The Malcolm Knowles Honors Program

Malcolm Knowles was an influential leader in the adult education movement in the United States and he was an accomplished Boy Scout in his youth. In 1928 he was the winner of a national contest for earning the most badges won in one year.¹ He attributes his understanding of ambition and belief that he could accomplish anything to his scouting experience.²



Overview The Malcolm Knowles Honors Program celebrates excellence and engagement in adult learning within the context of scouting. There are two components to the program:

The rewards component provides monetary rewards to those who complete activities with speed, accuracy, and/or enthusiasm. Promptness may be rewarded on occasion. The facilitator will have full discretion of the distribution and amounts for each occurrence. At the end of the course, invaluable learning items will be made available for purchase with the monetary rewards.

The recognition component will highlight three participants, one for each of the following categories:

The Transformational Award: Recognizes a participant who has been transformed by the learning experience and will continue to transform the lives of others in the council, district and the Movement overall.

The Application Award: Recognizes a participant who has remained committed to the learning process. This person considers new perspectives and concepts and applied them to his/her own situation. This person was dedicated to self-paced learning opportunities, remained on task in small groups, and encouraged others to see the connections between theory and application.

The Relationship Award: Being around positive people is good in any situation, especially when in an adult learning environment. This award celebrates a participant who made a concerted effort to build relationships and find the good in others and in all situations.

Nomination and Selection Process Participants will congregate for the last evening meal on Thursday. At that time, ballots will be distributed and, anonymously, participants will cast one vote for each award. Course facilitators will tabulate the ballots and the recipients will be warmly recognized with a certificate at the closing ceremony. This recognition will be solely determined by the participants' input and therefore specific examples of how a recipient displayed the desired behavior will be requested during the ceremony.

¹ Vitae Scholasticae, 8:1 (Spring 1989) Robert Carlson

² Scouting Magazine, March-April 1991 pg. 12