



# Boy Scouts of America

## Supernova Awards Mentor Information



(Please type or print legibly.)

Name\* \_\_\_\_\_ Primary phone\* \_\_\_\_\_  Home  Cell  Work  
 Address\* \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone \_\_\_\_\_  Home  Cell  Work  
 City/state/zip\* \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone \_\_\_\_\_  Home  Cell  Work  
 Email address\* \_\_\_\_\_  I do not have email. Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Council \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  Pack  Troop  Team  Crew  Ship No. \_\_\_\_\_ BSA ID \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am not affiliated with a district.  I am not affiliated with a unit.

**\*Required field. Primary phone and email address are how Scouts will contact you.**

**To qualify as a Supernova awards mentor, you must**

- Be at least 21 years old and of good character.
- Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America (position code 52).
- Complete Youth Protection training for the level(s) you will mentor.
- Be recognized as having the skills and education in the award topics covered and hold any required qualifications and training.
- Be able to work with Scout-age youth.

**As a Supernova awards mentor, I agree to**

- Follow the requirements of the awards, making no deletions or additions, ensuring that the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts.
- Have a Scout accompanied by his or her buddy during all instructional sessions.
- Keep my Youth Protection training current.
- Renew my registration annually if I plan to continue as a Supernova awards mentor.

Supernova Awards (List each subject you wish to mentor.)	Add (A) Drop (D)	For each award, list qualification(s) that demonstrate your expertise. <i>Qualifications could include college degrees, formal training certificates, positions held, and specific life experiences.</i>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

*A = Adding a new award subject that you will counsel to the roster. D = Removing your name from the roster for this award subject.*

**Complete the following:**

- This is a new application (first time to register as a Supernova awards mentor).  
Attach this form to the BSA Adult Application, indicating position code 52 (no charge).
- This is an update to an existing list of Supernova awards subjects.
- I no longer wish to serve as a Supernova awards mentor.

Youth Protection training date \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Attach copy of the current certificate.)

I agree to work with youth from:

- All Scouts
- Pack(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Troop(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Team(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Crew(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Ship(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Council Approval:**

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mentors are encouraged to be available to work with any Scout in any unit.**

I plan to serve as a Supernova awards mentor for this event or outside organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Instructions for Supernova Mentors

## What's It All About?

A Supernova mentor is a key player in the Supernova awards program, serving in a role similar to that of a merit badge counselor. Whatever your area of expertise or interest—whether it is a special hobby (amateur radio, geocaching), a profession (veterinary medicine, aviation, engineering), or perhaps a life skill (cooking, personal management, communication)—as a Supernova mentor, you play a vital role in stirring a young person's curiosity about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). By serving as a mentor, you offer your time, knowledge, and other resources so Scouts broaden their horizons and set and achieve goals. Your mission is to combine fun with learning.

You are both teacher and mentor to the Scout as he or she learns by doing. By presenting opportunities for growth via engaging activities like developing simulations to predict performance, discovering how to design aircraft for maximum flight, or learning what it's like to be an astronaut, you may pique a young person's interest in STEM and inspire a Scout to develop a lifelong hobby, prepare for a particular career, or become a responsible, informed citizen.

## Learning to Be a Supernova Mentor

All Scouts deserve trained leaders. It is important that all mentors have a full understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and the recommended practices for quality mentoring. The training module "Supernova Mentor Training" is a great starting point for mentor training. It covers the following topics:

A Scouting overview: mission, aims, and methods

Effective mentoring

Mentor qualifications: how to become a mentor

Mentor roles and responsibilities

The Supernova process and requirements

Supernova program role and benefits

## Processing This Application

Supernova mentors *must* register as adult Scouters and be approved by the council advancement committee for each Supernova award listed on this form. Mentors do not have to pay a registration fee, but must fill out a BSA Adult Application for position code 52, and complete BSA Youth Protection training appropriate for the level they will mentor. Mentors may wish to associate with a particular unit but are encouraged to serve any Scout from any unit.

## Special Qualifications and Guidelines for Supernova Mentors

The Supernova awards are intended to encourage Scouts to explore STEM topics in depth. Therefore, the Supernova mentor must be qualified by vocation or hobby to support and direct explorations in the STEM topics. This application form allows you as a prospective mentor to substantiate your credentials. Additionally, all explorations and activities must follow recommendations for age-appropriate activities and the BSA's *Guide to Safe Scouting* guidelines in the use of tools, chemicals, and machinery. These policies apply to all BSA activities, including Supernova instruction. For other activities not described in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#), mentors should have sufficient depth of knowledge and experience to understand how to safely present the material.

## Instructions to Mentors

- The unit leader (Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Varsity Coach, crew Advisor, or Skipper) recommends and provides the name and contact information of at least one mentor to each Scout desiring to work on a Supernova award. Before beginning to work with a youth, mentors should check the youth's award application form to ensure it is signed by the unit leader.
- Every Scout must have a buddy with him or her at each meeting with a mentor. This buddy could be another Scout, a parent or guardian, a brother or sister, or a relative or friend. There is no one-on-one contact allowed between Scouts and mentors—the buddy requirement is mandatory. Ideally, all interaction with Scouts should be in view of others. Follow Youth Protection guidelines at all times.
- Supernova mentors may not add to or delete any award requirements. Group instruction is allowed where access to special facilities and expert personnel are limited. However, any group experience must provide attention to every individual candidate's projects and progress, and ensure each has actively and personally fulfilled *all* the requirements. If, for example, a requirement uses words like "show," "demonstrate," or "discuss," then every Scout must individually do so. It is unacceptable to present awards on the basis of Scouts sitting in classrooms and watching demonstrations or remaining silent during discussions.
- When a Scout begins working on an award, the current Nova Awards guidebooks list the official requirements in effect at that time. If requirements change after a Scout has started working on an award, he or she may continue using the requirements in effect when the award was started, unless the BSA's National Council places a specific timeline on the implementation of new requirements.

