

Decorations (medals and badges)

And demerits also

Version 3.1.1 (Booster). Copyright Ken Young 2017-2025. All rights reserved. <http://www.roaringrockets.org/>

People in the service organizations of this game (Space Rangers, etc) receive decorations (with an accompanying medal or badge) after performing worthy acts.

Decorations bring respect. The amount depends on the type and number of decorations the character has. They are good for getting favors, influence, the ear of higher ups, and even forgiveness. In an extreme case the character can be disgraced (stripped of all decorations) instead of punishment.

Contemporary military decorations are rooted in history and are not as simple or structured as these science fiction decorations. Also, decorations are much more useful to characters in the game than they are to contemporary servicemen. Real decorations are different from game decorations (please make this clear to players).

Some decorations are for award by the Earth government to civilians. Service members respect these decorations also.

Promotions

10-20 decoration points come with each promotion. Space Rangers, Star Scouts, and Star Patrol get 20; Military gets 10.

A character being promoted will usually not be decorated also. It depends on the situation (game master discretion). A character receiving a significant decoration might be promoted as well.

Badges

They are smaller than medals and pin directly onto the uniform without dangling. You get multiples instead of upgrades. They can be worn on a field uniform, but usually are worn only on dress uniforms. Most are dull bronze.

Not all real badges can be awarded multiple times to the same serviceman.

Medals

They are larger than badges. Medals dangle on a very short ribbon pinned to the uniform. They are only worn on a dress uniform.

You get an upgrade instead of multiples.

1. The base medal is made of bronze and is minimally shiny
2. Silver medal: Silver plating over exposed metal
3. Gold medal: Gold plating over exposed metal
4. Medal with comets: Gold plated medal has silver plated comets swirling around the circumference
5. Medal with gems: Comet heads are gemstones (usually amethyst)
6. Medal with diamonds: Comet heads are diamonds; comets are solid silver instead of silver plated.

The silver upgrade version of a medal of valor would be called a "silver medal of valor", and so forth.

Award an Oak Leaf badge instead of an upgrade once the medal is maxed out. Few real medals can be upgraded.

Minor decorations

THESE ARE RELATIVELY COMMON AND ONLY BRING A LITTLE RESPECT. THEY ARE WORTH 1 DECORATION POINT PER AWARD, MULTIPLE, AND UPGRADE.

Achievement Badge: Given for going beyond the call of duty. The badge is round with a falcon on it. No multiples or upgrades.

Campaign Badge: This military badge is awarded for participating in a campaign. It can be given to other services for participating in a campaign while attached to the military. It is a horizontal bar with colored bands indicating which campaign.

Life Badge: Saved one or more lives. The badge is a red Greek cross. No upgrades or multiples. If it is an assist or team effort, the team size must be smaller than the group of people saved.

Nightingale (Medal): Given to civilians for valuable service to the Earth government or human race. It is a round medal minted with the stylized face of Florence Nightingale on a white ribbon.

Oak Leaf (Badge): Given for being worthy of decoration, but no appropriate decoration could be given. The badge is a small bronze Oak leaf. Do not award an Oak Leaf to a character with demerits; instead cancel one demerit. You can ask a promotion or decoration to be downgraded to an Oak Leaf. Experienced characters can wind up with a lot of these, so they are small.

