

Hornaday Awards Guidebook: William T. Hornaday Awards for Boy Scouts, Venturers, Adults, Corporations, Organizations, and Scouting Units



Badge

**Bronze
Medal**

**Silver
Medal**

**Gold
Badge**

**Gold
Medal**

Hornaday Awards

**The William T. Hornaday Awards are for distinguished service
in natural resources conservation.**

“Conservation and the Boy Scouts of America have been partners for a long time. Camping, hiking, and respect for the outdoors are a part of the Scouting heritage. Many of the requirements for advancement from Tenderfoot through Eagle Scout rank call for an increasing awareness and understanding of the natural sciences. Many former Scouts have become leaders in conserving our environment and protecting it from abuse. Right now Scouts are involved in learning about environmental problems and actively working to make a difference.”



Who Was William T. Hornaday?

Dr. Hornaday (1854-1937) was a pioneer in wildlife conservation. He helped found the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and was founder, then director, of the New York Zoological Park for more than 20 years. He was an active and outspoken champion of natural resource conservation. Dr. Hornaday is generally credited with saving the American bison and other wildlife species from extinction. He believed in Scouting. For years, he wrote articles for *Boys' Life* and sections of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, and encouraged every Scout to work on behalf of renewable natural resources. See <http://usscouts.org/history/hornadaybiography.asp> for a biography of Dr. Hornaday.

This awards program was begun in 1914 to recognize those that have made significant contributions to conservation. He named the award the Wildlife Protection Medal. Its purpose was to challenge Americans to work constructively for wildlife conservation and habitat protection. After his death in 1937, the award was renamed in Dr. Hornaday's honor and became a Boy Scouts of America award. In the early 1970s, the present awards program was established with funding from the DuPont Company. At that time, the late Dr. Hornaday's idea of conservation was broadened to include environmental awareness. Earning this award is a way a Scout can thank Dr. Hornaday for his lifetime of good work.

“The Hornaday Awards are highly prized by those who have received them: Approximately 1,100 medals have been awarded over the past 80 years. These awards represent a substantial commitment of time and energy by individuals who have learned the meaning of a conservation/environmental ethic. Any Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer willing to devote the time and energy to work on a project based on sound scientific principles and guided by a conservation professional or a well-versed layperson can qualify for one of the Hornaday Awards. The awards often take months to complete, so activities should be planned well in advance.

The fundamental purpose of the Hornaday Awards program is to encourage learning by the participants and to increase public awareness about natural resource conservation. Understanding and practicing sound stewardship of natural resources and environmental protection strengthens Scouting's emphasis on respecting the outdoors. The goal of this awards program is to encourage and recognize truly **outstanding** efforts undertaken by Scouting units, Scouts and Venturers, adult Scouters, and other individuals, corporations, and institutions that have contributed significantly to natural resource conservation and environmental protection.”

Sources:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards.aspx>

<http://usscouts.org/history/hornadaybiography.asp>

Hornaday brochure: http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/430-398_WB.PDF

History of the Hornaday Awards: <http://www.usscouts.org/history/hornadayawardfacts.asp>



Hornaday Badge (actual size 1.5" x 5/8")

The Hornaday Awards program includes seven forms:

Scouts (First Class or above) can earn the Hornaday **Badge**, which local councils administer. Boy Scout and Varsity Scout applicants must complete requirements before their 18th birthday. Venturer applicants must complete requirements before their 21st birthday. The application form can be found at

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/hornaday/badge.pdf>

Scouts (First Class or above) can earn the **Bronze Medal** and **Silver Medal** (both with Square Knots). Boy Scout and Varsity Scout applicants must complete requirements before their 18th birthday. Venturer applicants must complete requirements before their 21st birthday. These awards are administered by the National Hornaday Awards Committee. The application form can be found at

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/hornaday/medal.pdf>

The **Gold Badge** can be awarded to adult Scouters by nomination, which local councils administer. Nominations are judged based on “the influence the nominee has had on youth and educational programs emphasizing sound stewardship of our nation’s natural resources and environmental improvement during a period of at least three years.” The nomination form can be found at

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/hornaday/g-med.pdf>

More information is available at

http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/awards_central/wthgoldbadge.aspx

The **Gold Medal** (with Square Knot) can be awarded to adult Scouters by nomination. This award is administered by the National Hornaday Awards Committee. Awardees are recognized for “distinguished and unusual service to natural resource conservation and environmental improvement over a sustained period (at least 20 years). Nominations are accepted from any recognized conservation/environmental protection organization. The nominee’s accomplishments must be at a regional, national, or international level.” The nomination form can be found at

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/hornaday/g-bdg.pdf>

More information is available at

http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards_Central/WTHGoldMedal.aspx

Gold Certificates are awarded to individuals, corporations, or organizations by nomination. This award is administered by the National Hornaday Awards Committee. The nomination form can be found at

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/hornaday/g-cer.pdf>

Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Varsity Scout Teams, Venturing Crews, and Sea Scout Ships can earn the **Unit Award**, which local councils administer. Unit Awards encourage all units to participate in projects that improve the environment and/or conserve natural resources in the community. A Unit Award can be earned if 60 percent of the unit’s members have “have participated in and contributed to” the project. The application form can be found at

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/hornaday/award.pdf>

More information is available at

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/wthad.aspx>

and

http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/awards_central/wthunitaward.aspx

A reference page for these forms can be found at

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Forms.aspx>

Other Hornadary Award information

Official Hornaday Award website pages maintained by the BSA include:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards.aspx>

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/wthad.aspx>

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/430-398_WB.PDF

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/430-191.pdf>

Requirements for the Hornaday Badge, Bronze Medal, and Silver Medal For Boy Scouts

The successful attainment of all awards will normally take at least 18 months to accomplish. Boy Scout and Varsity Scout applicants must complete requirements before their 18th birthday. Venturer applicants must complete requirements before their 21st birthday. The following are highlights of the requirements for the Badge, Bronze Medal, and Silver Medal:

A. MERIT BADGES:

Conservation Group	Nature Group	
Energy	Bird Study	Nature
Environmental Science	Fishing	Nuclear Science
Fish and Wildlife Management	Fly-Fishing	Oceanography
Forestry	Gardening	Plant Science
Public Health	Geology	Pulp and Paper
Soil and Water Conservation	Insect Study	Reptile and Amphibian Study
	Landscape Architecture	Weather
	Mammal Study	

1. For the **Badge**:
Earn any THREE merit badges from the **Conservation Group**, plus any TWO other merit badges from **either** group.
2. For the **Bronze Medal**:
Earn the Environmental Science merit badge and THREE others from the **Conservation Group** plus any TWO other merit badges from **either** group.
3. For the **Silver Medal**:
Earn ALL SIX of the merit badges from the **Conservation Group** above, plus any THREE merit badges from the **Nature Group**.

