

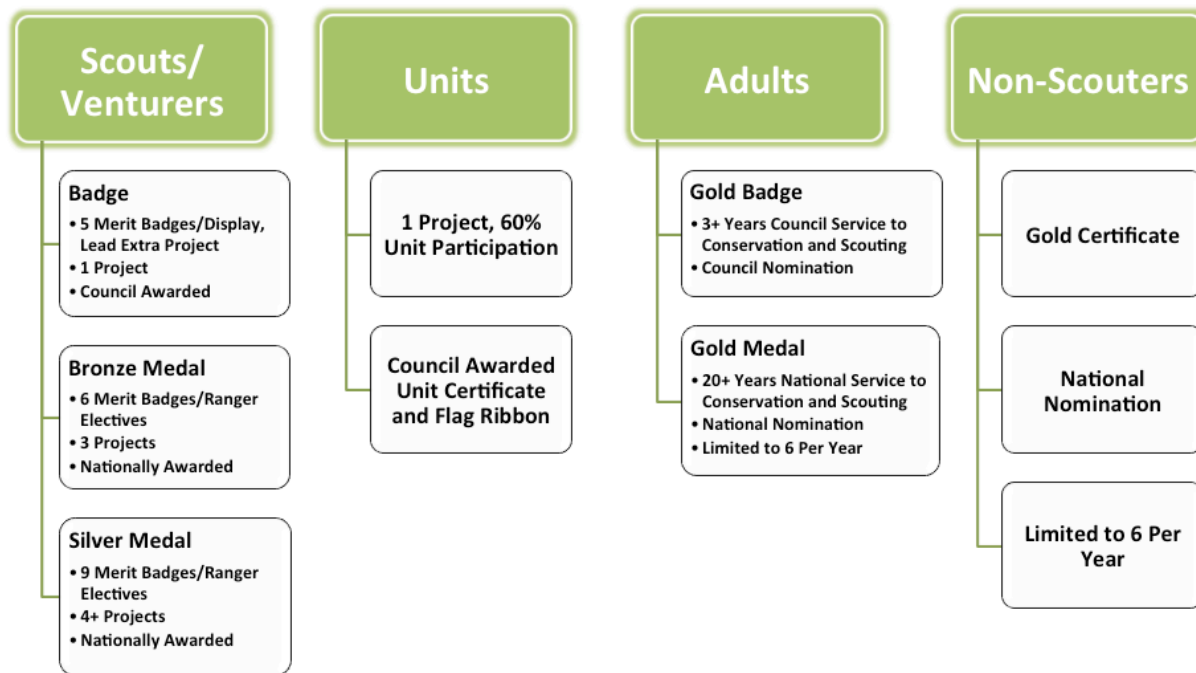
Conservation Advisor Information

William T. Hornaday Awards for Distinguished Service to Conservation
Blue Ridge Mountains Council Conservation Committee

Overview: Hornaday Awards are the rarest awards in Scouting; fewer than fifty Scouts earn any type of Hornaday Award nationally each year. As a Conservation Advisor, you are responsible for helping young men and women conduct large Hornaday conservation projects in a technically sound manner. Scouts are responsible for ensuring that their projects meet strict requirements for a Hornaday Award; you are responsible for guiding Scouts in conservation practices. You will only advise Scouts who are conducting projects in your area of expertise.

William T. Hornaday: Dr. William T. Hornaday was a taxidermist who became the first director of the Bronx Zoo. Active in civic and conservation groups, Hornaday did some work with the Boy Scouts, but focused his efforts on his own Permanent Wildlife Protection Fund (PWLPF). The Fund developed an award whose recipients were chosen by the Boy Scouts. The first PWLPF medal was awarded in 1917; the Boy Scouts took over the awards program upon Hornaday's death in 1941. The current awards structure was developed with support from the Dupont Company in the 1970s.

Award Structure: There are seven different types of Awards. As a Conservation Advisor, you will only be focused on Awards that require completion of a Hornaday project (Badge, Bronze Medal, Silver Medal, and Unit Award Certificate). Each Award has different requirements, but each project must meet the same criteria, though complexity depends on the age of the Scouts involved.



Your Role: You will be advising a Scout or Scouts in the completion of a significant conservation project. This project is much more substantial and technically complex than a typical Eagle project.

Technical: You are expected to be an expert in the conservation science of the project. You should know how to devise a technically accurate project that will benefit conservation efforts, while also being doable for the Scout.