Respected decorations

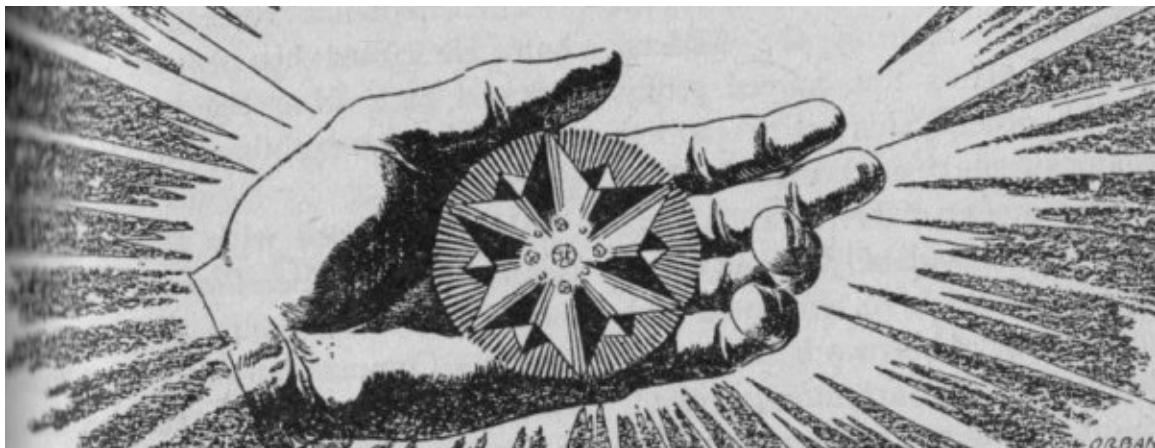
THESE ARE NOT EASY TO EARN AND CAN GET YOU SOME RESPECT. THEY ARE WORTH 5 DECORATION POINTS PER AWARD, MULTIPLE, AND UPGRADE.

Bronze Star (Badge): Given for going beyond the call of duty and doing your job at great personal risk. The badge is a 5-pointed bronze star.

Heros Award (Medal): Given for saving lives at great personal risk. The medal is an octagon with a starburst design on a blue & white ribbon.

Purple Heart (Medal): Given for being wounded in the line of duty. The medal is purple and heart shaped. The ribbon is purple. Instituted by George Washington in 1782.

YOUR CHARACTERS WILL GET MORE PURPLE HEART DECORATIONS THAN REAL SERVICEMEN BECAUSE ACTION HEROES IN FICTION GENRES CAN TAKE THREE BULLETS AND STILL BEAT UP THE BAD GUYS. REAL BULLETS DO PERMANENT DAMAGE AND NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE SURVIVABLE. FOR THESE REASONS A REAL PURPLE HEART GETS MORE RESPECT THAN THIS GAME DECORATION.



Major decorations

THESE ARE HARD TO EARN AND CAN GET YOU SIGNIFICANT RESPECT. THEY ARE WORTH 20 DECORATION POINTS PER AWARD, MULTIPLE, AND UPGRADE.

BADGE OF VIRTUE: GIVEN TO WOMEN FOR VIRTUE, VALOR AND MERIT. THIS DECORATION IS SOMETIMES GIVEN TO WOMEN IN LIEU OF A PROMOTION IN TRADITIONAL GAMES (GAME MASTERS CHOICE). THIS BADGE ALLOWS THEM TO HAVE THE CLOUT AND RESPECT THEY DESERVE, EVEN THOUGH THEY MIGHT BE A LOWER RANK. THE BADGE IS ROUND WITH A WHITE ENAMEL DOVE ON IT.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (MEDAL): GIVEN FOR BEING REALLY GOOD AT YOUR JOB AND MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE. THE MEDAL IS A SKY-BLUE CELTIC CROSS ON A RED & BLUE RIBBON. AT THE CENTER OF THE CROSS IS A SERVICE BRANCH EMBLEM. A CROSS GIVEN BY THE STAR SCOUTS IS CALLED A DISTINGUISHED STAR SCOUT CROSS, AND SO FORTH.

- THE DISTINGUISHED SPACE RANGER CROSS HAS A GOLD-PLATE 7-POINTED STAR IN THE MIDDLE
- THE DISTINGUISHED STAR PATROL CROSS HAS A RED ROCKET IN THE MIDDLE
- THE DISTINGUISHED STAR SCOUT CROSS HAS A BLACK SEXTANT IN THE MIDDLE
- THE DISTINGUISHED ASTRO FLEET CROSS HAS AN ARMORED FIST HOLDING A WHITE THUNDERBOLT IN THE MIDDLE
- THE DISTINGUISHED SPACE MARINE CROSS HAS TWO SILVER SWORDS MAKING AN X IN THE MIDDLE

MEDAL OF VALOR: GIVEN FOR GREAT COURAGE IN THE FACE OF GREAT DANGER. THE MEDAL IS ROUND WITH A LION IN THE CENTER. THE RIBBON IS RED & BLUE.