B. PROJECTS:

Energy Conservation	Air and Water Pollution Control
Soil and Water Conservation	Resource Recovery (Recycling)
Fish and Wildlife Management	Hazardous Material Disposal and Management
Forestry and Range Management	Invasive Species Control

1. For the **Badge**:
Plan, lead, and carry out ONE significant project in natural resource conservation.
2. For the **Bronze Medal**:
Plan, lead, and carry out THREE significant projects in natural resource conservation or environmental improvement, one each from THREE of the EIGHT project categories.
3. For the **Silver Medal**:
Plan, lead, and carry out FOUR significant projects in natural resource conservation or environmental improvement, one each from FOUR of the EIGHT project categories.

If the applicant has completed one project and met other requirements, the local Council Conservation Committee will review the completed application and approve the award of the Badge. Following council approval, the application is forwarded to the Director of Conservation, Boy Scouts of America.

If the applicant has completed three projects and met other requirements, and if the projects demonstrate outstanding levels of initiative, and if the Council Conservation Committee deems the application qualified, the Council Conservation Committee will recommend the applicant to the National Hornaday Awards Committee for consideration for the Bronze Medal.

If the applicant has completed four projects and met other requirements, and if the projects demonstrate outstanding levels of initiative, and if the Council Conservation Committee deems the application qualified, the Council Conservation Committee will recommend the applicant to the National Hornaday Awards Committee for consideration for the Silver Medal.

How does a Boy Scout or Venturer earn a Hornaday Badge or Bronze Medal or Silver Medal?
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/wthad.aspx>

Here are other links from <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards.aspx>

Earning a Hornaday Medal
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Earn.aspx>

William T. Hornaday Profile
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Profile.aspx>

Finding an Advisor
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Finding.aspx>

Becoming an Advisor
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Advisor.aspx>

Awards [overview]
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Awards.aspx>

Sample Projects
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Projects.aspx>

Application and Nomination Forms
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Forms.aspx>

Checklist for Applications
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Checklist.aspx>

National Council Judging Criteria

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/National.aspx>

How Applications are Judged

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Judging.aspx>

Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/FAQ.aspx>

Questions?

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Email.aspx>

Questions about the Hornaday Awards can be sent to

outdoorprograms@scouting.org

Other sources of information about the Hornaday Awards program:

In its October 2007 issue, *Scouting Magazine* published the story of a Hornaday Silver Medalist:

<http://www.scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0710/a-thrive.html>

For youth interested in earning Hornaday Awards, Philmont offers a Trail Crew Trek experience with fourteen-day treks. “The Trail Crew Trek involves seven days of building trail and a seven day educational trek throughout Philmont, hands-on experience with a variety of conservation projects, and visits from guest speakers involved in resource management.” Scouts will learn and practice conservation and leadership skills to prepare them to develop and execute Hornaday projects when they return home.

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/Camping/IndividualPrograms.aspx>

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/sitecore/content/Philmont/Camping/IndividualPrograms/TC T.aspx>

Philmont Training Center (PTC) offers a Conservation USA program designed to “give volunteer leaders specialized skills for training and leading volunteer crews to carry out conservation projects resulting in environmental education and greater stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.” Participants will gain knowledge to develop effective conservation programs and to implement an effective Council Conservation and/or Hornaday Awards Committee to enhance their conservation activities. This conference is scheduled annually.

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx>

For 2014, PTC offers William T. Hornaday Adviser Training during Week 10 from August 10 to 16 and Conservation USA Conference during Fall Week 11 from September 14 to 20.

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/filestore/philmont/pdf/PTC8PGE.pdf>

[Composite example, not official BSA] Application for the
William T. Hornaday Badge, Bronze Medal, Silver Medal

Name _____ Date of birth _____

Applicant's address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Check one and indicate unit number:

Boy Scout Troop / Varsity Scout Team / Venturing Crew / Sea Scout Ship Unit No. ____

For Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts only:

Rank at time of application _____ I became a First Class Scout on _____
(DATE)

For Venturers:

Check the awards that you have earned as a Venturer:

___ Bronze Award	___ Quest Award
___ Gold Award	___ Ranger Award
___ Silver Award	___ Quartermaster Award
___ Trust Award	___ Other _____

Council _____ District _____

Unit leader's name _____

Phone No. (_____) _____

Conservation or project adviser's name _____

Phone No. (_____) _____

Statement of Applicant

I have thoroughly read the requirements for this award. I have worked closely with my conservation adviser in the design and execution of each project. The work summarized in this application is of my design. I request consideration for receiving the William T. Hornaday ___ Badge ___ Bronze Medal ___ Silver Medal.

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

Merit Badge requirements for the William T. Hornaday Badge, Bronze Medal, Silver Medal

Badge: Earn any three merit badges listed below in **boldface** in the **Conservation Group**, plus any two others listed.

Bronze Medal: Earn the Environmental Science merit badge, plus at least three additional badges shown in **boldface** in the **Conservation Group**, and any two others listed.

Silver Medal: Earn all merit badges listed below in **boldface** in the **Conservation Group**, plus any three others listed in the **Nature Group**.

Conservation Group Merit Badges	Date Completed	Nature Group Merit Badges	Date Completed
Energy		Bird Study	
Environmental Science		Fishing	
Fish and Wildlife Management		Fly-Fishing	
Forestry		Gardening	
Public Health		Geology	
Soil and Water Conservation		Insect Study	
		Landscape Architecture	
		Mammal Study	
		Nature	
		Nuclear Science	
		Oceanography	
		Plant Science	
		Pulp and Paper	
		Reptile and Amphibian Study	
		Weather	

Boy Scout Applicant:

*I have completed the Boy Scout merit badge requirements listed above and
I have completed _____ number of projects described separately and
I am applying for the
William T. Hornaday ____ Badge ____ Bronze Medal ____ Silver Medal.*

Applicant's signature _____
Date _____

Venturer requirements for Hornaday Badge:

After completing your conservation service project, complete the following requirements, document them on a separate sheet of paper, and attach them to the application.

1. Make a tabletop display or presentation on your conservation project for your crew, a Cub Scout pack or Boy Scout troop, or another group.
2. Lead a Cub Scout pack or another youth group in carrying out an age-appropriate conservation project from the list of Hornaday award categories.

