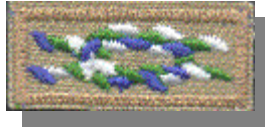


William T. Hornaday Award



"Think of It as an Olympic Medal Bestowed by the Earth"



The William T. Hornaday Award recognizes Scouts and Scouters for ecology efforts and service to conservation in their communities. It is the nation's oldest conservation award, dating back to 1914. To earn the Hornaday Award as an individual, youth members must earn a series of merit badges followed by a concentrated series of conservation and/or environmental education projects to be conducted in the member's community or nearby, under the advise of a trained conservation, naturalist, or environmental engineering expert.

There are three levels to this award -- Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Holders of the Bronze and Silver levels may wear the square knot. Holders of the Gold medal may also wear the gold badge or the square knot. If the award was earned by a group, the members of the group may wear the badge depicted here.

The present adult Gold award is nominative in nature, and extends over at least a ten-year span of working in or with conservation or environmental education/reclamation efforts in the community, state or nation.

As a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer, you belong to one of the world's oldest environmental organizations. By subscribing to the Outdoor Code, you're already doing a lot to help conserve renewable natural resources. But do you yearn to do more? Great! There's a special way for individual Scouts or Scout units to make a real contribution.

You should understand that this will be a challenge. Dr. William T. Hornaday established demanding standards, believing that only the most outstanding accomplishments deserved recognition.

Who Was William T. Hornaday?

Dr. Hornaday (1854 - 1938) was a pioneer in wildlife conservation. He believed in Scouting. He helped found the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and was founder, then director, of the New York Zoological Park for more than 20 years.

Dr. Hornaday is generally credited with saving the American bison and other wildlife species from extinction. For years, he wrote articles for *Boys' Life* and sections of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, and encouraged every Scout to work on behalf of renewable natural resources. Earning this award is a way Scouts can thank him for his good work.

An "Olympics of Conservation"

There are five different Hornaday awards. (The gold medal is for adults.) Think of them as an "Olympics of Conservation," with an ever-increasing scale of challenge:

Unit certificate

Awarded by the local council to a den, pack, patrol, team, crew, or group of five or more Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, or Venturers for a unique, substantial conservation project.

Badge

Silver badge awarded by the local council to an individual Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer for outstanding service in conservation. Gold badge awarded to adult scouter for conservation leadership and education on a council or district level.

Bronze medal

Awarded to an individual for exceptional service in natural resource conservation or environmental improvement. A national committee judges the applications.

Silver medal

Awarded to an individual for unusual and distinguished service in natural resource conservation or environmental improvement. Applications are reviewed three times a year by a national committee.

Gold medal

Awarded to an adult Scouter or Venturing leader nominated by a national or regional conservation organization or agency for outstanding service in natural resource conservation and youth education on a multistate or national basis.

