

Think of It as an Olympic Medal Bestowed by the Earth

**Earn the William T. Hornaday Award
for Distinguished Service to
Natural Resource Conservation**



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

How to Earn Scouting's Most Prestigious Conservation Award



As a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer, you belong to one of the world's oldest environmental organizations. By subscribing to the Outdoor Code, you're already doing a lot to help conserve renewable natural resources. But do you yearn to do more? Great! There's a special way for individual Scouts or Scouting units to make a real contribution.

Before going too far, you should understand that this will be a challenge. Dr. William T. Hornaday established demanding standards, believing that only the **most outstanding accomplishments** deserved recognition.



Who Was William T. Hornaday?

Dr. Hornaday (1854–1937) was a pioneer in wildlife conservation. He believed in Scouting. 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.

Dr. Hornaday is generally credited with saving the American bison and other wildlife species from extinction. 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. Earning this award is a way Scouts can thank him for his good work.



An “Olympics of Conservation”

There are several different Hornaday awards. (The gold badge and gold medal are for adults.) Think of them as an “olympics of conservation,” with an ever-increasing scale of challenge.

* **Unit certificate.** Awarded to a pack, troop, team, or crew for a unique, substantial conservation project. At least 60 percent of registered unit members must participate.

* **Badge.** Awarded to an individual Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer for outstanding service to conservation and environmental improvement.

* **Bronze medal.** Awarded to an individual Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer for distinguished service in natural resource conservation or environmental improvement. A national committee judges the applications.

* **Silver medal.** Awarded to an individual Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer for exceptional service in natural resource conservation or environmental improvement. Applications are reviewed by a national committee.

* **Gold badge.** Awarded by the local council to an adult Scouter or Venturing leader who has 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.

* **Gold medal.** Awarded to an adult Scouter or Venturing leader for outstanding service in natural resource conservation and youth education at the regional, national, or international level. Nominations are reviewed by a national committee.

* **Gold certificate.** Awarded to a corporation or organization for outstanding service to youth conservation and education. Nominations are reviewed by a national committee.

How Do I Earn a Hornaday Bronze or Silver Medal?

Since 1917, about 1,100 Hornaday medals have been awarded. The Wild Life Protection Fund was a forerunner to the Hornaday Awards. Dr. William T. Hornaday, an ardent conservationist, established this awards program to recognize Scouts who undertook and completed **truly exceptional** conservation projects. Earning one is hard work—it is supposed to be—but it's worth it.

A good idea is to start with the badge and then work up to the bronze or silver medal. You must be a First Class Scout or a Venturer, and you must have a conservation adviser. Then you do your homework to fulfill the advancement requirements and conservation projects you want to complete.

Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers must complete specific advancement requirements to earn the Hornaday badge, bronze medal, or silver medal. The requirements are described in the application packet, No. 430-107. In addition, applicants must plan, lead, and carry out at least one significant project in natural resource conservation as listed below.

- Hornaday badge: one project
- Hornaday bronze medal: at least three projects
- Hornaday silver medal: at least four projects



Conservation Project Categories

1. Energy conservation
2. Soil and water conservation
3. Fish and wildlife management
4. Forestry and range management
5. Air and water pollution control
6. Resource recovery (recycling)
7. Hazardous material disposal and management
8. Invasive species control

Expectations

Applicants for the bronze and silver medals are expected to do the following:

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 in the application packet.



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

- *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 following.
- *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.

There must be clear written evidence in your application that you did indeed plan, lead, and carry out long-term, *substantial* projects in the different conservation categories. Past winners have indicated that it takes at least 18 months to complete all the requirements. Judges check to see that all necessary signatures are on the applications; that the applicant (except for Venturer applicants) was not yet

18 when all requirements were completed; that all merit badge requirements have been completed; and that the projects are substantial and well-documented.

Additional written supporting material relating to the applicant's conservation work (newspaper articles, letters of commendation, photos of completed projects) is considered by the judges. Evidence of leadership in researching, planning, leading, and carrying out the projects, and of how this influenced other people, must be clearly documented.

Who Will Coach Me?

For your adviser, seek a professional conservationist with groups such as the National Audubon Society, Izaak Walton League, National Wildlife Federation, National Arbor Day Foundation, or appropriate government agencies. Your state's cooperative extension service is another source of good ideas.

How Do I Apply For a Hornaday Award?

Download the Hornaday application from www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards1/forms.aspx. You may also call or visit your local council service center and ask for a Hornaday Awards application package, No. 430-107. Or, contact the national office: Boy Scouts of America, S250, P.O. Box 152079, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, TX 75015-2079; telephone 972-580-2434.

Are There Any Other Hints You Can Give Me?

Just two: Be sure you and your conservation adviser have in hand and thoroughly understand the information in the application and guidelines. And, start early in your Scouting career! Remember that it usually takes at least 18 months of concentrated work to earn either of the Hornaday medals.

Good Luck!

Many Scouts will, as adults, assume significant leadership positions involving decisions that affect our nation's natural resources. This is why professional conservationists and others interested in environmental improvement view the Hornaday Awards program as a solid investment in our nation's future.



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