about.

There are also three varieties of the Explorer Advisor Key and three of the Explorer Training Award. Exploring allowed "distinctive dress identity" and non-uniformed posts, and the pin type of Key and Training Award were the nominal primary award. You could also wear the medal and device, if you chose.



Explorer Training Award FDL



Explorer Training Award E-Bar

I have copies of three varieties, as the "Big E" changed. First, about 1972, was the E with the Circle V on the bottom. Circa 1982 was the same E, but with a Boy Scout fleur-de-lis in place of the Circle V. Finally, circa 1990 was a slightly different E with a bar out of the bottom. These dates are based on Michael R. Brown's web site at www.seniorscoutinghistory.org, an excellent site for Senior Scouting information.



Privately Manufactured?



Nr	Description	Difference
EK1	Key design with E	Circle V, upright E
EK2	Key design w/FDL	Fleur-de-lis, upright E
EK3	Key design with E	Bottom bar, slanted E
ET1	A behind E	Circle V, upright E
ET2	A behind E	Fleur-de-lis, upright E
ET3	A behind E	Bottom bar, slanted E

At the left is, to my knowledge, a unique Scouter's Key for Exploring, created during the latter Stange era. The medal "dangle" portion is identical to the Explorer Key illustrated above, and has a spot on the back where it appears as if the pin was ground off. The ribbon and bar are identical to that of the third variety of the Stange medals. It is my belief that this medal was privately assembled from available parts. It came from the Lubbock, Texas area.

A new find in 2008 is a lapel or jewelry pin for the Den Leader Training Award (or the DLCTA), in the 1980s era, that has a locking vertical pin on the back. The diamond back is hatched, but not hallmarked. It is not intended to be attached to a ribbon at all.



Scoutmaster's Key tie bar



Possibly unofficial



Scouter's Key #5566



Training Award #5762

Tie Clasps. As mentioned above, the early versions of the medal could be separated from the ribbon (or bought separately). Thus you could make them jewelry on a key chain, or turn them into a lapel pin. The first two tie clasps shown were sold on eBay in 2005. The first is a Scoutmaster's Key, i.e. prior to 1948. A Scouter's Training Award (A style) with the same tie bar was offered in 2008. The STA is post-1948. The second is a Scouter's Key, Type 2c in my list above. Therefore, it is probably not much later than 1954. The 1951, 1954, and 1956 Uniforms and Equipment pamphlets do not show it. It would be easy to make from the other similar tie clasps of the day. I don't know if it is official or not. However, Veteran insignia were mounted on this kind of tie bar.

BSA also brought out two official tie clasps, one for the Key and one for the STA. I find the Scouter's Key tie bar (No. 5566) first available in January 1962. The Scouter's Training Award tie bar (No. 5762) became available by January 1969. The Key was removed from the 3/74 catalog, but the STA tie bar was still in the 3/76 catalog. I assume it disappeared shortly. The two versions I have are of somewhat different construction, and the devices of different size and placement, so there may be more than one variety.



**Scouter's Key
(with five devices)**

Devices. Now, you ask, “What are all those little doohickeys on the Key on the left?” Or, at least, I hope you are interested. We call them devices. The Scouter’s Key may be earned as a Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Varsity Coach, Venturing Advisor, Sea Scout Skipper, Commissioner and member of the district committee. In the past, it could be earned as an Explorer Advisor, and Air Explorer Squadron Leader. The Scouter’s Training Award may be earned in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouting. In the past, it could be earned in Exploring, and as roundtable staff commissioner. You may identify the program you earned your award in by attaching the appropriate device to your ribbon (as illustrated) and to the corresponding knot. You may wear obsolete devices.

Cub Scout



Boy Scout



Explorer CAW



Commissioner



**Explorer
Circle V**



**Sea Explorer/
Sea Scout**



**Air
Explorer**



Significant changes were made from 1955-57. The ribbon on the Scouter’s Training Award was changed from solid green to green with a small white stripe. The Den Mother’s Training Award was instituted. Then the solid green square knot was phased out, and the green and white square knot served as the knot for the Key, STA and DMTA. Devices were initiated about 1957. They were worn only on the Scouter’s Key ribbon and knot. The devices on the knot distinguished between the Key and the STA/DMTA. If you had a device on a knot, it represented a Key.

The devices are illustrated at left, in the order in which they occurred. The first four devices were the **Cub, Scout, Explorer (CAW), and commissioner**. In 1958, the Explorer device was changed from CAW (Compass/Anchor/Wings) to the new Explorer universal logo, **Circle V**.

By January 1959, **Sea Explorer** (Sea Scout) anchor and **Air Explorer** wings had been added. In 1966 the Air Explorer wings were eliminated with the demise of Air Exploring.