Project Options: The Scout is responsible for finding a project to complete. The Scout must actively seek out organizations to work with that have adequate conservation projects to complete. However, you should know about general project categories and potential organizations with whom to perform projects. You should work with the Scout to identify the best project for the Scout.

Approval Role: You serve as an approved liaison to the Council Conservation Committee throughout a Scout’s planning and completion phases of a Hornaday project. You must approve the Project Outline, Project Proposal, and Project Plan. You should review all documentation associated with the Project Plan, as well as major decisions that occur when executing the project. Finally, you are the pre-approval person for the final Hornaday application before review by the Conservation Committee or National Hornaday Committee.

Resources and Contacts: A chief role of the Conservation Advisor is to provide the Scout with Hornaday related resources, professional organizations, conservation guidelines, and general advice that will help throughout the project. The Conservation Advisor is the chief source of help for the Scout during the project.

Role of Others: The below chart describes the role of others in the Hornaday process. Note that the Candidate may be an individual Scout (age 11-17), Venturer (age 13-21), or a group of Scouts (age 7-21). The project and progress toward the Award itself is ultimately always the responsibility of the Candidate.

Hornaday Project Advisory Group	
Candidate	Develops project ideas
	Plans and researches projects
	Documents project
	Obtains labor and materials
	Records budget information
	Completes Hornaday workbook
	Finds publicity outlets
	Ensures project is long-lasting
	Contacts advisors and professionals
	Integrates Eagle project (if desired)
	Contacts media for publicity
Council William T. Hornaday Awards Coordinator	First point of contact
	Answers application questions
	Discusses project ideas
	Helps select appropriate project
	Shows how to document project
	Delivers application
Benefiting Organization	Gives location to complete project
	Provides materials or funding for project (if requested)
Eagle Scout Service Project Coach (optional)	If needed, ensures project meets Eagle requirements

Projects: The following criteria must be addressed in every Hornaday project. Many excellent conservation projects do not qualify as a Hornaday project because they fail to meet one or more of these criteria. Candidates must go “above and beyond” to truly distinguish themselves. Projects should be held to the standards of that of a college educated conservation professional.

Conservation Science: Candidates must demonstrate that the project is planned and executed to the highest standards of conservation science. The Candidate must show and justify that the project is maximally beneficial given available resources. Each step of the project design must be sound and justified in writing. The Scout is expected to become an expert in the chosen field of conservation.

Lasting Impact: Candidates must show how the project will have a lasting, positive impact. Project maintenance, repair, and future improvements must be outlined. It is advisable to create a maintenance team at the benefitting organization to monitor the project. The Candidate should provide this team with a full evaluation of the project and suggestions for future projects.

Significance: A Hornaday project can be thought of as three Eagle projects back-to-back. Candidates must engage in substantial pre-planning and a good deal of after project work in addition to executing the proposed project. Expectations for Scouts increase as they get older. Projects typically take between 200 and 400 hours (including time spent by the Candidate and volunteers).

Education: The project must educate the volunteers helping execute the project on the conservation science behind the effort. It must also educate all individuals who interact with the completed project, typically through interpretative signs, pamphlets, and community meetings/site walks.

Scientific Method: Candidates must justify the need for the project by demonstrating the problem they identify and showing that the proposed site of the project is most in need of a solution. Cost-benefit analysis should be conducted to identify the best possible solution. After implementation, monitoring should identify issues with implementation and show the effectiveness of the project.

Project Categories: Each project a Scout undertakes must be in a different one of the following categories. Most projects can plausibly fit into several categories; one category should be chosen and the project should be tailored to emphasize conservation in this category.

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

Meet Hornaday Criteria:

- Public awareness campaign to describe the hazards of laundry detergent phosphates based on original published research to support conclusions.
- Designing and constructing artificial fish habitats for lakebed stabilization and homes for fishes.
- Designing a landscape using native plants to prevent soil and bank erosion.
- Reconstructing a cave habitat for bats and other night animals after extensive research into artificial cave environments.