VOLUNTEERS CROSS (METAL): GIVEN TO CIVILIANS FOR SIGNIFICANT SERVICE TO THE EARTH GOVERNMENT OR HUMAN RACE THAT HAD A BIG IMPACT. THE MEDAL IS A GREEN CANTERBURY CROSS ON A RED & WHITE RIBBON. THIS MEDAL IS SOLID, NOT PLATED, AND WEIGHS HALF AN OUNCE.

YELLOW ROCKET (BADGE): GIVEN FOR SAVING A SPACECRAFT AND EVERYONE ON BOARD. THE BADGE IS A STYLIZED YELLOW BUCK ROGERS TYPE ROCKET WITH A BLACK BORDER. IT CAN BE AWARDED TO A EVERYONE ON A SMALL TEAM IF A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE SAVED.

Awesome decorations

THESE ARE RARELY GIVEN AND BRING A LOT OF RESPECT. THESE HANG FROM A RIBBON AROUND THE NECK BECAUSE NOBODY IS EXPECTED TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE. THEY ARE WORTH 100 DECORATION POINTS EACH.

Galactic Achievement Medal: GIVEN FOR SAVING A PLANET OR ANY OTHER MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT. THE MEDAL IS A ONE-OUNCE PLATINUM SPIRAL GALAXY ON A BLACK RIBBON. CAN BE GIVEN TO A CIVILIAN OR SERVICE MEMBER. RECIPIENTS ARE CALLED GALACTIC HEROES.

MEDAL OF HONOR: GIVEN FOR SACRIFICING YOUR LIFE FOR EVERYONE ELSE IN A WAY THAT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE (USUALLY AWARDED TO THE NEXT OF KIN). IT IS EVEN AWARDED IF YOU SOMEHOW SURVIVE. THE MEDAL IS A SOLID GOLD 5-POINTED STAR IN A GOLD RING, WITH A WOMAN REPRESENTING HONOR IN THE CENTER OF THE STAR. THE RIBBON IS RED. CAN BE GIVEN TO A CIVILIAN OR SERVICE MEMBER.

POUR LE MERITE: GIVEN FOR BEING AMAZINGLY GOOD AT WHAT YOU DO AND MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE. WHAT YOU HAVE DONE IS SO AWESOME THAT A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS IS COMPLETELY INADEQUATE. THE MEDAL IS DARK BLUE ENAMEL ON A SOLID GOLD MALTESE CROSS. THE RIBBON IS BLACK & WHITE. INSTITUTED BY FREDERICK THE GREAT IN 1740.

Decoration points

REAL DECORATIONS ARE GIVEN TO ACKNOWLEDGE SOMEONES COURAGE, ABILITY, OR SACRIFICE. IN THIS GAME DECORATIONS PROVIDE A MEASURED REWARD FOR THE CHARACTERS. FOR BETTER GAMEPLAY, THE PLAYERS SHOULD NOT KEEP A COPY OF THIS LIST AND THE GAME MASTER SHOULD ONLY USE IT AS A GUIDELINE.

35 PTS MEN/40 PTS WOMEN: THE CHARACTER CAN INFLUENCE MINOR DECISIONS BY HIGHER-UPS WHEN PRESENT.

50 PTS: THE CHARACTER CAN GET AN AUDIENCE WITH HIGHER UPS TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

60 PTS: THE CHARACTER CAN ASK FOR MINOR FAVORS WITHIN THE SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.

85 PTS MEN/70 PTS WOMEN: THE CHARACTER CAN RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FOR MINOR INDISCRETIONS.

150 PTS MEN/170 PTS WOMEN: THE CHARACTER CAN INFLUENCE MANY DECISIONS BY HIGHER-UPS WHEN PRESENT.

200 PTS: THE CHARACTER CAN GET AN AUDIENCE WITH TOP BRASS TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

275 PTS: THE CHARACTER CAN ASK FOR FAVORS THAT ARE NOT USUALLY GRANTED WITHIN THE SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.

