

Working Smart Conservation Awards

If a Scout or Venturer is interested in conservation, that person can *work smart* by understanding what scout awards work well in combination with each other. These awards include the following:



- Ranger Award
- Venturing World Conservation Award
- Eagle Scout
- Hornaday Award

To help facilitate this, each council should have a conservation committee. More information about this committee can be found on the Scouting and Conservation Fact Sheet - www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/02-519.pdf.

Conservation and the Ranger Award

In order to earn the Ranger award in Venturing, a Venturer has to complete four elective requirements. (Two of the four electives are required for the Outdoor Bronze.) The requirements can be read here:

www.usscouts.org/advance/venturing/RangerAward.asp.

If one of these elective is the Ecology elective, the Venturer can get some credit for both the Ranger award and the Venturing World Conservation Award. A Venturer can complete the Venturing World Conservation award by completing one more requirement. The requirements for the Venturing World Conservation Award can be found here: www.sageventure.com/venturing/VWCA.pdf.

If both the Ecology and Plant & Wildlife electives for the Ranger award are completed, the Venturer can complete the alternate requirements for the Venturing Hornaday Badge and Medal. The Venturing alternate requirements replace the merit badge requirements for Boy Scouts. A project is still required for the Hornaday Badge.

Eagle Project and the Hornaday Badge

Hornaday awards are the most significant conservation awards in scouting. They were created to recognize those that have made significant contributions to conservation. More information about the awards can be found here:

www.scouting.org/Awards/HornadayAwards.aspx.

According to the Hornaday requirements: *An Eagle Scout leadership service project may be used as a Hornaday project if it meets the aims and objectives of the William T. Hornaday program.*

However, it is important to understand that a Hornaday project requires additional work over and above an Eagle project. Generally speaking, a Hornaday project requires additional work at the beginning and end of a normal Eagle conservation project. The work at the beginning is understanding and documenting the “why” of the project. Many times an Eagle project is just getting a project and the “why” of the project is less important. At the end of a Hornaday project, is the education of others of what has been done. This is accomplished by newspaper articles, presentations at community organizations, taking outreach opportunities, internet, etc.

The exact path that a Scout or Venturer takes for the accomplishment of the project must be reviewed by someone from the Council conservation committee. Guidelines for the judgment of projects can be found here:

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards/Judging.aspx.

The Hornaday awards that can be earned by a Scout or Venturer are:

Hornaday Award	Administered by	Awarded to	Type of Award	How to Qualify	Requirements
Badge	Council	Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer	Badge and certificate	Apply	Complete advancement requirements; complete one substantial project
Bronze medal	National	Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer	Medal, certificate, and square knot	Apply	Complete advancement requirements; complete at least three bronze substantial projects, each from a different project category
Silver medal	National	Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer	Medal, certificate, and square knot	Apply	Complete advancement requirements; complete at least four silver substantial projects, each from a different project category

References:

1. William T. Hornaday Awards web site - www.scouting.org/Awards/HornadayAwards.aspx
2. Capitol Area Council Hornaday Award web site - www.hornadaybsa.com
3. Ranger award requirements web site – www.usscouts.org/advance/venturing/RangerAward.asp
4. Venturing Conservation Awards web site – www.sageventure.com/venturing/conservation.html