Venturer requirements for Hornaday Bronze Medal and Silver Medal:

Ranger Elective	Date Completed	Range Core	Date Completed
Ecology		Conservation	
Plants and Wildlife			

Venturer Applicant:

*I have completed the Venturer requirements listed above and
I have completed _____ number of projects described separately and
I am applying for the
William T. Hornaday ____ Badge ____ Bronze Medal ____ Silver Medal.*

Applicant's signature _____

Date _____

Project Description(s) for the William T. Hornaday Badge, Bronze Medal, Silver Medal

Expectations

Applicants for the Bronze and Silver Medals are expected to:

1. Describe the origination of the idea.
2. State the project's purpose and identify the conservation issue it addresses.
3. Conduct research, investigation, and study.
4. Develop project plans.
5. Implement and manage the projects.
6. Demonstrate leadership and involve others.
7. Describe how the project influenced the attitudes of others.
8. Record the time and resources devoted to each project.
9. Explain the relationships among projects, if projects are interrelated. Each project, however, must be from a different category of conservation, as described earlier.

Venturers only:

In addition to the required project documentation, as outlined above under "Expectations," provide specific information on:

- The research performed in connection with the conservation projects undertaken. The relevant research must be cited at the appropriate location in the conservation project documentation. A bibliography must be provided that lists sources cited. The bibliography must be formatted according to established standards.
- The applicant's entire Hornaday effort. This evaluation, included in the application in a separate section, should contain information on alternatives considered for each project and an explanation of why each specific conservation project was selected, procedures used, processes used, staffing levels used, funding requirements, and so on.
- The lessons learned. Included in the report in a separate section, this details what the applicant, in hindsight, would do differently on each project. The section should include recommended changes in project selection; procedures, processes, and staffing levels used; funding requirements; and evaluations of project effectiveness over time.

Project Description for the **William T. Hornaday Badge, Bronze Medal, Silver Medal, Unit Award**

Conservation category of project:

Energy Conservation	Air and Water Pollution Control
Soil and Water Conservation	Resource Recovery (Recycling)
Fish and Wildlife Management	Hazardous Material Disposal and Management
Forestry and Range Management	Invasive Species Control

Title of project: _____

Description: _____

[illegible]

Principal adviser to this project if other than the unit leader or conservation adviser:

Name _____ Phone No. (_____) _____

Date project completed: _____

[Composite example, not official BSA] Endorsements and Actions for the William T. Hornaday Badge, Bronze Medal, Silver Medal

Applicant's name _____

Troop, Team, Crew, Ship No. _____ District _____ Council _____

Conservation Adviser's Approval

I have worked closely with the applicant named above in the design and execution of the required project(s). I have reviewed this application and recommend that the applicant receive the William T. Hornaday ____ Badge ____ Bronze Medal ____ Silver Medal.

Adviser's signature _____ Date _____

Unit Leader's Approval

I have reviewed this application and recommend that the applicant receive the William T. Hornaday ____ Badge ____ Bronze Medal ____ Silver Medal.

Unit leader's signature _____ Date _____

Council Conservation Committee's Approval

The Council Conservation Committee has reviewed this application and determined that this Scout or Venturer has met all requirements for the William T. Hornaday ____ Badge ____ Bronze Medal ____ Silver Medal and has this Committee's approval and endorsement.

Chair's signature _____ Date _____

Scout Executive's Approval

I have reviewed this application and approve the awarding of the William T. Hornaday ____ Badge ____ Bronze Medal ____ Silver Medal to this applicant.

Scout executive's signature _____ Date _____

Note to local council: After council approval, forward the completed application to:

Director of Conservation
Boy Scouts of America
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

The certificate and Badge will be returned to the council.

Planning Projects

Each project is to be equivalent in scope to an Eagle Scout leadership service project. . You may follow the structure that is identified in the current Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook posted at http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-927_fillable.pdf to help you record the plans and execution of the project. You may use your Eagle Scout project as a Hornaday Badge or Bronze Medal or Silver Medal project if it meets the aims and objectives of the William T. Hornaday Award. As such, the project must benefit a school, community, religious organization, or BSA property, or fulfill some other public service purpose. For applications for a Bronze Medal or Silver Medal, only one project can be for the benefit of BSA property. For applications for a Bronze Medal or Silver Medal, you may also use one project for which you have already earned the William T. Hornaday Badge. Conducting an inventory or developing an educational program may qualify as a Hornaday project if it is substantial enough, but the applicant should limit these types of projects so that Dr. Hornaday's expectation that "actual results (on the ground) count heavily" may be met. Applicants are encouraged to involve their unit members in project work and demonstrate Scout leadership, thereby making their unit eligible for the unit award. The project must contribute to sound conservation and environmental improvement in the local community, the region, or the nation. The applicant is expected to research potential projects and to choose, with guidance from a Hornaday adviser, a worthy project.

Each project should have five phases:

1. Identifying an environmental issue and its most appropriate conservation category
2. Researching the issue
3. Planning a project that addresses the environmental issue
4. Leading others in the execution of the project
5. Teaching others about the environment issue and your project

For the Bronze Medal and Silver Medal, each project must address a different conservation category. These approved conservation categories are:

Energy conservation
Soil and water conservation
Fish and wildlife management
Forestry and range management
Air and water pollution control
Resource recovery (recycling)
Hazardous material disposal and management
Invasive species control

Applicants for the Hornaday Badge must plan, lead, and carry out at least one project from an approved conservation category.

Applicants for the Hornaday Bronze Medal must plan, lead, and carry out at least three projects from at least three different approved conservation categories.

Applicants for the Hornaday Silver Medal must plan, lead, and carry out at least four projects from at least four different approved conservation categories.

For the list of approved categories and additional information, please see
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/wthad.aspx>

or

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Earn.aspx>

Documenting Projects

For each project, attach an executive summary, complete project description, and any supporting materials to this application. Be sure to identify the conservation issue or problem that your project was designed to address as well as any relationship that your project may have to other projects worked on by you or others. Individual work items cannot be counted in more than one project. There must be clear written evidence in your application that you did indeed plan, lead, and carry out a long-term, substantial project in one of the conservation categories. Additional written supporting material relating to the applicant's conservation work (newspaper articles, letters of commendation, or photos of the completed project) will be considered. Evidence of leadership in researching, planning, leading, and carrying out the project, and of how this influenced other people, must be clearly documented.

Hornaday Projects and Youth Awards

The Hornaday Awards program encourages and recognizes units, Scouts, and Venturers who design, lead, and carry out conservation projects that are based on sound scientific principles and practices. The projects should contribute to sound conservation and environmental improvement in the local community, the region, or the nation. The applicant is expected to research potential projects and to choose, with guidance from a Hornaday adviser, a worthy project.