Inadequate:

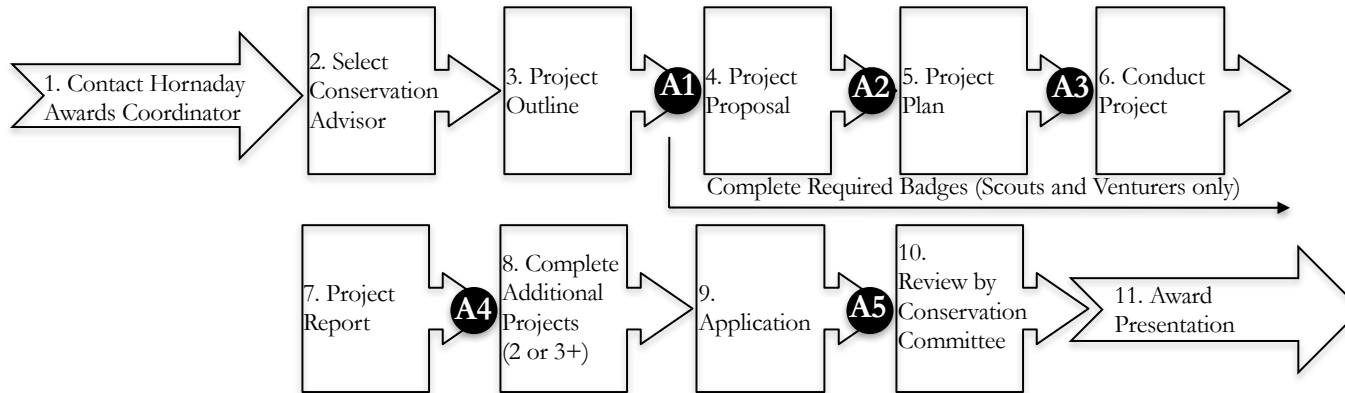
- Planting 200 trees (too small an effort, no education involved, little research needed, project may not be necessary).
- Setting up recycling bins at a school (too small an effort, may not be a lasting impact if no follow-up, no research needed).
- Landscaping a garden area (may not address a real conservation problem, education and research components unclear).
- Cutting down dead plants and trees (lasting impact not enough, project may not be significant enough).
- Having a benefit concert for an environmental group (money generally not considered lasting impact).
- Placing mile markers on a nature trail (no conservation benefit, little research or education involved).

Comparing Hornaday and Eagle Projects:

William T. Hornaday Projects	Eagle Scout Service Projects
Conservation Related	Any Topic
Group Leadership Not Required, but Highly Recommended	Must Lead a Group
Much Research Required	Research Not Required
Restricted to Certain Categories	Unrestricted Choices
No Fundraising Required, but May be Necessary	Fundraising Can Show Leadership
Must be Long-Lasting	Need Not Have Tangible Impact
Few Approvals Required	Many People Must Approve
Cannot be a "One Time" Event	No Follow-up Needed
May Be Done Individually, but Best to Involve Others	Group Labor Required
Generally 200-400 Hours, Increases With Age	Generally 100-200 Hours
National Review May be Required	Only Local Review Required
More Planning Time, Less Labor	Balance Labor and Planning
Must Utilize Scientific Method	Scientific Method Not Required
Must Educate Others	Education Not Required

For Assistance: If you are currently working with a Scout on a Hornaday project, that Scout is your first point of contact for any questions you may have. Otherwise, contact your Boy Scout Council's William T. Hornaday Awards Coordinator for assistance. If you do not know who this is or have further questions you may always contact: William O'Brochta, BRMC Hornaday Awards Coordinator (540-525-6607, william@obrochta.net).

Process for Scouts, Venturers, and Units Earning a William T. Hornaday Award



<p>3. Possible Project Categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Conservation Soil and Water Conservation Fish and Wildlife Management Air and Water Pollution Control Resource Recovery (Recycling) Hazardous Material Disposal Invasive Species Control 	<p>4. Project Benefiting Orgs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservancies, Community Agencies, Land Trusts, Religious Organizations, Schools, Service Groups, Local Government, USDA, State Parks, NOAA, VDGIF, VADOF, Scout Reservation (Only 1 Project) 	<p>5. Project Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization Design Materials and Budget Leadership and Workers Schedule Benefit Safety Plan
<p>7. Project Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Hours by All Involved Maps, Pictures Lessons Learned Communication Plan Publicity Letters of Appreciation Maintenance Plan 	<p>9. Application</p> <p><u>Scouts/Venturers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badge: 5 MB, 1 Project Bronze Medal: 6 MB, 3 Projects Silver Medal: 9 MB, 4+ Projects <p><u>Units</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate: 1 Project, 60% of Unit Participates 	<p>Approvals</p> <p>A1, A2, A3, A4, A5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Approved By Benefiting Organization, Conservation Advisor, and Hornaday Coordinator, A5 Goes to Council Or National Committee