

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Resolution Number: #19-C-22
Submitted By: 5th District
Subject: **American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The American Legion voiced its support of the Boy Scouts of America at its first national convention in 1919, making it the first recognized national youth activity of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion annually selects The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and three runners-up; and

WHEREAS, The winner of the competition receives a \$10,000 scholarship and the three runners-up are each awarded \$2,500 scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Current eligibility requirements state that the nominee must be a registered active member of a chartered Scouts BSA Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion post or American Legion Auxiliary unit or Sons of The American Legion squadron, OR be a registered active member of a chartered Scouts BSA Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, and the scout of Legionnaire, Sons of The American Legion or Auxiliary member AND (1) Received the Eagle Scout award; (2) Be an active member of their religious institution and have received the appropriate Scouts BSA religious emblem; (3) Have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting and community; (4) Reached their fifteenth (15th) birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection; and (5) Reside in the department (state) to which they apply; and

WHEREAS, Religious emblems are not required for the rank of Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a patriotic veteran's organization; and

WHEREAS, The Scout's religious organization may not have a program for religious emblem programs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary have no organized or formal method to assist Scouts, who are members of the units they charter, to earn religious emblems, since it is up to the religious organization to have a program; and

WHEREAS, Requiring religious emblems to qualify for the Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship eliminates most Scouts who belong to Scout units chartered by The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention assembled in Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 28-30, 2019, That The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year eligibility requirements be amended to read: Be a registered active member of a chartered Scouts BSA Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion post or American Legion Auxiliary unit or Sons of The American Legion squadron, OR be a registered active member of a Legionnaire, Sons of The American Legion or Auxiliary member AND (1) Received the Eagle Scout Award; (2) Have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting and community; (3) Reached their fifteenth (15th) birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection; and (4) Reside in the department (state) to which they apply; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That points allowed for Section D - Religious Award be changed from 1-3 points to 1-8 points; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the said change in eligibility requirements become effective immediately.