400 PTS MEN/320 PTS WOMEN: THE CHARACTER CAN RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FOR SIGNIFICANT INDISCRETIONS.

THE CHARACTER CAN ASK TO BE ASSIGNED EQUIPMENT BY THEIR SERVICE ORGANIZATION. THEY NOMINALLY NEED 5 DECORATION POINTS PER CREDIT OF THE EQUIPMENT'S CASH VALUE. THE CHARACTER NEEDS HALF THE DECORATION POINTS IF HE CAN SHOW AN IMMEDIATE AND COMPELLING NEED, AND HE NEEDS TWICE THE POINTS IF HE CANNOT SHOW ANY NEED.

ONCE AGAIN, THESE NUMBERS ARE JUST GUIDELINES. THE EXERCISE OF INFLUENCE COMES DOWN TO ROLE-PLAYING AND THE JUDGEMENT OF THE GAME MASTER.

Loss and replacement

THE INFLUENCE A DECORATION BRINGS COMES FROM BEING PUBLICLY DECORATED AND THE PAPERWORK IS A RECORD OF THIS. A CHARACTER THAT LOSES THEIR BADGES AND MEDALS CAN REPLACE THEM BY PAYING 1 CR AND WAITING 3 MONTHS. IN THE MEANTIME, THE CHARACTER CAN STILL USE THE DECORATION POINTS WITH ANYONE WHO KNOWS HE HAS THE DECORATIONS.

WEARING A BADGE OR MEDAL NOT EARNED IS A SERIOUS CRIME.



Demerits

CHARACTERS WHO TRANSGRESS GET WRITTEN UP BY THEIR SUPERIORS. THIS IS CALLED A DEMERIT. THE PLAYER KEEPS TRACK OF ANY DEMERITS ALONG WITH THEIR DECORATIONS. A REAL WRITE-UP STICKS TO YOU FOREVER, BUT A GAME DEMERIT CAN BE CANCELED OUT.

CHARACTERS CAN ONLY USE HALF OF THEIR DECORATION POINTS IF THEY HAVE A DEMERIT. THEY REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF RESPECT THE CHARACTER RECEIVES FROM HIGHER-UPS. DEMERITS ACCUMULATE: 1/4 DECORATION POINTS FOR TWO DEMERITS, 1/8 FOR THREE, ETC.

CHARACTERS WITH DEMERITS DO NOT GET PROMOTED. INSTEAD CANCEL ONE DEMERIT.

