Background and Significance

The award is named after the first Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America who exemplified Ralph Waldo Emerson’s observation that “an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man.” Scouting today is the “lengthened shadow” of more than three decades of the farseeing and dedicated leadership of Dr. James E. West.

Those who are recognized by the James E. West Fellowship Award will cast their own “lengthened shadow” as they help ensure the Scouting legacy for future generations of young people and create the financial stability of the program in the twenty-first century for the Del-Mar-Va Council.
James E. West was the first Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America; he served in that position for more than three decades. The West Fellowship award is bestowed on individuals for gifts of $1,000 and up in cash or marketable securities to our council endowment fund. The gift must be in addition to—and not replace or diminish the donor’s annual Friends of Scouting support.

Many individuals and corporations can also make these gifts either on behalf of someone else—such as in honor of an Eagle Scout, a Silver Beaver recipient, a retirement, a special accomplishment, or anniversary—or in memory of a special individual.

Q. What is the Council Endowment Fund?
A. The Endowment Fund is a Trust that was established by the Board of Directors of our council. Gifts to this fund are held in perpetuity meaning that the original gift amount is never spent but is rather invested. The earnings from this investment are then used to bring Scouting to our urban, suburban and rural young people. A gift to the Council Endowment Fund truly is the gift that keeps on giving—forever.

Q. How does my James E. West gift benefit young people?
A. The investment committee of our Council Executive Board oversees the annual investment of our council endowment fund. The earnings from this fund are included in the council budget each year to provide programs, services and summer camp scholarships to young people.

Q. What are the James E. West recognition items?
A. Each James E. West Fellow is appropriately recognized with a personalized certificate, a lapel pin and the James E. West Square Knot for wear on the official Scout uniform.

B. Listing in Scouter newsletter.
C. Listing in our Annual Report.
D. Presentation at a Scouting function.

Q. How do I enroll myself, or another, as a James E. West Fellow?
A. Use the attached response form to enroll in the James E. West Fellowship program.