

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.

This awards program was created to recognize those that have made significant contributions to conservation. It was begun in 1917 by Dr. William T. Hornaday, director of the New York Zoological Park and founder of the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Dr. Hornaday was an active and outspoken champion of natural resource conservation and a leader in saving the American bison from extinction. 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 1938, 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 help from the DuPont Company. At that time, the late Dr. Hornaday's idea of conservation was broadened to include environmental awareness.

The Hornaday Awards are highly prized by those who have received them: Only slightly more than a thousand medals have been awarded over the past 70 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. Any of the awards will take months to complete, so activities should be planned well in advance.

The fundamental purpose of the Hornaday Awards program is to encourage learning about natural resource conservation and the environment. 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.

# **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 category of conservation. 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 categories are listed under the project examples on page four. 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.

## The Awards

The William T. Hornaday Awards are presented for distinguished service in natural resource conservation. The award is given in one of seven forms.

- The local council may present the William T. Hornaday unit certificate for a conservation project by a pack, troop, team, or crew.
- The council may award the Hornaday badge to individual Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers for outstanding service in conservation.
- The council may award the Hornaday gold badge to adult Scouters who
  have given significant leadership to conservation at a council or district
  level.

All other Hornaday Awards are conferred by the National Council:

- Scouts and Venturers may apply for the bronze and silver medals.
- Adult Scouters may be nominated for the gold medal.
- Organizations unaffiliated with Scouting may be nominated for the gold certificate.

Hornaday Award	Administered by	Awarded to	Type of Award	How to Qualify	Maximum Awards/Year	Requirements
Unit award	Council	Pack, troop, team, crew	Certificate	Be nominated or apply	Unlimited	Complete one project; 60% of unit contributes
<u>Badge</u>	Council	Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer	Badge and certificate	Apply	Unlimited	Complete advancement requirements; complete one substantial project
Bronze medal	National	Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer	Medal, certificate, and square knot	Apply	Unlimited	Complete advancement requirements; complete three bronze

						substantial projects, each from a different project category
Silver medal	<u>National</u>	Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer	Medal, certificate, and square knot	Apply	Unlimited	Complete advancement requirements; complete four silver substantial projects, each from a different project category
Gold badge	Council	Adult Scouter	Badge	Be nominated	Unlimited	Adult Scouter; leadership to conservation at council or district level for at least three years
Gold medal	<u>National</u>	Adult Scouter	Medal, certificate, and square knot	Be nominated	Six	Adult Scouter; leadership to conservation at national or regional level over a lifetime (at least 20 years)
Gold certificate	<u>National</u>	Corporation or organization	Certificate	Be nominated	Six	Outstanding contribution to youth conservation education for at least three years

## William T. Hornaday Unit Award

A Hornaday unit certificate, No. 21-110, is awarded to a pack, troop, team, or crew when that unit plans and carries out at least one local environmental/conservation project. At least 60 percent of the registered unit members must participate. These units may be nominated, or they may apply to their BSA local council for recognition.

## William T. Hornaday Badge

The Hornaday badge is awarded, upon approval of the local council, to a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer for outstanding service to conservation and environmental improvement.

### The Requirements

1. Earn First Class rank (Boy Scouts/Varsity Scouts only).

- 2. Plan, lead, and carry out at least one project from one of the following categories:
  - Energy conservation
  - Soil and water conservation
  - o Fish and wildlife management
  - Forestry and range management
  - Air and water pollution control
  - Resource recovery (recycling)
  - Hazardous material disposal and management
  - Invasive species control
- 3. Complete the requirements for any three merit badges listed in bold type on the application, plus any other two listed there.

Venturers must attach a statement from their Advisor stating that ecology and plant and wildlife requirements for the Ranger Award have been satisfied.

Applicants meeting all requirements receive a certificate, No. 21-111, and the William T. Hornaday badge.

## William T. Hornaday Bronze or Silver Medal

These individual awards are granted by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America to a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer for exceptional and distinguished service to conservation and environmental improvement.

### The Requirements

- 1. Earn First Class rank (Boy Scouts/Varsity Scouts only).
- 2. For the bronze medal: Plan, lead, and carry out three projects from three separate categories listed below. For the silver medal: Plan, lead, and carry out four projects from four separate categories.
  - All projects are to be planned and carried out in a way that encourages others to understand and appreciate sound conservation and environmental practices. Exacting standards of project documentation must be met. (See "How Applications Are Judged")
    - Energy conservation
    - o Soil and water conservation
    - Fish and wildlife management
    - o Forestry and range management
    - Air and water pollution control
    - Resource recovery (recycling)
    - Hazardous material disposal and management
    - Invasive species control
- 3. Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts: Earn the Environmental Science merit badge. For the bronze medal, earn at least three more merit badges listed in bold type on the application, plus any two other merit badges listed there. For the silver medal, earn all six merit badges in bold and any other three listed on the application.

Venturers must complete the ecology and plant and wildlife requirements for the Venturing Ranger Award and submit project documentation as specified. (See "How Applications Are Judged")

The silver medal, the most distinguished in Scouting for exceptional conservation service, will be awarded for clearly outstanding efforts in planning, leadership, execution of plans, involvement of others, and opportunities taken to help others learn about natural resource conservation and environmental improvement. The distinction between the bronze and silver medals is based primarily on the number and quality of the projects and their impact on the local community. The William T. Hornaday Awards Committee may award a bronze medal if the application does not meet the standard of exceptional service required for the silver medal. There is no limit on the number of bronze medals that may be awarded each year. Both awards include the medal (bronze or silver), a certificate, and an embroidered square knot.

## William T. Hornaday Gold Badge

The gold badge is by nomination only and is awarded by the local council to an adult Scouter. The nominee should have demonstrated leadership and a commitment to the education of youth on a council or district level for significant conservation efforts for a period of at least three years. Nominations are made to the local council. The award includes the gold badge.

## William T. Hornaday Gold Medal

The gold medal is by nomination only and is awarded to an adult Scouter. It recognizes unusual and distinguished service in natural resource conservation and environmental improvement at the regional, national, or international level. Nominations must be approved by the Hornaday Awards Committee and by the Conservation Committee of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America. Any recognized conservation/environmental organization may submit a nomination. The award includes the gold medal, a certificate, and an embroidered square knot.

## William T. Hornaday Gold Certificate

This award is by nomination only and is granted to an individual, corporation, or organization not affiliated with Scouting. The nominee should have made an outstanding contribution to youth conservation education and demonstrated commitment to the education of youth on a national or international level, reflecting the natural resource conservation and environmental awareness mission of the Boy Scouts of America. Candidates may be nominated by any recognized conservation/environmental organization. Up to six awards may be granted annually. Each nomination must be approved by the Hornaday Awards Committee and by the Conservation Committee of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, in consultation with the Chief Scout Executive.

### **Awards Presentation**

The Conservation Service of the Boy Scouts of America supplies certificates, medals, and badges at no charge to local councils. Certificates are printed with the recipient's name.

Information packages containing a history of the award and pictures of Dr. Hornaday are available from the national office upon request. Councils are encouraged to maximize press coverage on the occasion of the award presentation—this distinguished honor reflects favorably on the Scouting program.

William T. Hornaday Awards
The Awards | Hornaday Projects | How Applications Are Judged
Checklists for Submitting Applications | Guidelines for the Conservation Adviser
Application Forms | FAQ

The Boy Scouts of America <a href="http://www.scouting.org">http://www.scouting.org</a>