

## Basic Information Guide

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

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- Background** Established in 1914 by conservation giant Dr. William T. Hornaday, this group of awards seeks to reward Scouts who have completed large, Eagle sized conservation projects and numerous Merit Badges. Since its inception, just over 1,000 Hornaday medals have been awarded. The Silver Medal is the highest possible conservation award in Scouts BSA and Venturing.
- Who** Scouts interested in earning a Hornaday award may be currently working on conservation related Merit Badges, an applicable Eagle project, or have time left in Scouting and are looking for a challenging and rewarding experience. Scouts may also be interested in potential careers in conservation.
- Awards** There are three different levels of Hornaday awards for Scouts. The badge is awarded to Scouts who plan and lead one conservation project and earn five conservation Merit Badges. A bronze medal requires completion of six Merit Badges and three projects, while the Silver Medal dictates earning nine conservation related Merit Badges and completing four Eagle sized projects. A Hornaday badge may be combined with an Eagle project. Venturers replace the Merit Badge requirement by earning components of the Ranger Award. There is also a Unit Award, two adult awards given by nomination, and an individual or organizational award.
- Projects** A Hornaday project must be a significant and lasting effort in natural resource conservation or environmental improvements. Each Hornaday project must be chosen from a list of different disciplines of conservation. Only one project may be completed on Boy Scout property, but many other organizations have worthy potential projects. Projects must be meticulously planned and include assistance from expert conservation professionals, research using the scientific method, education of both those participating in the project and visitors, and have a substantial, lasting impact. The scope of each project is similar to three times the effort required for a single Eagle project.
- Starting** Before starting to work on a Hornaday award, Scouts must contact the Hornaday Coordinator to obtain a Conservation Advisor. The Conservation Advisor will help Scouts decide on appropriate projects and make sure that they are meeting Hornaday application requirements.
- Time** Hornaday awards must be completed before Scouts turn eighteen or Venturers turn twenty-one. A Badge or Unit Award typically takes six months to complete; a Silver Medal may take up to three years. Adult awards require three or twenty years of service to conservation.

### Additional Information

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