



Minnesota Law Enforcement Explorer Association

January 01, 2026

Dear Post Advisor:

On behalf of the Minnesota Law Enforcement Explorer Association, I would like to invite your post to apply for consideration of receiving the 2026 Don Cup. As you will recall, this award was created in 2000 and is dedicated to the "Three Dons", Don Peterson, Don Clough, and Don Omodt.

To become eligible for the 2026 award you must send a letter to the MLEEA that describes your posts accomplishments during the past year. There are no specific standards or specifications for receiving the award; however, the accomplishments should clearly demonstrate outstanding efforts toward teamwork, dedication, quality, and service. I have attached a copy of the inscription that appears on the Don Cup for your reference. Your letter can mention both individual and post efforts that you feel set your post apart.

All letters will be critiqued by a panel comprised of representatives from MLEEA and Learning for Life. When the 2026 award has been decided the winning post's advisor will be notified. The board will then work with that advisor to create an award presentation tailored to the accomplishments of the post. The formal presentation will occur at the 2026 State Conference in Rochester, Minnesota. To allow enough time for critiquing the letters and preparing the presentation all applications must be received by April 1, 2026.

I anticipate the Don Cup becoming a most prestigious award. The board plans to invite command and political representatives from the winning agency to the presentation. I strongly encourage all posts to make application for the award. This is a fine opportunity to highlight your post's accomplishments.

Please contact me via the web site if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heather Olson", written over a horizontal line.

Heather Olson
MLEEA Chairperson



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THE DON CUP

This award was created in April of 2000 to commemorate the selfless service of three men to the youth of Minnesota.

Don Peterson, Don Clough, and Don Omodt.

Known as "The Three Dons", they volunteered countless hours each year to create the finest Law Enforcement Exploring program in the nation. They consistently demonstrated a complete commitment to a mission of quality, service, and life-long learning. These men are directly responsible for helping to create the finest local, state, and federal law enforcement professionals working today. Additionally, their efforts have touched thousands of young people with life-lessons that reach far beyond law enforcement.

This trophy will be awarded at each state conference to the post that demonstrates the characteristics The Three Dons showed over four decades.



Teamwork, Dedication, Quality, and Service