

Hornaday Awards

Time Available

10 minutes.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand about William T Hornaday's contribution to conservation and the BSA.
- Know about the different Hornaday Awards.

Suggested Presenter(s)

The presenter should be familiar with the Hornaday Awards. This could be a Scouter who has served as a Hornaday advisor to a Scout who has earned one, a Scout who has earned a Hornaday award, or a member of the local Council Conservation Committee.

Presentation Method

- Begin with a brief review of the life of William T. Hornaday.
- Describe the different Hornaday Awards for Scouts, Scouters and units, with a brief review of the requirements for each.
- Provide contact information for a person in the local area who can answer questions and provide guidance about Hornaday Awards.

BSA Reference Materials

- [William T Hornaday Overview](#)
- [Hornaday Award Brochure](#)
- [Hornaday Badge Application Form](#)
- [Hornaday Unit Award Application](#)
- [Hornaday Award Workbook](#)
- [Sample Hornaday Projects](#)
- [2013 Hornaday Interest Topic](#) from the Roundtable Commissioners Guide Book 2013/2014

Presentation Content

Show a photo of an American Bison, commonly known as a buffalo.

Introduce William T. Hornaday.

- William T. Hornaday is widely recognized as the man who saved the American Bison from extinction.
- He helped found the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and was the founder, then director, of the New York Zoological Park (commonly called the Bronx Zoo) for more than 20 years.
- 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 a Hornaday Award is a way Scouts can thank him for his good work.

Individual Youth Hornaday Awards

- There are three individual youth Hornaday Awards: the Hornaday Badge, the Hornaday Bronze Medal, and the Hornaday Silver Medal, and a Unit Certificate described below.
- In 2017, 86 Scouts earned a Hornaday Badge, 1 earned a Hornaday Bronze Medal and 6 earned a Hornaday Silver Medal, for a total of 93 youth Hornaday awards. By contrast, 55,186 Scouts earned their Eagle rank in 2016.
- A Scout must be First Class or a Venturer of any age in order to earn one of the individual Hornaday awards. The requirements for Venturers are different from those for Scouts BSA, as shown on the Hornaday Badge Application form.
- All three individual awards require a Scouts BSA member to plan and lead a significant conservation project on the scale of an Eagle project. The Hornaday Badge requires one such project; the Bronze Medal requires 3, and the Silver medal requires 4. For the Bronze and Silver Medals, each project must be from a different one of the 8 project categories.
- The Hornaday Badge is awarded by the local Council after approval from the National Council. The Hornaday Bronze Medal and Silver Medal are awarded by the National Council. There is no limit on the number of each that may be awarded in a year.
- A Hornaday project may double count as an Eagle project, but a Hornaday project requires research, communication and follow-up work not required for an Eagle project. Because these additional requirements are not addressed in the Eagle Scout Workbook, refer to the Hornaday Award Workbook for information about these additional project requirements.
- In addition, each of those individual awards requires a Scouts BSA member to earn a certain number of selected conservation oriented merit badges listed on the application forms. Venturers do not need to earn the merit badges if applying for the award as a Venture Scout.

Unit Hornaday Certificate

- A Pack, Troop or Crew may earn a Hornaday Unit Certificate.
- In 2017, 21 units earned a Hornaday Unit Certificate.
- For a Scout BSA unit, the project is to be equivalent in scope to an Eagle Scout leadership service project.
- At least 60 percent of the unit's members must participate in and contribute to the project, which has improved the environment and/or conserved natural resources in the community.

Hornaday Advisors for Youth

- Youth seeking to earn a Hornaday Award are encouraged to contact their local Council's Conservation Committee and obtain the name of an advisor who has experience with Hornaday Awards and conservation.
- The advisor can help determine which projects are suitable for a Hornaday Award and can provide guidance, but the advisor must ensure that the Scout plans and leads the project in a manner similar to the way an Eagle Coach advises a Scout without "taking over".
- For more information about Hornaday Advisors, refer to the "Becoming an Advisor" tab on the BSA Hornaday Awards webpage.

Adult Hornaday Awards

- Although most Hornaday Awards are earned by Scouting Youth, adults Scouters also can earn a Hornaday Award.
- The Hornaday Gold Badge is awarded by the local Council after approval from the National Council. Central to the selection process is the influence the nominee has had on youth and educational programs emphasizing sound stewardship of our nation's natural resources and environmental improvement during a period of at least three years. There is no limit on the number of Hornaday Gold Badges that may be awarded in a year.
- In 2017, 51 Scouters were awarded a Hornaday Gold Badge
- The Hornaday Gold Medal is awarded by the National Council, and is by nomination only, for an adult Scouter or Venturing leader who has rendered distinguished and unusual service to natural resource conservation and environmental improvement over a sustained period (at least 20 years).
- No more than 6 Gold Medals may be awarded per year. To date, only about 100 have been awarded. Only 4 were awarded in 2017.
- For a Hornaday Gold Medal, the nominee's accomplishments must be at a regional, national, or international level. Nominations are accepted from any recognized conservation/environmental protection organization. Central to the selection process is the influence the nominee has had on youth and educational programs emphasizing sound stewardship of our nation's natural resources and environmental improvement.