

COUNCIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

GUIDEBOOK

2nd EDITION



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

**COUNCIL CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE GUIDEBOOK**

2ND EDITION

A WORD FROM THE CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Conservation and an appreciation for the outdoors are woven throughout the fabric of Scouting and have been an integral part of our program since the BSA's founding in 1910. Our early leaders, James E. West, Ernest Thompson Seton, and Dan Beard, along with President Theodore Roosevelt, recognized the inherent value of conservation activities and made these core to the Scouting experience. Contemporary conservation policies and practices have been developed and reinforced throughout the years, including a requirement that each council form a conservation committee to assure that camps are managed sustainably in accordance with sound resource management principles. In addition, advancement activities and awards have been created to encourage Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts to be grounded in the principles of conservation, helping them become well-rounded individuals and citizens.

This guide, written by the National Conservation Committee, was developed to inform, guide, and inspire local council volunteers and staff in establishing and strengthening conservation activities. Use it to review and evaluate conservation efforts in delivering an exceptional Scouting program to the youth of the communities you serve.



Michael B. Surbaugh
Chief Scout Executive

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDEBOOK

Welcome to the second edition of the Boy Scouts of America’s *Council Conservation Committee Guidebook*. This guidebook is designed for Scouting volunteers, professionals, and partner organizations that have an interest in maintaining the conservation program emphasis in Scouting. It is also designed for those dedicated individuals who maintain BSA council properties to ensure that our camps’ natural resources and open spaces continue to provide for the needs of Scouting’s outdoor programs—sustainably—for future generations.

This guidebook is intended to be used for establishing and strengthening council conservation committees. Included are recommendations for organizing, staffing, and operating the committee and tools for managing your camp’s natural resources and ecology program. Assistance is available, so let’s get started.

Good Scouting!!

Michael Huneke

Primary author

National Conservation Subcommittee, Boy Scouts of America

CONSERVATION AND SCOUTING

“**C**onservation means development as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land, but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us. . . . Moreover, I believe that the natural resources must be used for the benefit of all our people, and not monopolized for the benefit of the few. . . . Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us, and training them into a better race to inhabit the land and pass it on. Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of insuring the safety and continuance of the nation.”

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT, 26TH U.S. PRESIDENT, SPEECH AT OSAWATOMIE, KANSAS, AUGUST 31, 1910



It has been said that “the meaning of words lies in the mind, not in the dictionary.” That is to say that whenever people hear a word, they will intellectually and emotionally react to a mental image of what that word means based on their individual understanding and experiences. One of the reasons communication between people can be so difficult is because the same word may create very different images in two individuals depending on what they’ve experienced in life, where and how they grew up, and even how long they’ve lived.

So what does this have to do with conservation? Unless your council has a well-established conservation committee already in place, you could encounter some indifference and maybe even outright opposition to efforts to reintroduce an active conservation program—or to reenergize existing programs—to Scouts and Scouters in your area. Often, when you make an effort to communicate deeper with those folks, you may find that people resistant to this idea might envision a conservationist as either someone who insists all natural resources must be preserved in their existing state or someone who wants to harvest all the forests and shoot Bambi in between logging jobs.

One possible method to help you deal with those situations is to offer Scouts and Scouters in your council an image of how the Boy Scouts of America has viewed and acted on the term “conservation” throughout the years. By offering a synopsis of what has happened in the past, you may be better able to communicate a clearer vision of what your conservation committee is attempting to achieve now and in the future.

Conservation has been an integral part of the program of the Boy Scouts of America since its establishment. Men such as BSA founder William D. Boyce, National Scout Commissioner Daniel Carter Beard, Chief Scout Ernest Thompson Seton, Chief Scout Woodsman Gifford Pinchot, and U.S. President and Chief Scout Citizen Theodore Roosevelt were all active supporters of forest and wildlife conservation. The extinction of the passenger pigeon, the near extinction of the American bison, and the extirpation of a number of game animals from their natural range drove home to these men that without proper management, our natural resources were not inexhaustible. Gifford Pinchot was the first chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service and a strong advocate for the scientific management of forests. There was also a sense that the landscapes that made the American frontier were disappearing and, with them, the opportunity for Scouts to practice outdoor life and outdoor craft to “counter the drift of modern city life,” as described in the 1925 *Handbook for Scoutmasters*.

