

# Private Issue Scouting Square Knots (Experimental, Locally Authorized, Fake and Spoof) Part 3 of 5: Ship's Stores and Chris McCullough Knots

George Cowl

[Changes from V 13.0 are in blue.](#)

The next major producer is **The Ship's Stores**, at the [www.seascout.org](http://www.seascout.org) web site, or their own at [www.ships-store.org](http://www.ships-store.org). As the title indicates, its primary function is as a supply house for Sea Scouts. It sells blue uniforms, blue and white insignia, and other Sea Scout supplies. It sells knots with black or white backgrounds, to go with Navy blue or white Sea Scout uniforms. The BSA officially produced five of the seven varieties of knots in blue and in white. The sixth, the Arrow of Light, was never produced by the BSA in either blue or white. The seventh, the Seabadge, came only in gray background. In my opinion, Ship's Stores has the most accurate reproduction of the official BSA knot seen in any of the private issue knots. The black knots can easily be distinguished from official BSA knots because they are black, not Navy blue, and because BSA produced four of the five with a plush or felted background. Only the Scouter's Training Award had a twill background, and it is different than Ship's Stores twill. The white Ship's Stores versions are more difficult to distinguish, but the twill is different and so is the backing. In 2006, Ship's Stores started producing Seabadge knots in tan to match the tan work uniform, and Seabadge staff knots in black, white and tan. The latter were only authorized in the Seabadge manual in years past, not by the Uniforms and Insignia Committee or by the current manual.



**Silver Beaver**



**Quartermaster**



**Eagle**



**Arrow of Light**



**Scouter's Key**



**Scouter's Training Award**



**Seabadge**



**Seabadge Staff**

AWARD	ROPE CLR	BCKGD	FABRIC	BDR	BACK
Silver Beaver	Blue/White	Black	F Twill	Black	G-P
Silver Beaver	Blue/White	White	F Twill	White	G-P
Quartermaster	White/White	Black	F Twill	Black	G-P
Quartermaster	Blue/Blue	White	F Twill	White	G-P
Eagle	RWB	Black	F Twill	Black	G-P
Eagle	RWB	White	F Twill	White	G-P
Eagle	RWB	White	F Twill	White	Plastic
Arrow of Light	Green/Red	Gold	F Twill	Black	G-P
Arrow of Light	Green/Red	Gold	F Twill	White	G-P
Scouter's Key (Skipper's Key)	Green/White	Black	F Twill	Black	G-P
Scouter's Key (Skipper's Key)	Green/White	White	F Twill	White	G-P
Scouter's Training Award	Green/Green	Black	F Twill	Black	G-P
Scouter's Training Award	Green/Green	White	F Twill	White	G-P
Scouter's Training Award	Green/Green	White	F Twill	White	Plastic
Seabadge	White trident	Black	F Twill	White	G-P
Seabadge	Blue trident	White	F Twill	Blue	G-P
Seabadge	Blue trident	Tan	F Twill	Blue	Gauze
Seabadge Staff	White trident	Black	F Twill	White	Gauze
Seabadge Staff	Blue trident	White	F Twill	Blue	
Seabadge Staff	Blue trident	Tan	F Twill	Blue	Gauze



**Original Eagle Knot**



**Honor/Heroism Medal**



**Medal of Merit**



**Silver Buffalo**



**Silver Antelope**



**Silver Beaver**

Two new vendors have entered the market since Venturing was established. I treat Chris McCullough first. He had four green background knots that were identical in every respect to the Sharif knots of the same green background. They were Eagle, Arrow of Light, Scouter's Key, and Scouter's Training Award. In 2003, Chris began offering many new Venturing and Sea Scouting knots through [Crew 697 of Roseburg OR](#). They no longer have a web site and appear to be out of business. These can be distinguished from the originals primarily by the Pelon-plastic backs, but also by the direction of the twill, the width of the ropes, and subtle differences in color of the knot. These are excellent reproductions. Of course, the AOL and VAAM are not reproductions of real knots.



**Silver Beaver**

**Eagle Scout**

**Arrow of Light**



**Scouter's Key**

**Scouter's Training Award**

**Advisor Award of Merit**

Shortly thereafter, he produced a wide variety of additional knots in green, white, black and even khaki. The complete list is below, and sample illustrations are next to the list. McCullough now offers many knots for awards that do not have knots in the BSA. In some cases, his private issue knots can cause confusion with real knots because of the color similarities or non-standard backgrounds.

