



DISTINGUISHED ORDER OF MERIT (DOM)

1. PURPOSE

Purpose is to outline requirements to earn the Young Marine Distinguished Order of Merit (DOM).

2. INTENT

The Young Marine Distinguished Order of Merit (DOM) is the highest award a Young Marine or a Registered Adult can earn. This award is intended to recognize those who have demonstrated, through their superlative example, the values the program considers worthy of special recognition. The DOM is intended for those senior Young Marines who have committed themselves to the ideals of the Young Marine program. Where they have reached a point in their Young Marine careers where a final level of achievement is made through a process reserved for those special few who have excelled to a higher level. This award may also be presented for special recognition to those who have provided a level of support to the Young Marine program at a national level above and beyond the call of duty.

3. REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for this award will be laid out in the paragraphs to follow. It is not the intent that this award be easy to achieve, nor impossible. The requirements will be followed and no exceptions will be made. Ribbons that have been earned through the normal Young Marine Training and Education process will not have to be "re-earned."

Young Marine Requirements

- a. Notice of intent by recommendation from a registered adult staff member from their unit or higher headquarters. This notice will be in writing and sent to the training department at National Headquarters. Upon receiving the notice of receipt from National Headquarters the Young Marines may begin to compile the package for submittal and submit the plan for their project.
- b. Ensure the Young Marine Record Book is accurate and up-to-date.
- c. Submit the Young Marines plan for their Veteran/Community Service Project. This submittal should include the name of the project, who (individual, group, organization) the project will benefit and why. A comprehensive plan of events from start to finish for the project selected. Approvals from appropriate sources and agencies for the project (permits, licenses, etc). Below is an example of a Veterans Service Project Plan.

Project title: Clean-up and Maintain the Veteran's Park on Canal Street.

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Benefit: This project will benefit the entire community by restoring the Veteran's Park to a level of pride where the community will be able to come and see the memorials that are there. Currently, all of the memorials and plaques are overgrown with brush and weeds and they require cleaning. The park gate is in disrepair and will need replacing. The flag pole has not had a flag flying from it for many years. It requires scrapping, new paint, a new line and flag.

Plan: I have drafted a letter that will be provide to local businesses explanation of project and with seeking donations. A breakdown of each line item below as well as copies of the permit required for replacing the gate can be found on page 2 of plan. Estimated start date is 1 March with the rededication ceremony taking place on April 15th.

Estimated Costs -	Cutting and removing brush and weeds	\$40.00
	Cleaning memorials and plaques	\$120.00
	Mowing and edging	\$25.00
	Replace park gate	\$225.00
	Clean, re-paint, attach new line and flag to pole	\$300.00
	Re-Dedication Ceremony	<u>\$500.00</u>
	Total	\$1210.00

- 1) Things to consider when selecting a project should include but are not limited to:

- Who or what will this project impact
- Support of the community – get in writing
- Media Coverage
- Assistance and labor
- Legal Issues – can this be done? What is the liability?
- What is the plan for future maintenance by yourself or others?

- 2) Things to do following the successful completion of the project:

- Submit a complete after action review (AAR) with before and after photos to the National Headquarters Training Department along with proof of completion of the other requirements.

Send thank you notes to all who assisted you in any way.

d. Ribbon Requirements

1) Discipline

- i. Earn the Drug Demand Reduction Ribbon with the DEA device.
- ii. Earn the Academic Achievement Ribbon for the previous two completed Academic Years at time of application
- iii. Additional Required (2 of 3)
 - 1. Physical Fitness Test Ribbon with level II device – earned and maintained for the previous 2 required PFTs
 - 2. Good Conduct Ribbon
 - 3. Perfect Attendance Ribbon

2) Leadership

- i. Earn the Young Marine Staff Ribbon, Advanced Leadership Ribbon, Senior Leadership Ribbon, and Junior Leadership Ribbon
- ii. Additional Required (3 of 6)
 - 1. Young Marine Staff – National Level
 - 2. Young Marine Staff – Division Level
 - 3. Young Marine Staff – Regimental Level
 - 4. Young Marine Staff – Battalion Level
 - 5. YM/1stSgt Ribbon

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6. YM/SgtMaj Ribbon

3) Teamwork

- i. Earn Community Service with 2 Bronze stars and Veteran Appreciation Ribbon
 - ii. Additional Requirements (2 of 3)
 1. Drill Team Ribbon
 2. Color Guard Ribbon
 3. Sportsmanship Ribbon
- e. Write two articles suitable for publication in and submitted to Esprit Magazine. One essay may be on any subject dealing with American values. It may be about an event or a prominent individual, but one that requires research and relevant facts. The other will be on your Veterans/Community Service Project. Include photos of your project for inclusion in the magazine. Submit a copy of your articles with your AAR to National Headquarters Training Department.
- f. Submit completed package to National Headquarters. Package to include AAR of Project and two articles submitted to Esprit.

4. **Registered Adult Requirements**

The Distinguished Order of Merit is awarded by the National Executive Director, at his discretion, to registered adults who have made a significant impact on the Young Marine Program.