Conservation was often viewed as linked to the sixth point of the Scout Law: A Scout is kind; “He is a friend to animals.” The requirements of the Conservation merit badge listed in the third edition of the *Boy Scout Handbook* summarized the ways in which Scouts actively practiced conservation: “Present evidence of having directly assisted conservation by some practical deed, such as fighting a forest fire; checking erosion; planting trees; helping restock streams with fish; posting or distributing conservation notices; planting wild rice or other duck feed; feeding birds in winter; stopping stream and river pollutions.”

By the time the fourth edition of the *Boy Scout Handbook* rolled out, memories of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl provided additional images for Scouts and Scouters to associate with conservation. In the “Conservation for Scouts” section,

editor Ted Pettit reminded Scouts, “In recent years, shortages of several natural resources— minerals, some kinds of timber, some kinds of birds and animals—and an increase in dust storms, floods, bog fires, and forest fires, all have helped to make conservation part of America’s conversation.” “But,” he wrote, “how many Scouts really know what conservation means, what it implies, and what they can do about it?” Those Scouts and Scouters who read on learned that conservation is “the wise use of natural resources—minerals, soil, plants, and animals—so that these resources will continue to serve the greatest number of people, to the fullest advantage.” In addition to the sixth point of the Scout Law, Scouts were told the ninth point of the Scout Law—“A Scout is thrifty”—is equally important in conservation.

Scouts were also encouraged to undertake projects to protect and improve the soil, water, trees and plant life, and wildlife, with the help of various conservation agencies. In addition, Scouts and Scouters were cautioned that “before any project is undertaken ... all possible outcomes should be predicted, as far as possible, so that the project will produce the greatest good for the greatest number of people.” In particular, Scouts were urged to be careful not to inadvertently break strands in “the ‘Web of Life.’”

When the fifth edition of the *Boy Scout Handbook* reached the hands of Scouts and Scouters, World War II was over. In addition to the text on conservation in the fourth edition, Scouts would read how “America’s natural resources are a part of your heritage,” and they could take the Conservation Pledge.

Conservation Pledge

“I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my Country—its soil and minerals, its forests, water and wildlife.”

In more recent times, we’ve seen conservation programs continue this theme of wise use and expand it to reflect growing knowledge of how important our natural resources are to life itself. The Conservation Good Turn evolved into Project SOAR (Save Our American Resources), which used a life preserver with symbols for “land, air, water, and vegetation—the elements that make life possible on Earth”—and arrows to “symbolize the interdependence of man with his environment.” Energy conservation became a recognized component of the conservation program as well. The Conservation Pledge became the Outdoor Code.

Outdoor Code

“As an American, I will do my best to be clean in my outdoor manners, be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors, and be conservation-minded.”

Today, Scouts and Scouters continue to participate in a wide range of activities that reinforce the wise use of our nation’s and the world’s natural resources. Today’s conservation program emphasizes sustainability, outdoor ethics, and social responsibility built from an awareness of our place in the ecosystem—that our actions have consequences in the environment. The changes and additions to the conservation program in Scouting didn’t replace or belittle the earlier concepts of conservation; they merely reflect our increased knowledge about our world and how it works to identify additional tools we can use to effectively address problems and help ensure future Scouts will have the same or better opportunities to enjoy the natural environment without a loss in their quality of life.

Your council conservation committee can play a vital role in helping Scouts, Scouters, and others in your area to better understand the conservation program within Scouting. By looking at where we’ve been, you can provide some context to show that we aren’t limited to yesterday and that we can fully embrace a broader image of what conservation looks like. This broader perspective could mean embracing a conservation plan in your council to incorporate a timber harvest in one area of the Scout camp as the wisest use of that resource, while also setting aside and preserving a tract of old-growth timber so the Scouts of today and tomorrow can better envision what the pioneers saw and appreciate the challenges they faced in getting started.

THE CONSERVATION HANDBOOK, SECOND EDITION

To learn more about the history of conservation in the Boy Scouts of America, and the conservation and ecology program emphasis in Scouting, the second edition of the BSA’s *Conservation Handbook*, published in 2016, is a tremendous resource. *The Conservation Handbook* is a recommended read for council conservation committee members and, along with this guidebook, provides the basic information needed for a committee to be successful.



As the BSA’s Outdoor Literature website states, “*The Conservation Handbook* is a book about caring for the Earth. It is for Scouts and BSA leaders, for parents, park rangers, land managers, and everyone else who wants to involve volunteers in projects that are good for our natural resources. While *The Conservation Handbook* bears the emblem of the Boy Scouts of America, its message is of value for leaders of many organizations. It is a book for anyone eager to explore environmental opportunities that can help young people become enthused stewards of the land.”



