

## CHANCERY HANDBOOK

### TOPIC J – RECOGNITION: THE SOVEREIGN’S AWARD

I have gathered together in this document everything you need to know about the Sovereign’s Award for St John Ambulance senior cadets and young adults. The source documents are the Statutes, the Regulations and Grand Council Instruction No 15. The relevant extracts are reproduced below in Times New Roman font in text boxes.

#### STATUTES

The Sovereign’s Award is covered in spirit, if not in detail, by Statute 52(1):

**52. Medals**

(1) The Order may award Medals ... in accordance with such provision as may from time to time be made by Regulations.

#### REGULATIONS

The relevant Regulation as per Statute 52(1) is Regulation 36, which itself refers forward to the Appendices to the Regulations:

**36 Medals, Certificates of Honour ...**

Appendices ... shall have effect for the purposes of Statute 52 under which provision may be made concerning the award of Medals ...

Having only recently been introduced, the Sovereign’s Award is not specifically mentioned in the Regulations, but will be included at next revision.

#### GRAND COUNCIL INSTRUCTION

The details of the award appear in Grand Council Instruction No 15. It was issued on 1 October 2011 and came into force on that date ...

**GRAND COUNCIL INSTRUCTION NUMBER 15  
THE SOVEREIGN’S AWARD**

**5 Purpose of the Award**

The Award is established to recognise members of St John between the ages of 16 and 25 for outstanding achievement in personal development and benefit to the community through the work of ... St John Ambulance ...

**6 Seniority of the Award**

The Award shall rank immediately senior to the Grand Prior’s Award.

...

**8 Certificates**

A person to whom an Award is made shall receive a certificate signed by the Sovereign Head. The certificate shall be in the form of a pattern held by the Secretary-General.

... and the supporting Regulations are in the attachment to the GCI:

### **Regulations for the Sovereign's Award**

#### **Local Flexibility**

3. It is recognised that conditions and opportunities for young people vary considerably around the world. Accordingly, a degree of local flexibility is acknowledged to be necessary for the criteria for the Award from Establishment to Establishment. Establishments should issue such expanded local guidance on the Award as they consider necessary in the light of local circumstances, whilst maintaining the general principles set out here.

#### **Entry Qualification**

4. The Award is open to members of St John Ambulance, aged 16-25, who have completed the Grand Prior's Award, or similar demanding projects in Establishments (such as the Amalfi Challenge (Priory of England)) or 1,000 hours (or a commensurate number as set by the Establishment) of adult service.

#### **Award Criteria**

5. To qualify for the award of the Sovereign's Award, candidates must submit evidence of significant achievement in 3 areas, in a format of the candidate's choice:
  - a. Personal benefit as an individual and team member;
  - b. Benefit to the work of St John Ambulance; and
  - c. Benefit to the community, preferably over an extended period.

#### **Assessment**

6. In each Establishment a panel of judges will examine all applications. The panel should be composed of people from a variety of backgrounds. The members of the selection panel may differ from Establishment to Establishment, but typically consist of:
  - a. An independent external Chair;
  - b. Young person(s) selected by their peers;
  - c. The Chief Officer (Youth), or equivalent and/or experts in the field of assessing Youth work.

#### **Assessment Criteria**

7. The panel will assess the applications based on the evidence presented to them, according to the following criteria:
  - a. Completion of either the Grand Prior's Award, or similar Establishment challenge, or 1,000 hours (or a commensurate number as set by the Establishment) of adult service;
  - b. significant personal development;
  - c. benefit to the work and vision of St John Ambulance; and
  - d. service and benefit to the community, preferably over an extended period.

#### **General Notes**

8. Details of successful candidates, together with brief details of the projects for which the Award is granted are to be submitted annually to the Secretary General by 1<sup>st</sup> November. These will then be collated within the International Office for submission to the Sovereign Head for approval, through the Grand Prior's office.

A badge is not mentioned in the GCI, but one is described in the *Rules for the Sovereign's Award* issued by St John Ambulance [England] dated May 2000 and shown below:



It is worn on the right breast of St John Ambulance uniform. The certificate is mentioned, but not described, at Paragraph 10. An example is attached.

#### RELATED TOPIC

H Grand Prior's Award