Because the Badge, the Bronze Medal, and the Silver Medal are individual awards, two or more individuals cannot claim credit for the same project. However, a project may be a part of a larger conservation effort, with different applicants carrying out different aspects of the same project. Applicants are encouraged to involve their unit members in project work and demonstrate Scout leadership, thereby making their unit eligible for the unit award.

What Qualifies As a Hornaday Project?

How big a project should be and how long it should last are commonly asked questions. Collecting aluminum cans over a weekend along with many other Scouts is a fine public service, but since little learning took place and there was no lasting impact on the community, the project would not qualify for a Hornaday Medal. Similarly, a simple, one-time tree planting effort would not qualify.

However, a reforestation project in cooperation with a professional forester or park planner, learning which trees are appropriate to the area, ensuring proper spacing for best growth, following proper planting methods, and caring for the trees after planting might well qualify. Starting a community-wide recycling project and encouraging people to recycle might also qualify. Size of the project is not necessarily the important element. Rather, the results, the learning that took place, the applicant's demonstrated leadership, and the significance of the contribution to the community, park, or other lands are what count.

As to time, past recipients of the medals have indicated it takes no less than 18 months to complete the required merit badges and projects. So it's a good idea to start early in your Scouting career. You will find the *Conservation Handbook*, No. 33570, to be an invaluable source of ideas and assistance. It is available from your local council service center or Scout shop.

Required Projects

Applicants for the Hornaday Badge must plan, lead, and carry out at least one project from one conservation category. Bronze Medal applicants must complete three significant projects in three different categories. Silver Medal applicants must complete four significant projects in four categories. Each project is to be equivalent in scope to an Eagle Scout leadership service project. One project could be a suitable Eagle Scout service project, and one could be performed on BSA property. The others must benefit a school, community, religious organization, or fulfill some other public service purpose.

The **conservation categories** are:

Energy conservation

Soil and water conservation

Fish and wildlife management

Forestry and range management

Air and water pollution control

Resource recovery (recycling)

Hazardous material disposal and management

Invasive species control

These categories are designed, in part, to make Hornaday Awards available to Scouts living in suburban and urban areas as well as those in rural settings, and to acknowledge the growing interest among Scouts and their leaders in actively improving the natural environment within their own communities. These categories also focus on the relationship between environmental abuses in urban centers and their impact in relatively unpopulated, sometimes distant, areas.

Project Examples

Energy Conservation

Work with adults in the chartered organization to conduct an energy audit of the home of a low-income family, preparatory to weatherizing it for energy conservation. Determine the materials needed and their costs. Help organize a workforce and, with the adults, undertake the needed improvements over several weekends. This effort should be part of the chartered organization's community outreach. Record long-term impact by analyzing utility savings.

Soil and Water Conservation

Work with local park authorities to develop and maintain trails and paths, control streambank erosion (with water bars, ripraps, grass and shrub planting), conduct a wildlife census, and "adopt" a stream.

Fish and Wildlife Management

With advice and assistance from state conservation department officials, introduce carp and catfish into algae-choked farm ponds to help reduce the algae load. Build nesting boxes and set them out for waterfowl. Plant hundreds of trees for windbreaks in at least 10 fields for wildlife habitat and to help control soil erosion. Plant native grasses for the benefit of quail and prairie chickens. Using a portable puppet theater, make presentations on fish and wildlife conservation to young children.

Forestry and Range Management

Work with a range specialist to collect, analyze, plant, and maintain trees and native grasses suitable to the local environment to control erosion and provide wildlife habitats. Record short-term and long-term impacts.

Air and Water Pollution Control

Work on a legislator's staff to draft legislation and encourage enactment of state laws that require the planting of trees along all state highway rights-of-way to assist in reducing motor-vehicle air pollution, as well as filtering silt and many toxic substances.

Resource Recovery (Recycling)

Design a survey of fellow students to discover recycling and pollution-prevention opportunities in the school. This could include activities such as recycling high-grade paper, reusing some paper products in the classroom, making use of disposable materials from the school cafeteria, and collecting glass and recyclable metal containers. Present the findings of the survey to school administrators and the school board. Achieve, as a result, the launch of an innovative school recycling program that delivers considerable dollar savings to the system with strong student, teacher, and school administrator support.

Hazardous Material Disposal and Management

Working with local environmental officials, design and organize a program in which special plastic bags are distributed by Scouts to homeowners. The homeowners are asked to bag and deposit their used household batteries at special locations operated by city hazardous waste officials for appropriate disposal. Scouts design the informational brochure and run the public-information campaign to explain the environmental problems created by household batteries. The program reduces serious discharge of pollutants by the local waste incinerator.

Invasive Species Control

Working with a land managing agency or organization, help control or eliminate exotic plant or animal species that pose a threat to native species. Educate others to recognize invasive species and to conserve and protect our native plant and animal heritage.

Other Ideas

Other good ideas for projects may be found in the publications and pamphlets of groups such as the National Audubon Society, the Izaak Walton League, the National Wildlife Federation, or governmental agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, state natural resource conservation agencies, and your state cooperative extension service. The best way to identify a project is to discuss the options with a Hornaday adviser.

<http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/Awards/HornadayAwards1/projects.aspx>

Page Not Found as of 12/15/2014

National Council Criteria in Judging

For Hornaday Awards conferred by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, these are the major criteria used in judging. Also see "How Applications Are Judged" at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Judging.aspx> (BSA local councils hold applicants for the Hornaday Unit Award, Badge, and adult Scouter Gold Badge to similarly high standards.)

Youth Applications—Bronze Medal and Silver Medal

Merit Badge/Venturing Requirements

- If a Boy Scout/Varsity Scout, has the applicant earned the merit badges required for a
- Bronze Medal?
- Silver Medal?
- If a Venturer, has the applicant completed the Ecology, Plant and Wildlife, and Ecology requirements for the Venturing Ranger Award?

Projects

- Has the applicant completed *substantial* conservation projects in *different categories*? (At least four projects are required of silver medal applicants; at least three are required of bronze medal applicants.)
- Was the time spent on each project indicated?
- Were the projects innovative?
- Does the applicant indicate the origin of project ideas?

Project Documentation

- Was each project described in detail, including illustrations and/or photographs of the work done?
- Did the applicant meet the expectations for project documentation? Include reasons for choosing each project, preparation, research, consulting others, design, planning, and approvals from land managers for each project.
- Were newspaper articles, letters of thanks or commendation, and other supporting materials included in one well-organized binder?

Planning

- Do the plans demonstrate excellence?
- Did these projects result in a positive impact on the local community?

