**The Silver Beaver Background**

“Studies show, that a majority of adult citizens of the United States

gives some time to volunteer service. No other country in the world depends so heavily on volunteer efforts, and no other country has accepted so universally the idea that volunteer service is a requirement of good citizenship.

 “Most of us keep very busy with today’s problems. But, if we care about the future of our country and its young people, then we find volunteer service in Scouting quite satisfying.

 “The National Council, Boy Scouts of America, recognizes individual endeavors on behalf of the youth of America by awards for distinguished service to young people.

These are not awards that an individual may seek, rather they are awards that seek out an individual.

 “On the council level, this award is called a Silver Beaver.

 “All who are active in Scouting realize how many unselfish and devoted hours have been spent by these Scouters in the pursuit of positive Scouting values – leadership, citizenship, and character. And, like the beaver, who whenever in his native territory or moved to foreign waters immediately begins building, similarly these Scouters build better Scouting council wide. And like the beaver, they have not been discouraged by setbacks but have continued to move forward to bring better Scouting to more youth. Often what they have done may be known only to a few, but the influence they have made is felt by all.

 “I don’t want to leave the impression that the Silver Beaver is merely a reward for past accomplishments. That would seem to indicate that the job was done. We all know there is always much more to do.

 “The Silver Beaver is given not only as a reward, but as a stamp of approval of work done well, and in recognition and anticipation of distinguished service, to youth.

 **“**The Silver Beaver is a sterling piece of metal forged in the shape of a beaver. It is suspended by a blue and white ribbon and worn with distinction by good Scouting leaders across America. This award recognizes distinguished service to youth through noteworthy and exceptional character. Councils are restricted in the number of Silver Beavers that can be presented.

 “The awards are based strictly on nominations from volunteer Scouters and then reviewed by a volunteer selection committee. The Central Minnesota Council is blessed with many quality leaders who unselfishly share of themselves to provide the Scouting program to our youth.”