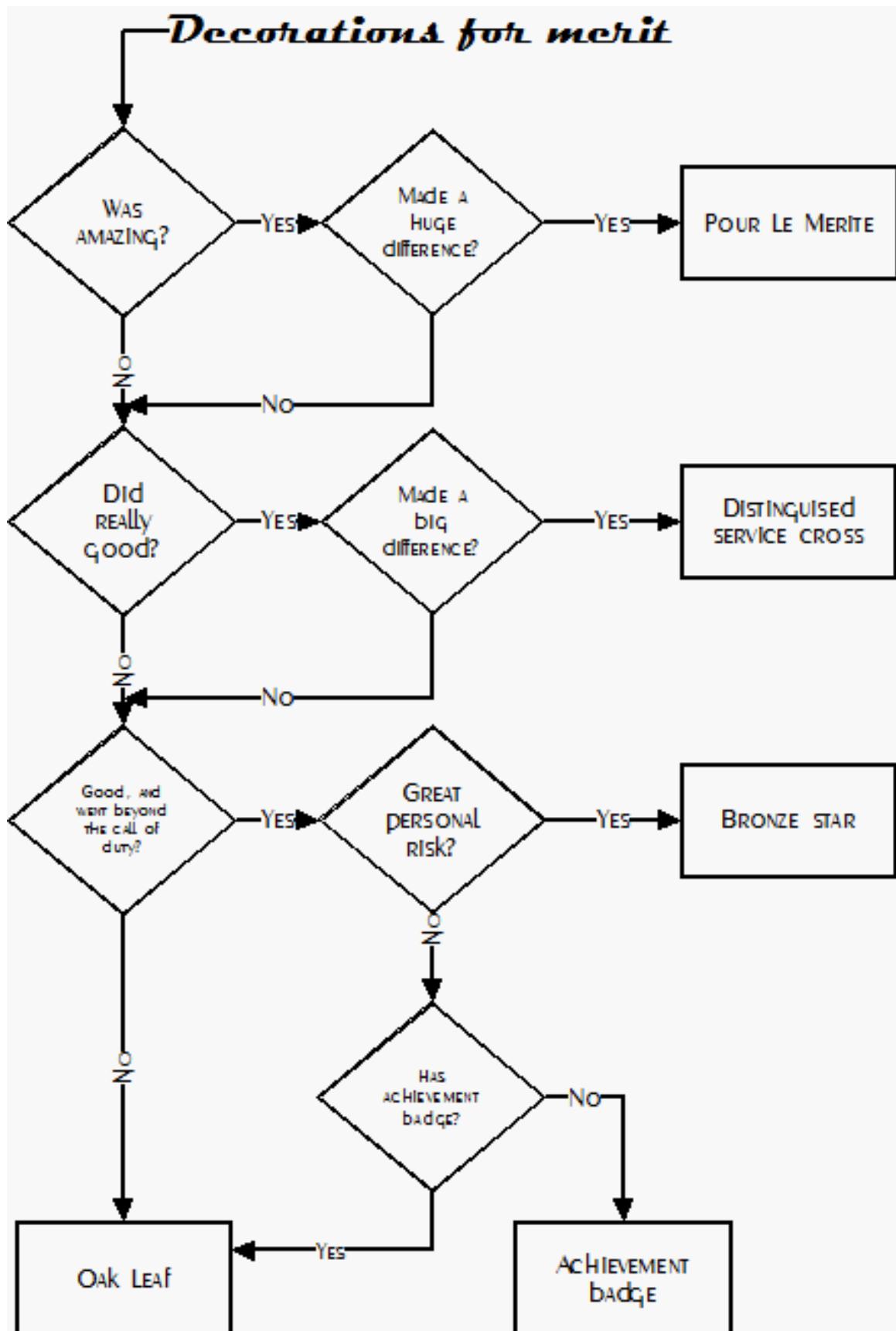
CHARACTERS WITH DEMERITS DO NOT LOSE DECORATIONS, AND DEMERITS DO NOT PREVENT DECORATIONS FROM BEING AWARDED. HOWEVER, THE OAK LEAF DECORATION IS NOT AWARDED; A NEW OAK LEAF CANCELS ONE DEMERIT INSTEAD.

THE CHARACTER CAN BUY OFF A DEMERIT WITH 25 EXPERIENCE POINTS.