Leadership and Involvement of Others

- Did the applicant give leadership and involve others in carrying out the projects?
- Did the applicant receive guidance from other organizations and professionals?
- Did the applicant help others learn about natural resource conservation?

Adult Scouter Nominations—Gold Medal

- Was the candidate nominated by a recognized conservation or environmental organization?
- Did the letter of nomination include an explanation of accomplishments?
- Were the accomplishments cited part of the nominee's paid professional responsibilities?
- Has the nominee influenced youth and educational programs emphasizing sound stewardship of our nation's natural resources and environmental improvement?
- Has the nominee rendered distinguished and unusual service to natural resource conservation and environmental improvement over a sustained period (at least 20 years)?
- Were the cited accomplishments at the regional, national, or international level?

Organization Nominations—Gold Certificate

- Is the organization unaffiliated with Scouting?
- Was the organization nominated by a recognized conservation or environmental organization?
- Has a letter of nomination been received by the Chief Scout Executive ?
- Were letters of endorsement received by the Chief Scout Executive?
- Has a supporting letter indicating the organization's contribution to youth conservation/environmental education been received by the Chief Scout Executive?
- Has the nominee demonstrated leadership and a commitment to youth on a national or international level, reflecting the mission of the Hornaday Awards program to encourage learning about natural resource conservation and the environment?

How Applications Are Judged

The application, with supporting documentation, is the primary basis upon which decisions are made. The national Hornaday Awards Committee may grant as many awards as possible, provided the demanding expectations are met. Dr. Hornaday stated, "Unusual prizes are to be won only by unusual services."

On the application sheets provided in this booklet (or on photocopies), describe in detail how you came up with the idea, why you undertook the project (school project, community service, church project, etc.), how you planned it, how it was designed, how long it took, where it was done, the resulting environmental improvement, and how the project involved and influenced others. Describe how you gave leadership to the project. List help you received from organizations and professionals. Supporting materials (photographs, news articles, letters of appreciation, sketches) may be attached to the application in one separate, well-organized binder. Consideration is given to a neat, concise, organized presentation. Give special care to the appearance of the application and the correctness of all information provided.

All effort is made to protect and return original supplemental materials. The original application, however, is not returned. Applicants and councils should keep copies.

The National Hornaday Awards Committee meets three or four times a year. Therefore, applicants must recognize the lead time involved.

Expectations

Applicants for the Bronze Medal and Silver Medals are expected to

1. Describe the origination of the idea.
2. State the project's purpose and identify the conservation issue it addresses.
3. Conduct research, investigation, and study.
4. Develop project plans.
5. Implement and manage the projects.
6. Demonstrate leadership and involve others.
7. Describe how the project influenced the attitudes of others.
8. Record the time and resources devoted to each project.
9. Explain the relationships among projects, if projects are interrelated. Each project, however, must be from a different category of conservation, as described earlier.

Venturers only:

In addition to the required project documentation, as outlined above under "Expectations," provide specific information on:

■ *The research performed in connection with the conservation projects undertaken.* The relevant research must be cited at the appropriate location in the conservation project documentation. A bibliography must be provided that lists sources cited. The bibliography must be formatted according to established standards.

■ *The applicant's entire Hornaday effort.* This evaluation, included in the application in a separate section, should contain information on alternatives considered for each project and an explanation of why each specific conservation project was selected, procedures used, processes used, staffing levels used, funding requirements, and so on.

■ *The lessons learned.* Included in the report in a separate section, this details what the applicant, in hindsight, would do differently on each project. The section should include recommended changes in project selection; procedures, processes, and staffing levels used; funding requirements; and evaluations of project effectiveness over time.

Monitoring

Applicants for the Hornaday Badge, Bronze Medal, and Silver Medal must work under the guidance of a conservation or environmental professional or qualified layperson in conservation.

Each project should be designed in part to publicize the need to conserve natural resources and to improve environmental conditions.

The council is encouraged to provide guidance and to identify qualified advisers. The role of the conservation adviser is to guide the young person into selecting significant conservation projects and to coach the youth into preparing, researching, consulting others, designing, planning, and giving leadership to others in carrying out the projects. The adviser must approve the application, indicating that the applicant's activities have been monitored and ensuring that the projects meet local needs. The applicant's unit leader must also approve.

The National Hornaday Awards Committee expects applications to include detailed project descriptions that document the applicant's work.

Screening

Applications are screened by a Council Conservation Committee composed of knowledgeable people aware of the needs, problems, and opportunities for conservation and environmental improvement in the local council area. Committee members will base their judgments on the work accomplished relative to the applicant's age and compared to the accomplishments of others in the community. The decision is based on several principal factors:

1. How much the applicant has actually contributed to the improvement or better management of natural resources and the environment, and the extent to which the applicant has learned from that experience
2. The leadership the applicant has demonstrated in the planning and execution of the project(s)
3. The extent to which the applicant has encouraged other people to plan, understand, appreciate, and practice sound conservation and environmental protection methods

National Council Criteria in Judging

Review the major criteria used by the National Council in judging applications/nominations for the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals and the Gold Certificate at

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/National.aspx>

Source:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Judging.aspx>

[Composite example, not official BSA] *Nomination for the* **William T. Hornaday Gold Badge**

This conservation award is granted by the local council to an adult Scouter. Nominations are made to the local council. Central to the selection process is the influence the nominee has had on youth and educational programs emphasizing sound stewardship of our nation's natural resources and environmental improvement during a period of at least three years.

Nominee _____ Currently registered as _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Council _____

Accomplishments that warrant the granting of this award: _____

Nominator _____ Telephone No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Council Conservation Committee's Approval

The Council Conservation Committee has reviewed this nomination and determined that this adult Scouter has met all requirements for the William T. Hornaday Gold Badge and has this Committee's approval and endorsement.

Chair's signature _____ Date _____

Scout Executive's Approval

I have reviewed this nomination and approve the awarding of the William T. Hornaday Gold Badge to this nominee.

Scout executive's signature _____ Date _____

Note to local council: Following council approval, forward the completed nomination form, together with supporting materials and letters of endorsement, to:

Director of Conservation

Boy Scouts of America

1325 West Walnut Hill Lane

P.O. Box 152079

Irving, TX 75015-2079

The Hornaday Gold Badge will be returned to the council.

[Composite example, not official BSA] *Nomination for the* **William T. Hornaday Gold Medal**

This award is by nomination only and is for an adult Scouter or Venturing leader who has rendered distinguished and unusual service to natural resource conservation and environmental improvement over a sustained period (at least 20 years). Nominations are accepted from any recognized conservation/environmental protection organization. The nominee's accomplishments must be at a regional, national, or international level. In an attached letter of nomination, indicate the contributions made by the nominee and whether the accomplishments cited were part of the nominee's paid professional responsibilities. Central to the selection process is the influence the nominee has had on youth and educational programs emphasizing sound stewardship of our nation's natural resources and environmental improvement.

