

FACT SHEET – LODGE BADEN-POWELL SERVICE AWARDS



Freemasonry supporting Rovering

INTRODUCTION

No doubt you've heard of Lodge B-P Service Awards, usually towards the end of each year when nominations are being sought. You may also have heard the awards are hosted by Freemasons.

So, what's it all about?

WHAT IS LODGE B-P?

The Baden-Powell Lodge, or Lodge B-P for short, is a group of Freemasons who are ex or current members of Scouting. One of the functions of Freemasons Lodges is to assist the community in various ways, which for this Lodge includes supporting the Rover Scout section through the Lodge B-P Service Awards.

Freemasonry is poorly understood in the wider community; attending a Lodge B-P Awards Night is an excellent way to find out more about, or connect with Freemasons (and yes, it is quite interesting).

See www.masons.org.au for more information.

WHAT'S THE AWARD?

The Lodge B-P Service Award is external recognition of outstanding community service work for Rovers. It is long running, well established and respected, and well known throughout Scouting. Other states have equivalent awards.

An award is made to a Crew or Region, and not to individuals as is the case with other awards in Rovering. Awards are presented at an annual formal dinner in February (no cost to Rovers!). It is hosted by the Lodge B-P at a Masonic Lodge in Sydney (venue is confirmed annually). The entire Crew is invited, as is any other interested member of Scouting.

HOW DO I NOMINATE MY CREW?

Nominations must be proposed by Crews, Region Rover Councils (RRCs), or RCs Rovers. The award is

annual, covering Service completed during the prior calendar year. In most cases RRCs pass on endorsed nominations to the Vice Chair of the Branch Rover Council, otherwise submit directly to the BRC.

The Vice Chair submits written nominations to Lodge B-P for assessment, with the Lodge confirming successful nominations in January each year.

Invites to the dinner are then sent to successful Crews, as well as RRCs a few weeks prior to the formal dinner.

Nominations should be submitted by the November BRC meeting each year.

WHAT CONSTITUTES SERVICE?

"Service" is open to interpretation by the nominator. The following is a guide to the standard of service that could warrant awarding a Lodge B-P Service Award:

- Multiple examples of Community Service undertaken by the Crew or Region in the previous calendar year.
- Service involves the majority of the Crew or Region.
- The Crew or Region is seen as setting a great example for other Crews or Regions.

It's also worth talking to your RC Rovers, SC Rovers or BRC Vice Chair for more guidance.

WHY NOMINATE?

The Lodge B-P Service Award is a well-known recognition of outstanding Service by Crews in NSW. Its great recognition for the work Rovering has done. Plus the Award night is good fun, and a great chance to catch up with other Rover Scouts.

For more information check out www.nsw.rovers.com.au, or contact the Branch Rover Council Vice-Chair, or your Region/State Rover Commissioner.