CHAPTER 2: THE COUNCIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT

The council conservation committee provides the council with technical assistance and expertise regarding matters of ecology, conservation, and resources management to guide policy making and operational decisions regarding the management of the council's natural and cultural resources, promotion of conservation-related training, and advancement of conservation programs.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE

Depending on the council and direction from the Scout executive, the council conservation committee may be a stand-alone committee or perhaps it may be a subcommittee under the council camping, outdoor programs, or properties committees. Regardless of the council's organization, the council conservation committee has an important function for the council. Having an organized and efficient committee will lead to success.

The council conservation committee should include a broad representation of people committed to the development of sound resource management policies and the sustainability of council conservation resources, suited to the council's needs. Most importantly, members of this committee must possess a strong interest in conservation. This would include individuals involved in Scouting and with knowledge of BSA conservation programs. The committee should include resource professionals and technical experts, including those from outside of Scouting who are willing to share their expertise as advisors and/or consultants on conservation matters, programs, and current technology. The council conservation committee should have a professional staff advisor—someone on the council's professional staff who is a decision-maker for the council or someone

who serves as a liaison to the Scout executive. Most importantly, the council conservation committee must have a volunteer chair who is passionate, organized, and able to effectively lead committee meetings and events. The chair should have an understanding of council operations and possess political savvy and an ability to communicate with a variety of stakeholders. The committee's success will depend on the leadership provided by the chair. Additionally, it is recommended that there be a designated notetaker or secretary on the committee to document meeting minutes and committee actions.

To better deal with the complex issues that present themselves to a conservation committee, the committee should consider dividing into focus or task groups, such as the following:

- **Conservation Awards group:** Responsible for promoting and managing the council's conservation awards program. This group should include a trained Hornaday awards advisor.
- **Cultural Resources group:** Responsible for inventorying, recommending management, and interpretation of cultural resources located on council properties. These include archeological, historic, and other man-made resources.
- **Forestry and Fire Management group:** Responsible for inventorying and recommending the management of the forest and tree resources present on council properties. Also responsible for developing a fire management plan for those properties.
- **Hazard Tree group:** Responsible for periodically identifying and recommending measures to mitigate or eliminate hazardous trees and other potential natural hazards to human use on council properties.
- **Non-Timber Forest Products group:** Responsible for identifying potential non-timber forest products that are already present or are possible on council properties and managing their development.
- **Outdoor Ethics group:** Responsible for promoting outdoor ethics to include the principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! within the council. Ideally, this group should contain the council outdoor ethics advocate, a Leave No Trace Master Educator, and a Master Tread Trainer.
- **Real Estate group:** Responsible for recommending measures to maintain proper relationships with the landowners adjoining council property and for recommending real estate actions, easements, and acquisitions regarding council properties.
- **Water, Soils, and Geology group:** Responsible for monitoring and managing soil and water resources present on council properties and managing existing geologic resources.
- **Special Projects group:** Responsible for handling any special conservation-oriented projects or activities sponsored by the conservation committee or the council.
- **Conservation and Ecology Program group:** Responsible for supporting the council's summer camp and off-season programs, particularly its nature and environmental activities. The resident camp ecology director should be invited to participate in this group.



- **Trail and Campsite Management group:** Responsible for recommending the management of trails, campsites, and program areas located on council properties.
- **Wildlife and Fisheries group:** Responsible for identifying and recommending management of the wildlife and fisheries resources present on council properties.
- **Sustainability group:** Responsible for providing and implementing recommendations pertaining to the sustainability of council resources, facilities, and properties.
- **National Standards group:** Responsible for ensuring that council camps meet all National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) standards related to conservation and ecology.

MANAGING THE COUNCIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Council conservation committees should be active and relevant. The committee should meet at least quarterly or as needed to address emerging issues that may occur at camp or at the council office. Committee meetings should be scheduled in advance, and they should be organized and orderly. Agendas should be prepared and followed. Consider providing a conference line for committee members who are unable to attend in person. Resource professionals who volunteer their valuable time will appreciate an organized approach.

Consider meeting at camp during daylight hours so that the committee can visit field sites as needed during the meeting. In some cases, Scouting youth may attend the meetings to present conservation projects and Hornaday award applications. Make productive use of the committee's time and value the contributions made by the committee members. Doing so will maintain productivity and encourage future engagement.

