

Directions for use of this Worksheet

The purpose of this worksheet is to assist in gathering the information needed to complete the Merit Star form for a **Mountain Host** being considered for a Purple Star Award. The worksheet is designed to assist with sections 1 through 7 of the form and additional documentation needed. The more you can identify on the worksheet, the more likely the nomination will be approved by Region and Division.

The key to success with these nominations depends on the sponsor's recommendation and the supporting documents. They must credit the nominee with an act or acts that warrant the level of Purple Merit Star being written!

The nomination form and sponsor recommendation should essentially be the same as if the Purple Merit Star were to be given to a Patroller. The Purple Star is given to Mountain Hosts who have performed the lifesaving act.

Purple Star nominee is primarily responsible for saving a life using emergency care. Save means this patient would have died; not this patient could have died. The patient survived for a minimum of 24 hours after being handed off to advanced care.

What is a lifesaving act? Because we are dealing with lifesaving for these awards, the management of the ABCs of a serious trauma or catastrophic medical emergency is the foundation. Lifesaving can also be accomplished by recognition of a lifesaving situation and continuation of care to prevent the patient from dying if the patroller stopped care.

The following support material is required:

- PURPLE STAR - a signed statement from an attending physician, or in his/her absence, a medically knowledgeable witness. Letters from others in attendance would be helpful.

It is sometimes difficult to obtain a letter from some individuals. When possible and if they can be coached, it is best to include words that confirm the fact that the Mountain Hosts actions saved the patient's life. The next best would simply be that they witnessed the patroller performing such and such act. In this event, you are establishing via a witness statement what the patroller did, an accompanying letter from a Region Medical Advisor or a knowledgeable medical authority stating that he or she believes the actions by the patroller saved the life.

In scenarios with multiple Patrollers or Mountain Hosts are involved at varying levels, it is helpful to include a spreadsheet detailing the timeline and actions of all participants. Below is an example.

Awards proposed	Nominee	At Scene	At Scene	Transport
Purple	Larry	Responded and found unresponsive skier	Established ABCs and opened airway	Assisted ventilations during transport
Blue	Curly	Arrived at scene with toboggan	Assisted with airway management and inserted airway	Tail toboggan to patrol room
Blue	Moe	Arrived at scene with O2 and AED	Applied O2 and delivered ventilations	Secured scene and carried gear to patrol room

Merit Star classification

MERIT STAR or NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

PURPLE BLUE GREEN YELLOW NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION (COA)

Since this is specifically a Purple Star for lifesaving by a Mountain Host, check the Purple Merit checkbox.

Sections 1-3 – Nominees Information

The nominees contact information and Patrol registration should be filled out accurately. Use the Hosts name as it is registered in the National database. **Do not use nicknames.**

Section 4 – Sending, Presentation, Posting, and Signatures

The Send the awards to, presentation, posting dates are to be completed by the Division Awards Advisor or Division Director when the nomination advances to Division level. These dates are usually the dates the award will be presented. After which the award will be entered on the Patrollers profile in the National database.

Approvals and Signatures

The appropriate Approval names and Signatures list the correct hierarchy. The only exception is when nominee holds one of these positions. In this case print Nominee in the appropriate field.

Section 5 – Certificate Wording

Give reason, event, place, and dates, indicating exactly how the wording on the award certificate should appear. Be brief, as space on the certificate is limited to 3 centered lines. The National Office reserves the right to change the wording.

DO NOT LEAVE THIS AREA BLANK!

Do not use the injured party's name! In some states and in some courts of law, this may be considered a HIPAA violation.

Be brief but to the point such as "In recognition and acknowledgement of saving a life at ???? Ski Area on 1/1/2000."

Section 6 – Supporting Documents

When supporting documents are attached this checkbox should be checked. Supporting documents would include the signed statement by a medically knowledgeable person, timeline grid, witness statements, and newspaper clippings.

Section 7 – Sponsor's Recommendation

All nominations must include the Sponsor's recommendation.

The sponsor should describe what the Mountain Host did to warrant the nomination. A narrative of the Host's actions from beginning to end of their involvement in the rescue is best. Do not include extraneous information. What is important is what the Host did.

If multiple Patrollers or Hosts are involved in a rescue each must be nominated on a separate form with an individualized letter tailored for each patroller.