

VENTURING MAGAZINE

Hornaday Gold Medal

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Introduction by Joe Garrett

Our very own Craig Murray, a lifelong Scouter and environmentalist, has been awarded the extremely rare Hornaday Gold Medal. Only 46 Hornaday Gold Medals have been granted since the inception of the adult program in 1984 and we are very lucky to have one of those rare, caring individuals in Venturing. The requirements for this honor are as follows:

- Was the candidate nominated by a recognized conservation or environmental organization?
- Did the letter of nomination received by the director of Conservation include an explanation of accomplishments?
- Were the accomplishments cited part of the nominee's paid professional responsibilities?
- Has the nominee influenced youth and educational programs emphasizing sound stewardship of our nation's natural resources and environmental improvement?
- Has the nominee rendered distinguished and unusual service to natural resource conservation and environmental improvement over a sustained period (at least 20 years)?
- Were the cited accomplishments at the regional, national, or international level?

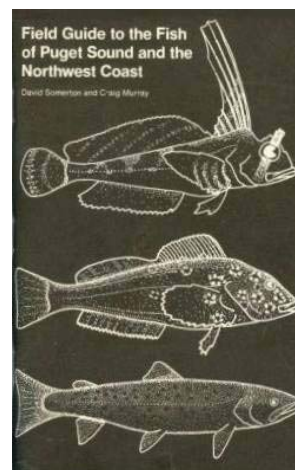


The award is certainly not one that you plan to earn because it requires at least 20 years of service to conservation. Here is Craig's autobiography of his involvement in conservation and Scouting:

Hornaday Gold Medal by Craig Murray

I was fortunate because my career path opened opportunities for me. I have a Ph.D. in Environmental BioStatistics.

My first opportunity was when I was a graduate student. A friend of mine and I were taking fisheries population dynamics. We were both divers and we realized that since fish populations were affected by humans so we decided to survey the local non-sport fishery populations in Puget Sound. For two years, we dove year round and recorded what we saw and the number of each fish species. In addition to the information we provide, we realized we had enough information for a field guide and published *Field Guide to the Fish of Puget Sound and the Northwest Coast*. The forward, written by Dr. Allan C. DeLacy, a renowned fisheries professor, stated "One of the authors' goals deserves special comment — identification without destruction."



When I attended Wood Badge, one of my ticket items was to increase Scout's knowledge of trees and plants and their habits in the San Gabriel Mountains. To do this, I created a booklet called *Common Local Trees & Plants* which I taught from for the 10 years I was a Scoutmaster and to scouts attending Buckskin, the councils Junior Leader Training Conference.



During my years as Scoutmaster, I earned the Trail Boss Service Award in recognition for leadership of trail maintenance and restoration projects in the Angeles National Forest. The service resulted in organizing 2,740 service hours which included 5 Eagle projects and a number of Trail Saver 30 hour awards.

As an Exploring Advisor, one of the projects that proved very educational was reestablishing winter sanctuary for migrating waterfowl in the one of the local lakes for the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation. The project took place over the summer and the Explorers expressed gratification for the knowledge they gained.

After graduate school, I was employed as an Environmental Research Scientist. As an environmental statistician, I was asked to address an over-sampling problem in order to minimize the effect on the environment. The sampling process I developed was called "Composite Random Sampling" and received a U. S. Patent.

Through work came the opportunity to be involved with conservation education projects. For the first, I was involved with the development of an elementary school program entitled *Think Earth*. The curriculum teaches children to conserve natural resources, reduce waste and minimize pollution. The program was awarded "The President's 1992 Environment and Conservation Challenge Award" for fostering cooperative approaches to environmental needs at the local, regional, or national level.



The second significant volunteer project was helping to facilitate the development of a video entitled "Discovering the Angeles." The video was originally distributed by the Big Santa Anita Historical Society.

In 2004, I volunteered and was accepted as Old Baldy Council's first Hornaday Advisor. The following year, I was asked to be the Venturing Advisor on the council's Wood Badge course. The responsibilities included teaching conservation. I prepared my team of Venturers by having them attend a weekend Leave No Trace Trainer training so that they would be prepared to teach conservation education on the Wood Badge course.

From 2006 to 2010, I served on the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy (SGMRC) board of directors. I still write and manage the SGMRC and Glendora Community Conservancy web sites today: www.sgmrc.org and www.glendoraconservancy.org respectively.

There are a number of other conservation activities I did along the way but this should give you an idea of what goes into being recognized as a Hornaday Gold Medal recipient.

Hornaday Awards and Venturers

Soon after the Venturing program came into being, an alternate set of requirements were developed so that Venturers who cannot or did not earn the required merit badges could work on the award. To learn more, I have put together a helpful web page that has additional links with detailed information:

<http://www.sageventure.com/venturing/conservation.html#Hornaday>