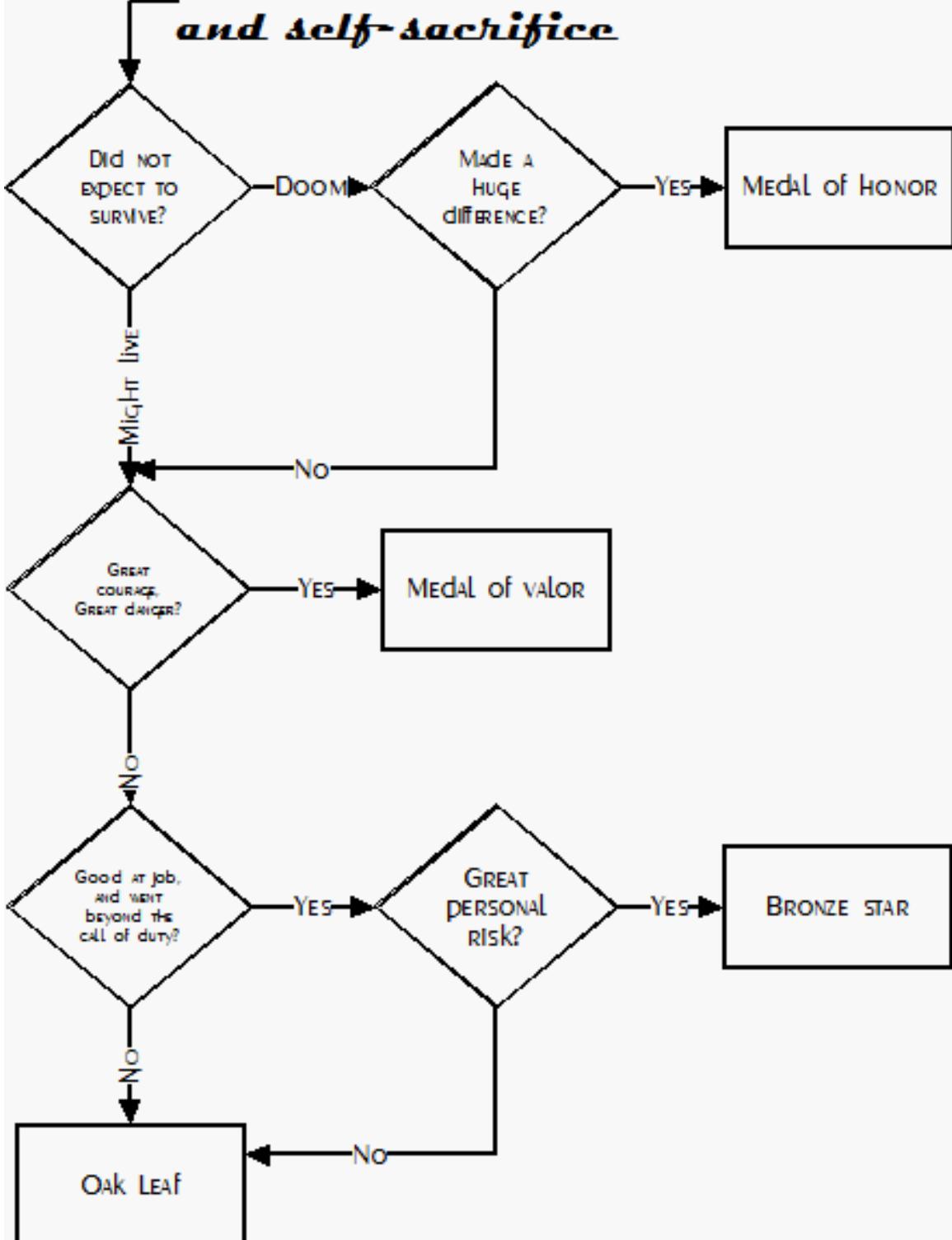
CHARACTERS CAN BE DEMERITED BY THINGS LIKE THIS