Explorer Big E



Varsity



**District
Committee**



By 1971 the Exploring device had changed again, from Circle V to **Big E**. In 1975, the devices were authorized with the Scouter’s Training Award, because the STA requirements were broken out by program. There were separate requirement in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Exploring. By 1986, **Varsity** had the VS in a circle. By 1993 the **district committee** had a device of the FDL in a circle. In about 1995 the **commissioner** device changed from the First Class badge within the wreath to a FDL in the wreath. In 1998 the **Venturing** device replaced the Exploring device. In 2012 the **Tiger Cub** device was added to be worn on the **Den Leader Training Award** and the knot. **The Cub Scout device above was also**

<p>Commissioner </p> <p>Venturing </p> <p>Tiger Cub </p> <p>Webelos </p> <p></p> <p>Scout devices</p>	<p>authorized for the DLTA and knot. The Webelos device, long authorized to wear on the religious knot for youth, was authorized to wear on the DLTA and knot.</p> <p>Devices have undergone a gradual decline in detail and “quality.” For instance, I have three Scout devices, bought in 1975, then perhaps five years later, and again about 1990. In the first, the device is fully modeled and completely cut out, with no fill between the upper and lower branches of the FDL. The second starts to fill that in, and the third makes the device look like a pentagon. My original national sample long post commissioner device has much more detail than the more recent ones, which are also flat.</p> <p>These devices are also used on youth religious knots and the Venturing Advisor’s Award of Merit. Other devices are used on other awards.</p>
	<p>In conjunction with Gary Whitman, Shay Lelegren, Bruce Noonan and Arnold Traupman, I have co-authored a monograph on square knot varieties titled <i>Varieties of Official BSA Square Knots</i>. Section 5 of that monograph is devoted to all the varieties of devices. It is available by contacting me at one of the addresses below. Thanks to Rick Vanglish who identified an error I made in the scan of the Cubmaster Award, which has been corrected.</p> <p>George Crawl, 16213 Congo Ln, Jersey Village, TX 77040, george.h.crawl@gmail.com Version V12.0 1/1/16</p>
	<p>References: <i>The UNIFORM, BADGES and INSIGNIA</i>, No. 3189, 1929 <i>Uniform Badges and Insignia 1933</i> <i>The Scout Executive</i> - Vol. XI, No. 9, October, 1930 Vol. XIII, No. 9, October, 1932 Vol. XV, No. 10, November 1934 <i>The Scout Administrator</i> - Vol. I, No. 9, October 1935 Vol. III, 1937, <i>The Local Council Exchange</i> - Vol. 1, No. 3, November 1938 Vol. 2, No. 5, November 1939 Vol. 4, No. 2, May 1941 <i>The Scout Executive</i> - Vol. 12, No. 7, October 1947 <i>Official Uniforms and Equipment of the Boy Scouts of America</i> January 1, 1956 March 1, 1974 8/75</p>

	<p><i>Official Uniforms and Insignia, BSA</i> Boy Scouting May 1st, 1953 Cub Scouting, September 1st, 1955 Boy Scouting, October 15th, 1956 Boy Scouting November 15th, 1957 Boy Scouting January 15th, 1959 Boy Scouting April 15, 1960 8/66 9/67 <i>Insignia Guide</i> 1973 1978 1991 1993 2000 2002 <i>Scouting</i> magazine March 1948 October 1956 February 1969 March-April 1978 September 1988 November-December 2000 <i>a guide to dating and identifying BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA BADGES, UNIFORMS & INSIGNIA</i>, Mitch Reis, 3rd ed., 2000 eBay #3956877568, CREST CRAFT STA dated April 12, 1980. http://clipart.usscouts.org/ScoutDoc/SeaExplr/chronolo.rtf 1/1/07</p>
<p>Note: The boxes the awards come in have also changed over time. The first box (Box #1) I have seen is a blue weave box, with a blue inside plush background. The second, (Box #2) is a mottled brown box. It is hinged to open from bottom to top, and has a ribbon keeper at the top.</p>	<p>Training Award Presentation Boxes</p>

