

SCOUTING AND CONSERVATION

The William T. Hornaday Award

Dr. William T. Hornaday who – was then director of the New York Zoological Park and who was the founder of the National Zoo in Washington, D.C – initiated the Hornaday Awards in 1914.

Dr. Hornaday was an outspoken advocate for conservation and a leader in saving the bison from extinction. He created the award, which he originally called the Wildlife Protection Medal, as a way to recognize those who made significant contributions to conservation.

After Dr. Hornaday's death in 1937, the award was named in honor of Dr. Hornaday and became a Boy Scouts of America award.

The purpose of the Hornaday Awards is to encourage conservation learning and conservation action by Scouts (and Scout leaders) and to increase public awareness of natural resource conservation and environmental protection.

By encouraging and rewarding conservation actions by Scouts and Scout leaders, the Hornaday Awards strengthen Scouting's emphasis and support for respecting the outdoors and conserving our wildlife heritage.

Hornaday awards are very rare with less than 1500 awarded since 1917.

Hornaday awards are special because they are difficult to earn (or be nominated for) because they take careful planning, advising by a conservation professional and may take months or even years to complete.

Hornaday awards are also special in that they are one of the few Scouting awards that can be earned as part of an Eagle project. A well-planned and complex Eagle project on a conservation issue can earn a Scout both Eagle rank and a Hornaday award at the same time.

Hornaday awards are rare because they are challenging. A successful Hornaday project will require advice and guidance by the Council Conservation Committee. The Hornaday application form has to be signed by the Committee Chair certifying that the project meets the requirements of this award.

If you have any questions about Hornaday awards, please contact:

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There are 7 types of Hornaday Awards:

Award	Administered by	Awarded to	Type	How to qualify	Maximum awards/yr.	Requirements
Unit Award	Council	Pack, Troop, Team, Crew	Certificate	Be nominated or Apply	Unlimited	Complete 1 project; 60% of unit participates
Badge	Council	Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturer	Badge and certificate	Apply	Unlimited	Advancement requirements; 1 substantial project
Bronze Medal	Council	Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturer	Medal, certificate and square knot	Apply	Unlimited	Complete advancement requirements; complete at least 3 bronze substantial projects, each from a different project category
Silver Medal	National	Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturer	Medal, certificate and square knot	Apply	Unlimited	Complete advancement requirements; complete at least 4 silver substantial projects, each from a different project category
Gold Badge	National	Adult Scouter	Badge	Nomination only	Unlimited	Adult Scouter; leadership to conservation at council or area level for at least 3 years
Gold Medal	National	Adult Scouter	Medal, certificate and square knot	Be nominated by a conservation or environmental organization.	No more than 6	Adult Scouter; leadership to conservation at national or regional level over a lifetime (at least 20 yrs.)
Gold Certificate	National	Organization or individual	Certificate	Be nominated	No more than 6	Outstanding contribution to youth conservation education for at least 3 years