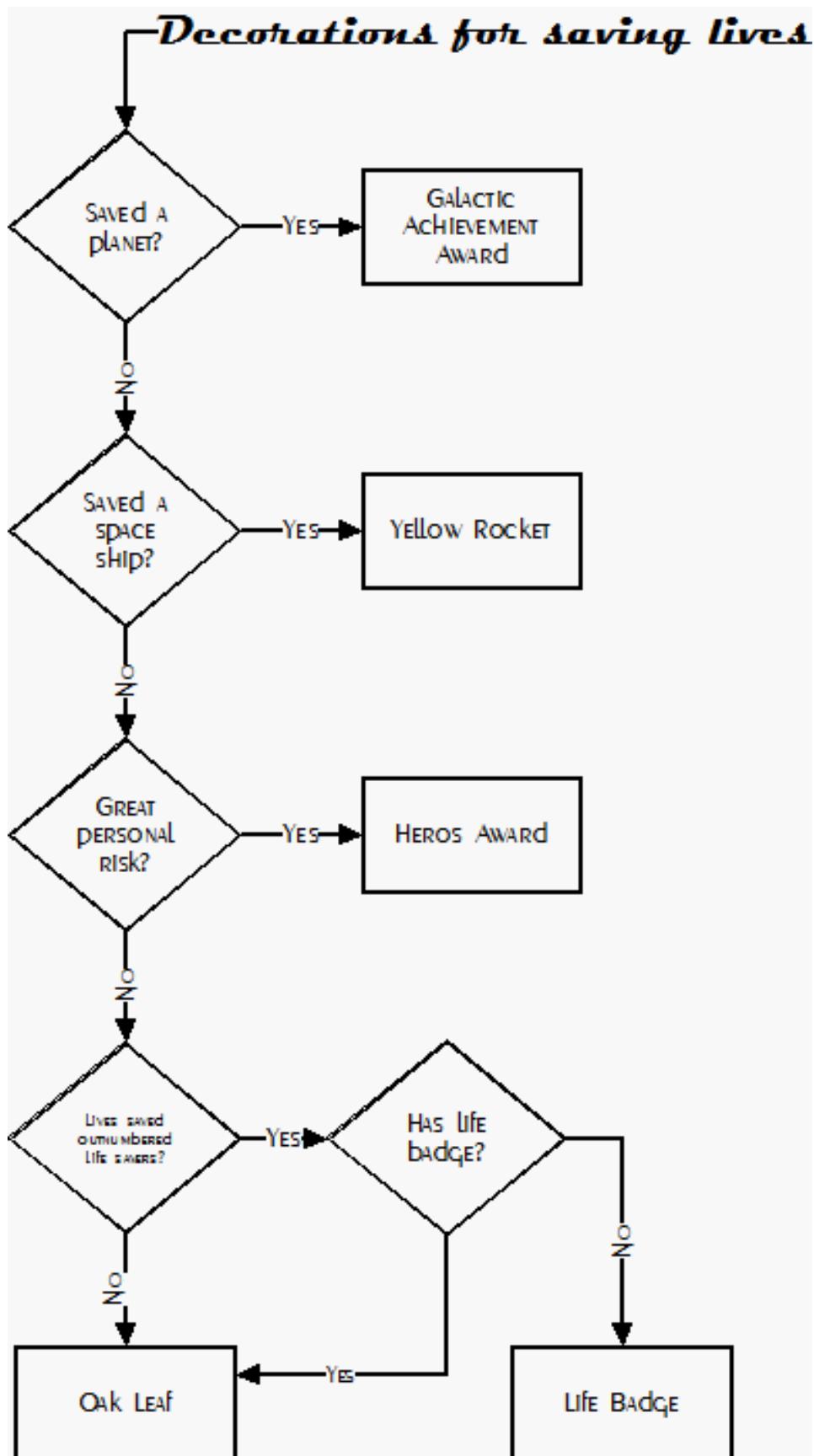
- INSUBORDINATION (DEFIANCE, DISRESPECT AND/OR DISOBEDIENCE)
- DERELICTION OF DUTY (NOT DOING YOUR JOB, NOT RESCUING PEOPLE, ETC)
- UNNECESSARY USE OF DEADLY FORCE
- ABUSE OF AUTHORITY
- GROSS INCOMPETENCE
- CONDUCT UNBECOMING OF AN OFFICER AND LADY/GENTLEMAN (DISHONESTY, INDECENCY, GROSS UNFAIRNESS, INJUSTICE, DISREGARD OF LAW, CRUELTY, ETC.)





Decorations for courage and self-sacrifice





Other Decorations

SERVICE MEMBER DESERVES AN AWARD, BUT NO SUITABLE AWARD CAN BE GIVEN: OAK LEAF.

SERVICE MEMBER WOUNDED OR BADLY INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: PURPLE HEART

THE MEDAL OF VIRTUE IS SOMETIMES GIVEN TO WOMEN INSTEAD OF PROMOTION IN TRADITIONAL GAMES (GAME MASTERS CHOICE).

CIVILIAN PROVIDED VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE EARTH GOVERNMENT OR HUMAN RACE: NIGHTINGALE.

CIVILIAN PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT SERVICE TO THE EARTH GOVERNMENT OR HUMAN RACE THAT HAD A BIG IMPACT: VOLUNTEERS CROSS

CIVILIAN SAVED A PLANET OR ANY OTHER MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT: GALACTIC ACHIEVEMENT DECORATION

CIVILIAN SACRIFICED LIFE FOR EVERYONE ELSE IN A WAY THAT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE: MEDAL OF HONOR