Nominee _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Council _____

Nominee's affiliation with Scouting: _____

Suggested citation for reading at the time of presentation: _____

Nominator _____ Telephone No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Note to local council: Forward the completed nomination form, together with supporting materials and letters of endorsement, to:

Director of Conservation
Boy Scouts of America
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

[Composite example, not official BSA] *Nomination for the* **William T. Hornaday Gold Certificate**

This conservation award is granted to organizations or individuals by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Nominations are accepted from any recognized conservation or environmental protection organization. The organization or individual should have demonstrated leadership and a commitment to the education of youth on a regional, national, or international level reflecting the natural resource conservation and environmental improvement mission of the William T. Hornaday Awards program. A letter of nomination should be addressed to the Chief Scout Executive. Letters of endorsement are encouraged. A certificate is awarded to the recipient by the Chief Scout Executive.

Nominee _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Council _____

Suggested citation for reading at the time of presentation: _____

Nominator _____ Telephone No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Note to local council: Forward the completed nomination form, together with supporting materials and letters of endorsement, to:
Director of Conservation
Boy Scouts of America
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

[Composite example, not official BSA] *Application and Project Description for the William T. Hornaday Unit Award*

Indicate unit type and number:

Cub Scout Pack / Boy Scout Troop / Varsity Scout Team / Venturing Crew / Sea Scout Ship Unit No. ____

Unit address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Council _____ District _____

Unit leader's name _____ Telephone No. _____

Conservation adviser's name _____ Telephone No. _____

Professional conservation affiliation _____

Attach an executive summary of the project, complete project description, and any supporting materials to this application. Be sure to identify the conservation issue or problem that the project was designed to address as well as any relationship that the project may have to other projects worked on by your unit or others.

The scope of the project should be appropriate for the type of unit applying. For a Boy Scout unit, the project is to be equivalent in scope to an Eagle Scout Service Project. The project must benefit a school, community, religious organization, or BSA property, or fulfill some other public service purpose. The project must be from an approved conservation category. The project must contribute to sound conservation and environmental improvement in the local community, the region, or the nation. The applicant is expected to research potential projects and to choose, with guidance from a Hornaday adviser, a worthy project.

Project Description for the **William T. Hornaday Badge, Bronze Medal, Silver Medal, Unit Award**

Conservation category of project:

Energy Conservation	Air and Water Pollution Control
Soil and Water Conservation	Resource Recovery (Recycling)
Fish and Wildlife Management	Hazardous Material Disposal and Management
Forestry and Range Management	Invasive Species Control

Title of project: _____

Description: _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Principal adviser to this project if other than the unit leader or conservation adviser:

Name _____ Telephone No. _____

Date project completed: _____

[Composite example, not official BSA] Endorsements and Actions for the William T. Hornaday Unit Award

Pack, Troop, Team, Crew, Ship No. _____

Council _____ District _____

Conservation Adviser's and Unit Leader's Approval

I have worked closely with the unit named above in the design and execution of the required project. At least 60 percent of this unit's members have participated in and contributed to this project, which has improved the environment and/or conserved natural resources in the community.

I have reviewed this application and recommend that the unit receive the William T. Hornaday unit award.

Adviser's signature _____ Date _____

Unit leader's signature _____ Date _____

Council Conservation Committee's Approval

The council conservation committee has reviewed this application, interviewed the applicant, and determined that this unit has met all requirements for the William T. Hornaday Unit Award and has this committee's approval and endorsement.

Chair's signature _____ Date _____

Scout Executive's Approval

I have reviewed this application and approve the awarding of the William T. Hornaday Unit Award certificate to this unit.

Scout executive's signature _____ Date _____

Note to local council: Following council approval, forward the completed application form, together with supporting materials and letters of endorsement, to:

Director of Conservation

Boy Scouts of America

1325 West Walnut Hill Lane

P.O. Box 152079

Irving, TX 75015-2079

The Hornaday Unit Award certificate will be returned to the council.

Checklist for Applications for the William T. Hornaday Badge

Complete the application for the Badge. The unit leader approves and forwards the application to the local council service center for review and approval by the Council Conservation Committee and Scout executive. The council forwards the approved application to the

Director of Conservation

Boy Scouts of America

1325 West Walnut Hill Lane

P.O. Box 152079

Irving, Texas 75015-2079.

Note these important points:

- Give the specific title of the project
- Indicate the conservation category of the project:
 - Energy conservation
 - Soil and water conservation
 - Fish and wildlife management
 - Forestry and range management
 - Air and water pollution control
 - Resource recovery (recycling)
 - Hazardous material disposal and management
 - Invasive species control
- Provide a detailed description of what was done, who did it, when it was done, and how it was done.
- Include any other pertinent information.
- Be sure the applicant, conservation adviser, and unit leader sign the application before it is sent to the council office.
- Check and date all merit badges completed.
- Boy Scout and Varsity Scout applicants must complete these requirements before their 18th birthday. Venturer applicants must complete requirements before their 21st birthday.

Checklist for Applications for the William T. Hornaday Bronze Medal and Silver Medal

Complete the application for the Bronze Medal or Silver Medal. Upon approval by the unit leader, the completed application and supporting materials are forwarded to the local council service center for review and endorsement by the Council Conservation Committee and Scout executive. Following council approval, the local council forwards the application to the

Director of Conservation

Boy Scouts of America

1325 West Walnut Hill Lane

P.O. Box 152079

Irving, Texas 75015-2079.

If appropriate, the application is submitted to the National Hornaday Awards Committee for action.

Note these important points:

- Be sure the applicant, conservation adviser, and unit leader sign the application.
- Check and date all merit badges completed.
- Give the specific title of the project
- Indicate the conservation category of the project:
 - Energy conservation
 - Soil and water conservation
 - Fish and wildlife management
 - Forestry and range management
 - Air and water pollution control
 - Resource recovery (recycling)
 - Hazardous material disposal and management
 - Invasive species control
- Prepare a separate "Project Description" for each project (each from a different project category). Describe each project in detail, including illustrations and/or photographs of the work done. Indicate how you provided leadership for the project and how you used the project to involve and influence others. (See "How Applications Are Judged" at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/Awards/HornadayAwards1/judging.aspx> for details of expected documentation.)
- Include any newspaper articles, letters of thanks or commendation, and other supporting materials in a well-organized binder.
- Ensure that the application and supporting materials are neat in appearance and reflect the high quality of the applicant's work.
- The conservation adviser and Scout executive should ensure that all parts of the application are filled out thoroughly, accurately, and in detail. Determination by the National Hornaday Awards Committee of the applicant's qualification is made solely from the information included in the application and supporting materials.
- Applicants must be currently registered in the program in which they are applying for the award (i.e., Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer) when the application is signed.