AWARD	ROPE CLR	BCKGD	FABRIC	BDR	BACK
Eagle Scout	RWB	Green	F Twill	Green	G-P
Scouter's Key	Green/White	Green	F Twill	Green	G-P
Scouter's Training Award	Green/Green	Green	F Twill	Green	G-P
Arrow of Light	Red/Green	Green	F Twill	Yellow	G-P
Silver Beaver	Blue/White	Green	F Twill	Green	G-P
Advisor's Award of Merit	White/White	Green	F Twill	Green	G-P
Honor/Heroism	Red/Red	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Honor/Heroism	Red/Red	White	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Honor/Heroism	Red/Red	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Medal of Merit	Blue/Yellow	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Medal of Merit	Blue/Yellow	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Medal of Merit	Blue/Yellow	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Silver Buffalo	Red/White	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Silver Buffalo	Red/White	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Silver Buffalo	Red/White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Silver Antelope	Orange/White	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Silver Antelope	Orange/White	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Silver Antelope	Orange/White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Silver Beaver	Blue/White	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Silver Beaver	Blue/White	White	F Twill	White	Pelon



**District Award of Merit**



**James E. West**



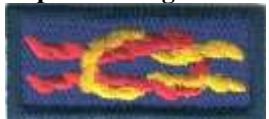
**Eagle Scout**



**Eagle Scout (red jacket)**



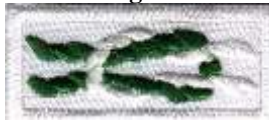
**Explorer Ranger**



**Explorer Silver Award**



**Youth Religious Award**



**Scouter's Key**



**Skipper's Key**

AWARD	ROPE CLR	BCKGD	FABRIC	BDR	BACK
Silver Beaver	Blue/White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Silver Beaver Error	Brt Blue/White	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Silver Beaver Error	Brt Blue/White	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Silver Beaver Error	Brt Blue/White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
District Award of Merit	Mylar Overhnd	Green	F Twill	Mylar	Pelon
District Award of Merit	Mylar Overhnd	White	F Twill	Mylar	Pelon
District Award of Merit	Mylar Overhnd	Black	F Twill	Mylar	Pelon
Whitney Young Award	Black/White	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Whitney Young Award	Black/White	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Whitney Young Award	Black/White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Whitney Young Award	Black/White	Khaki	F Twill	Khaki	Pelon
Community Organization	Gold/Gold	Green	F Twill	Gold	Pelon
Community Organization	Gold/Gold	White	F Twill	Gold	Pelon
Community Organization	Gold/Gold	Purple	F Twill	Gold	
James E West	Green/Yellow	Green	F Twill	Red	Pelon
James E West	Green/Yellow	White	F Twill	Red	Pelon
James E West	Green/Yellow	Black	F Twill	Red	Pelon
Eagle Scout	RWB	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Eagle Scout	RWB	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Eagle Scout	RWB	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Eagle Scout	RWB	Lt Blue	F Twill	Lt Blue	Pelon
Eagle Scout	RWB	Red	F Twill	Red	
Ranger	Green/Tan	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Ranger	Green/Tan	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Ranger	Green/Tan	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Ranger	Green/Tan	Khaki	Plain	Khaki	Pelon
Quartermaster	Blue/Blue	Green	F Twill	Green	
Quartermaster	White/White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Quartermaster	Black/Black	White	FE	White	Pelon
Quartermaster	Blue/Blue	Khaki	Plain	Khaki	
Silver Award I	Red/Yellow	Blue	F Twill	Blue	Pelon
Hornaday Award	Green	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Hornaday Award	B/W/G	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Hornaday Award	B/W/G	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Hornaday Award	B/W/G	Khaki	F Twill	Khaki	Pelon
Youth Religious Award	Silver Mylar	White	F Twill	White	
Arrow of Light	Red/Green	Green	F Twill	Yellow	Pelon
Arrow of Light	Red/Green	White	F Twill	Yellow	Pelon
Arrow of Light	Red/Green	Black	F Twill	Yellow	Pelon
Scouter's Key	Green/White	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Scouter's Key	Green/White	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Scouter's Key	Green/White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Skipper's Key	Dk Blue/White	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Skipper's Key	Dk Blue/White	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Skipper's Key	Dk Blue/White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon