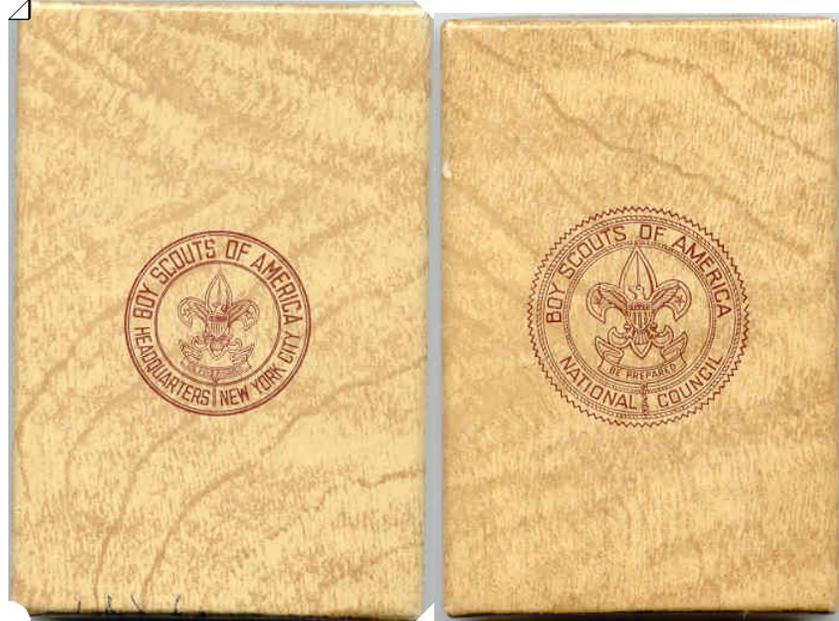


Box #1 - Blue Weave

Box #2 - Mottled

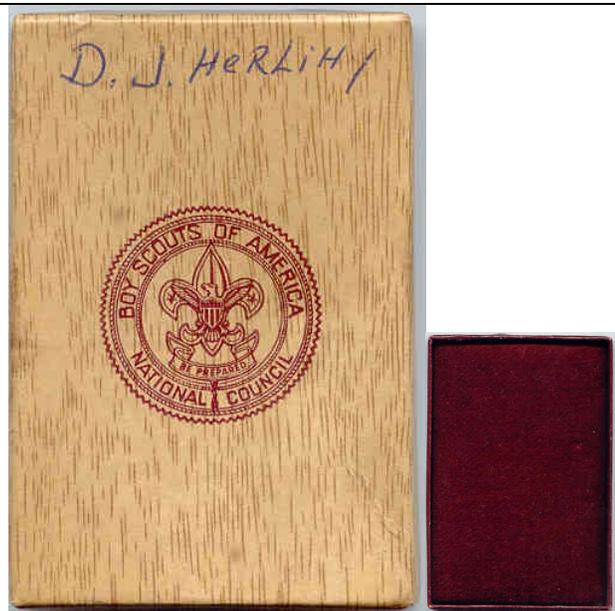
Inside

Box #3 came with the Boy Scout seal on the top, “Headquarters New York City” version. It has a plush red lining inside, but no keeper. I have seen this box for Scoutmaster Keys, Training Awards with V, and for a very early version of the Den Mother’s Training Award. That means that the use of the box predated 1948, and postdated 1956. The box comes in at least three sub-varieties, not intuitively obvious unless they are compared directly. The seal (3b) was changed to “National



Box #3a – Scout Seal NYC Wood Grain Box 3b – National Council

Council” about the time of the move to New Brunswick, NJ in 1954. The wood grain is different on every box I own, perhaps because it came from a different part of a larger sheet. Box #4 is a plastic box, black on the bottom, with a folding transparent lid. There is a fabric-lined cardboard insert with two holes and a connecting line stamped out, into which the medal was inserted. The lid isn’t much thicker than the plastic (3mm), the box is deep (15mm). I have a source (lakehurstkid) who has a 1956 STA that came in one of these boxes. My personal STA came in this version in 1965. I believe it was in use from the middle/late 50s±1980.





**Box 3c – Oak pattern
Plastic/Cardboard**

Box #4 –

Lakehurstkid (clemencia2@snip.net) told me that the STA 2k version was presented in 1956 in Box #4, according to his source for a specific medal he was selling. I had an earlier reference for the 1961 date.

Box #5, beginning in the early 80s, was changed so the bottom and the top were each about 8-9 mm in thickness. The medal rested on a bed of foam that projected about 5mm above bottom of the box, holding the medal against the clear plastic. The plastic foam came in several colors and shades of colors. The foam itself varied in composition or coarseness.





Box #5a – Plastic/Foam

Box #5b – Cream foam



Box #5b – Green Foam



Box 5c – “Blue/Black” Foam

Box #6, prior to the ending of the DLCTA in 1988, came with a white fuzzy cardboard insert, and elastic bands, through which the pin of the medal was inserted. This was the same box, just a different insert, with the bottom and top of the box 9mm deep.

Box #7 is only distinguished by the post-1993 change in catalog numbers for the medals. Again, the foam, while blue, varies in color and in density.





Box #6 – Pre-1988 fuzzy cardboard Box #7a/7b – Blue Foam

Box #7c is from the late 2000s. It has a dark blue plush topping on blue foam, looking very nice. This is the same insert as the 2008 Skipper's Key. Later inserts reverted to the blue foam of 7a/7b.



Box 7c - Blue Foam w/Blue Plush

Box #8 on the right is not strictly comparable with the boxes above, since it is for the Cub Scout awards issued from 1988-2000. It is significantly larger, 2⁵/₈"x4", and opens at the bottom. The ribbon is behind the white cardboard insert, with the medal resting on the cardboard.



Cub Scout Neck Award Box #8

Skipper's Key boxes, and the labels on the reverse. Note that the Skipper's Key does not appear to have a BSA catalog number, since it is handled only by the person in charge of Sea Scouting at the National office.



2002-08

2008-



2002-08

2008-