On the application sheets provided in this booklet (or on separate pages), describe in detail how you came up with the idea, why you undertook the project (school project, community service, church project, etc.), how you planned it, how it was designed, how long it took, where it was done, the resulting environmental improvement, and how the project involved and influenced others. Describe how you gave leadership to the project. List help you received from organizations and professionals. Supporting materials (photographs, news articles, letters of appreciation, sketches) may be attached to the application in one separate, well-organized binder. Consideration is given to a neat, concise, organized presentation. Give special care to the appearance of the application and the correctness of all information provided.

Expectations

Applicants for the Bronze Medal and Silver Medals are expected to

1. Describe the origination of the idea.
2. State the project's purpose and identify the conservation issue it addresses.
3. Conduct research, investigation, and study.
4. Develop project plans.
5. Implement and manage the projects.
6. Demonstrate leadership and involve others.
7. Describe how the project influenced the attitudes of others.
8. Record the time and resources devoted to each project.
9. Explain the relationships among projects, if projects are interrelated. Each project, however, must be from a different category of conservation, as described earlier.

Venturers only:

In addition to the required project documentation, as outlined above under "Expectations," Venturer applicants fulfill additional requirements and must provide specific information on:

- The research performed in connection with the conservation projects undertaken. The relevant research must be cited at the appropriate location in the conservation project documentation. A bibliography must be provided that lists sources cited. The bibliography must be formatted according to established standards.
- The applicant's entire Hornaday effort. This evaluation, included in the application in a separate section, should contain information on alternatives considered for each project and an explanation of why each specific conservation project was selected, procedures used, processes used, staffing levels used, funding requirements, and so on.
- The lessons learned. Included in the report in a separate section, this details what the applicant, in hindsight, would do differently on each project. The section should include recommended changes in project selection; procedures, processes, and staffing levels used; funding requirements; and evaluations of project effectiveness over time.

See "How Applications Are Judged" at

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Judging.aspx>

for details of expected documentation.

Checklist for Applications for the William T. Hornaday Gold Badge, Gold Medal, and Gold Certificate

Complete the nomination form and submit it, together with supporting materials including letter(s) of endorsement, to the local council for review and approval by the Council Conservation Committee and the Scout executive. If approved, the council forwards the application to the

Director of Conservation
Boy Scouts of America
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, Texas 75015-2079.

William T. Hornaday Gold Medal or William T. Hornaday Gold Certificate

Complete the appropriate nomination form and forward it, together with supporting materials including letters of endorsement, to the

Director of Conservation
Boy Scouts of America
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, Texas 75015-2079.

The National Hornaday Awards committee will consider the nomination at its next meeting. The committee meets three or four times a year.

Note this important point:

■ Include the names and phone numbers of others the Hornaday Awards Committee can contact if additional information is needed.

Checklist for Applications for the William T. Hornaday Unit Award

To apply or to nominate a unit, complete the application for the Unit Award and submit it to your local council service center for review and approval by the Council Conservation Committee and Scout executive. The local council forwards the approved application to the national office of the Boy Scouts of America.

Note these important points:

- Indicate the conservation category of the project:

- Energy conservation
- Soil and water conservation
- Fish and wildlife management
- Forestry and range management
- Air and water pollution control
- Resource recovery (recycling)
- Hazardous material disposal and management
- Invasive species control

- Give the specific title of the project and a detailed description of what was done, who did it, when it was done, and how it was done.
- Include any other pertinent information.
- Applicants must be currently registered in the program in which they are applying for the award (i.e., Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer) when the application is signed.

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Checklist.aspx>

Guidelines for the William T. Hornaday Award Conservation Adviser

A Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer working toward a William T. Hornaday Award has taken on a great task, and a noble one: to provide distinguished service to natural resource conservation. As the candidate's adviser, you have been recognized as a conservation or environmental professional or qualified layperson in conservation, usually with a degree or advanced degree in one of the natural sciences, and you will guide the candidate through the selection, planning, and accomplishment of a significant conservation project. While you may not be familiar with Dr. Hornaday's work, these awards, or the programs of the Boy Scouts of America, these guidelines will provide you with necessary background information and expectations for effective guidance.

Background

The Hornaday Awards program was created to recognize significant contributions to conservation. The program began in 1917 when Dr. William T. Hornaday, an active and outspoken champion of natural resource conservation, awarded the first Wildlife Protection Medal. Its purpose was to challenge Americans to work constructively for wildlife conservation and habitat protection. After Dr. Hornaday's death in 1937, the Boy Scouts of America began presenting the award, which was renamed in Dr. Hornaday's honor.

One of this country's first advocates for wildlife, Dr. Hornaday was instrumental in establishing the National Zoo and the New York Zoological Society. His research and outspokenness were largely responsible for saving the American bison from extinction, and for influencing Congress to enact legislation for the protection of migratory birds and fur seals. He helped to begin the Campfire Club of America (now Campfire Boys and Girls) and was a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. He was inducted into the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Hall of Fame in 1971.

Dr. Hornaday believed strongly in the power of youth and that a single individual can make a difference. He also held fast to his motto: "Open wide to youth all gateways to nature." When Dr. Hornaday died in 1937, one writer described his legacy: "Behind the hundreds of admirers ... stand the mute inhabitants of our forests and uplands, who found him a stout-hearted and able defender."

Your Role as Adviser

Serving as an adviser for a young person working toward this award is both an honor and a responsibility. Your advice and support are important elements in a candidate's success. This is not a short-term commitment; it takes about two years to complete the requirements for the Bronze Medal or Silver Medal.

You are part of a team that includes the youth's unit leader (Scoutmaster or crew Advisor) and individual project advisers (often land managers for the project location). Depending on the situation, the candidate may call upon the help of the unit or the BSA local council to complete a project. The adviser and the unit leader must approve the candidate's application before it is forwarded to the local council.

Your perspective as a conservation professional is vital to the Scout working on these awards. Your role is to be the guide and catalyst, guiding the Scout through the transformation of a mere idea to an effective action that will actually make a difference to the environment! Among other things, you can demonstrate to the candidate the importance of using the scientific method, from investigations and data collection to forming conclusions about the environment.