Scouter's Training Award



Den Leader Coach



VAAM or QM



VAAM



Seabadge



Seabadge Staff



Seabadge CD



Boyce New-Unit Org



Antarctic Service



Alpha Phi Omega

AWARD	ROPE CLR	BCKGD	FABRIC	BDR	BACK
Skipper's Key	Dk Blue/White	Khaki	Plain	Khaki	Pelon
Scouter's Training Award	Green/Green	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Scouter's Training Award	Green/Green	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Scouter's Training Award	Green/Green	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Tiger Cub Coach/Den Ldr	Orange/Black	Yellow	F Twill	Orange	Pelon
Den Leader Coach Award	Blue/Blue	Blue	F Twill	Blue	
Venturing Advisor Awd Merit	White/White	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Venturing Advisor Awd Merit	White/White	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Venturing Advisor Awd Merit	White/White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
International Scouter Award	Purple/White	Green	F Twill	Purple	Pelon
International Scouter Award	Purple/White	White	F Twill	Purple	Pelon
International Scouter Award	Purple/White	Black	F Twill	Purple	Pelon
International Scouter Award	Purple/White	Khaki	F Twill	Purple	Pelon
Seabadge	White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Seabadge	Blue	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Seabadge	White	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Seabadge	Blue	Khaki	Plain	Khaki	Pelon
Seabadge staff	White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Seabadge staff	Blue	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Seabadge staff	White	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Seabadge staff	Blue	Khaki	Plain	Khaki	Pelon
Seabadge CD	White	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Seabadge CD	Blue	White	F Twill	Blue	Pelon
Seabadge CD	White	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Seabadge CD	Blue	Khaki	Plain	Blue	Pelon
Boyce New-Unit Organizer	Silver/Silver	Y/G/R	FE	Tan	Pelon
<b>KNOTS BELOW NEVER</b>	<b>ISSUED BY</b>	<b>BSA</b>			
Antarctic Service	White/White	Lt Blue	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Alpha Phi Omega	APO over B/W	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Alpha Phi Omega	APO over B/W	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Alpha Phi Omega	APO over B/W	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Alpha Phi Omega	APO over B/W	Khaki	Plain	Khaki	Pelon



**BSA Lifeguard**



**FOS Volunteer**



**Girl Scout Gold Award**



**Historic Trails**



**ISPI Scouter Service**



**JLT Training Staff**



**OA Founder's Award**



**OA Vigil**

AWARD	ROPE CLR	BCKGD	FABRIC	BDR	BACK
BSA Lifeguard	Blue/Blue	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
BSA Lifeguard	Blue/Blue	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
BSA Lifeguard	Blue/Blue	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
BSA Lifeguard	Blue/Blue	Khaki	Plain	Khaki	Pelon
FOS Volunteer	Blue/Blue	Gray	F Twill	Blue	Pelon
Gettysburg Trail	Blue/Gray	Bl/Gr	FE	Bl/Gr	
Girl Scout Gold Award	GoldM/GoldM	Green	F Twill	Silver	Pelon
Historic Trails	Green/Blue	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
Historic Trails	Green/Blue	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
Historic Trails	Green/Blue	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
Historic Trails	Green/Blue	Khaki	Plain	Khaki	Pelon
ISPhilosophicS Service Awd	Blu-Wht-Blu -	Red	F Twill	Black	Pelon
ISPI S Distinguished Service	Gold/Gold	Blue	F Twill	White	Pelon
Junior Leader Training Staff	Silver/Silver	Green	F Twill	Silver	Pelon
OA Founder's Award	Gold/Gold	Red	F Twill	Red	Pelon
OA Vigil	ReWt/RedWt	Green	F Twill	Red	Pelon
OA Vigil	ReWt/RedWt	Green	F Twill	Green	
OA Vigil	RdWt/RedWt	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
OA Vigil	RdWt/RedWt	Black	F Twill	Red	Pelon
OA Vigil	RdWt/RedWt	Khaki	Plain	Red	Pelon
OA Vigil	RdWt/RedWt	Khaki	Plain	Tan	
SCUBA	Red/Wht Flag	White	F Twill	Red	
SS Distinguished Service	Gold mylar	White	Plain	White	
Varsity Denali Award	Brown/Orange	White	F Twill	Tan	Pelon
Youth Leadership in America	Red/Green	White	F Twill	Silver	Pelon
50-Miler Award	Yellow/Red	Green	F Twill	Green	Pelon
50-Miler Award	Yellow/Red	White	F Twill	White	Pelon
50-Miler Award	Yellow/Red	Black	F Twill	Black	Pelon
50-Miler Award	Yellow/Red	Khaki	Plain	Khaki	Pelon



**Varsity Denali Award   Youth Leadership in America   50-Miler Award**

Please go on to Part 4 of five. I would like to thank Al Bormuth, Smokey Bassett, Allan Coady, George Cuhaj, Barry Ekle, Jim Ellis, Linda Friedrich, Ron Hall, Frank LaGrange, Shay Lelegren, Len Michaud, Craig Murray, Chris McCullough, Bruce Noonan, Mark Ritter, Rafi Sharif, Parker Smith, Mike Walton (the Black Eagle), and Ernie Walley for information, help or knots and images to add to the paper. Any errors are mine.

If you are interested in specific varieties of all or a single series of knot over time, a monograph titled *Varieties of Official BSA Square Knots* is available. It covers all official knots from their first issue to the current issues with scans of each major variety. It is also available from the author.

It is the nature of this information to change, sometimes rapidly. I hope this exposition has been of interest. As you can see, there are still some gaps to fill in. If you have information that would help, please contact me at [George@Crowl.org](mailto:George@Crowl.org) or 832-467-1998 or 16213 Congo Ln, Jersey Village, TX 77040-2011.