An important part of your role will be to help the candidate realize that solutions to conservation problems are not always black and white, but shades of gray. Your knowledge and professionalism will be needed to teach how the forces of nature and the interaction among species, along with the political and social influence of man, often cloud what may be perceived as a clear solution to an environmental challenge. The candidate should realize that many species of animals and many practices of man must be taken into account. Dr. Hornaday himself considered an important part of this award to be educating and working to change the attitudes of those around us.

Lastly, you can introduce the Scout to the larger picture of conservation and its varied fields of expertise. Working with area agencies and organizations to complete a significant conservation project will provide practical experience that cannot be obtained in any schoolbook. The knowledge and guidance of advisers and other leaders are necessary to the Scout throughout the project, but the Scout should be coached to take ownership of the project.

The Projects

Most of the Hornaday awards require the Scout to conduct several significant conservation projects, each covering a different area of conservation. The projects must be based on sound scientific principles, address a conservation problem, and contribute to conservation and environment improvement on a long-term scale. The Scout is required to plan, lead, and carry out these projects and, as Dr. Hornaday stated, actual results count heavily.

There are no guidelines as to what makes a project "significant," but choosing and planning a project could make all the difference. Consider this example of a single project executed two ways. A Boy Scout organizes his unit to plant a few hundred seedlings in a burned-over area. A Venturer researches why the area has not naturally regenerated and what species are common to the area, conducts an inventory, finds a good source for native plants, organizes a tree-planting event, and obtains community assistance in planting by diligently publicizing the efforts. The following year, the Venturer returns to the area to document survival and assess if replanting is necessary. The actual results—planting the seedlings—for these two projects are the same, and some reviewers may consider both significant. However, the results of second project—thorough education of the Scout, the unit, and the community—will stand a better chance of withstanding the rigors of a review.

Guidelines for the Hornaday Award call for the candidate to complete projects in several areas of conservation. Some projects might fit into several categories depending on local circumstances. For instance, a single trail-reconstruction project might be categorized as soil and water conservation if it addresses erosion, or categorized as fish and wildlife management if it attempts to erase the impact of human intervention into critical habitat. Trail reconstruction might not meet Hornaday qualifications at all if it is attempted only for recreational access.

While one site may support projects in several areas, each project must stand on its own. In these cases, specific work items at a site must not be counted for completion of more than one project, and the interrelationship of projects must be carefully explained in the documentation.

Documentation

The job is not done until the paperwork is complete. This adage applies to the Hornaday Awards in a significant way. For many applicants, documentation will be the most difficult part of the process. A good guide for how the Boy Scouts of America approaches documenting a project is the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook posted at

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-927_fillable.pdf

This workbook helps the applicant break project documentation into pieces, making each one easier to address.

In its October 2007 issue, Scouting Magazine published the story of a Hornaday Silver Medalist: <http://www.scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0710/a-thrive.html>

These pages describe the required project elements and award criteria. It should be noted that the project descriptions are the only items that the National Hornaday Awards Committee has to review during its deliberations. It is a good idea to include an extra project in case one of them does not meet the high standards for the Hornaday award.

The candidate should carefully document each step in the project's development, beginning with the factors used to identify the conservation problem, the reasoning behind the choice of projects, and the avenues of accomplishment. Supporting materials like letters, newspaper articles, and photos are essential. A letter of thanks from the benefiting site is an excellent idea.

Also, the candidate must document all phases and aspects of accomplishing the project. Records should reflect not only the activities and hours spent performing the field work to complete the project, but also the planning, preparation, research, negotiation, design, approvals, etc., that were necessary to arrive there. The adviser can help broaden the candidate's view of what constitutes accomplishment, which in turn helps define the extent of the project's impact.

Most young people will have a tough time completing the significant amount of documentation required and working with feedback from adult reviewers. You can help ease the frustration with careful coaching that this process is common in the professional world. Advisers and candidates alike should bear in mind that such reviews will help produce a better product with a higher chance of receiving a favorable review from the council and national review committees.

Special Circumstances

It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that every individual be given the opportunity to succeed regardless of circumstances such as physical or mental disabilities, or serving as a Lone Scout without benefit of the usual support of a troop. Contact the candidate's unit leader or

council service center for advice on how to better work with these circumstances and for suggestions on creative ways to amend the requirements.

Sources:

<http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/Awards/HornadayAwards1/adviser.aspx>

Philmont Conservation Programs

Philmont offers 3 programs relevant to the Hornaday Awards program and/or intensive conservation education and service. These are Trail Crew Trek and Roving Outdoor Conservation School (R.O.C.S.) for youth and Conservation USA Conference for adults.

For youth interested in earning Hornaday Awards, Philmont offers a Trail Crew Trek experience with fourteen-day treks. “The Trail Crew Trek involves seven days of building trail and a seven day educational trek throughout Philmont, hands-on experience with a variety of conservation projects, and visits from guest speakers involved in resource management.” Scouts will learn and practice conservation and leadership skills to prepare them to develop and execute Hornaday projects when they return home.

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/Camping/IndividualPrograms.aspx>

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/sitecore/content/Philmont/Camping/IndividualPrograms/TC T.aspx>

The Roving Outdoor Conservation School (R.O.C.S.) is an exciting program for Scouts and Venturers who have an interest in conservation and natural resource management. Participants will enjoy a 21-day trek throughout Philmont's 137,493 acres of rugged mountain wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo Range of the Rocky Mountains of northeast New Mexico. As the crew hikes the ranch, the participants will camp in many of the different forest types and participate in activities in some of the following areas: forestry, fire ecology, fisheries management, wildlife management, geology, watershed management, and range management. A crew will spend six days building new trails and rebuilding some existing trails. The program is not limited to working on various conservation projects and hiking. R.O.C.S. is ultimately a journey that challenges Scouts and Venturers in education, service, and adventure.

<http://philmontscoutranch.org/sitecore/content/Philmont/Camping/IndividualPrograms/ROCS.aspx>

Philmont Training Center (PTC) offers a Conservation USA program designed to “give volunteer leaders specialized skills for training and leading volunteer crews to carry out conservation projects resulting in environmental education and greater stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.” Participants will gain knowledge to develop effective conservation programs and to implement an effective Council Conservation and/or Hornaday Awards Committee to enhance their conservation activities. This conference is scheduled annually.

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx>

For 2014, PTC offers William T. Hornaday Adviser Training during Week 10 from August 10 to 16 and Conservation USA Conference during Fall Week 11 from September 14 to 20.

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/filestore/philmont/pdf/PTC8PGE.pdf>

http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC/~link.aspx?_id=1F63E585824D4C8AA18C41793F19DCED&z=z

http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC/~link.aspx?_id=A4FA5DE4C6214387986AB433FCFCF08B&z=z