AREA ADVOCATES AND REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Situated under the BSA's National Outdoor Programs Committee, the Boy Scouts of America's National Conservation Subcommittee exists to ensure that the conservation and environment program emphasis is properly maintained throughout the Scouting program and to ensure that adequate resources are available to support local councils as they effectively and sustainably manage the natural resources associated with council properties. The National Conservation Subcommittee consists of members who are subject matter experts and partners from federal land management agencies and environmental nongovernment organizations. A staff advisor for the committee is provided by the National Council. A Scouting volunteer advocate/regional representative representing each of the four BSA regions serves on the national committee and works to ensure the transfer of information between local councils, areas, regions, and the national committee. A current listing of the national committee members and an email link to make contact with them is available on the National Conservation [Subcommittee website](#).

The National Hornaday Awards Committee is a subcommittee of the National Conservation Subcommittee.

Each BSA region has a representative on the National Conservation Subcommittee, and each area typically has an advocate for the conservation field. The regional committee provides support to the conservation and environment program at the regional level by performing important duties such as coordinating ecology programs at regional outdoor seminars and regional Hornaday advisor trainings and by developing qualified ecology faculty for National Camping Schools. The regional committee leader serves as the point of contact for the region on the national subcommittee and ensures that issues and ideas are communicated between the national and area levels. The regional committee leader is a member of both the national subcommittee and the regional Outdoor Programs Committee.

Volunteer area conservation and environment advocates often serve on the area Outdoor Program Committee and the regional Conservation and Environment Committee. Their primary role is to work with local council conservation committees to help them get established and to ensure they are running effectively. Area advocates share information between the council committee and the regional Conservation and Environment Committee, and work at the area level to promote the conservation and environment program emphasis in Scouting. Often, area advocates are experienced resource managers or technical experts with experience working on council level committees and camps to deliver the conservation program. They are excellent resources for council conservation committees.

At all levels, the BSA's conservation advocate network is available to assist councils with their conservation and environment program needs. Don't hesitate to ask for assistance.

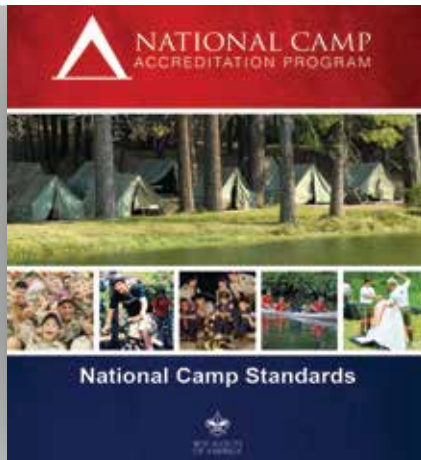
CHAPTER 3: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

So what does the council conservation committee do? Ultimately it will vary by council, but the primary role is to advise the council on matters related to the natural resources of the council properties and to support the council's conservation and ecology programs.

Duties may include working to encourage the proper management of the natural resources of Scout camp properties. This may involve ensuring that the National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) standards related to conservation and ecology are annually fulfilled at the council's camps. The NCAP standards include developing and implementing a camp conservation plan and an invasive species management plan. Additionally, the committee may need to work to develop or maintain the camp's nature trail or exhibit and support the ecology director in camp. The council conservation committee may be called upon to offer an outdoor ethics awareness session at resident camp. All of these activities are addressed in the NCAP standards and are discussed in this chapter.

The conservation committee should also be involved with delivering a robust conservation education program including merit badge offerings, field studies, and nature programs during summer resident camp and off-season. Duties may involve promoting and providing training in outdoor ethics, and programs to promote the sustainability of the camp resources, facilities, and properties, including the council office. The committee may be involved with identifying, planning, and delivering conservation projects for youth to complete at camp or at off-camp council events. Other duties may include providing a conservation program emphasis at councilwide or district events, camporees, and merit badge weekends. Lastly, the committee will likely be responsible for promoting and reviewing conservation awards and recognition programs such as the Hornaday Awards. All of these functions will be discussed in this guidebook.

NATIONAL CAMP ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (NCAP) ECOLOGY PROGRAM AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT NATIONAL STANDARDS



Each BSA resident camp is required to annually fulfill the NCAP standards during operation. The standards are confirmed as being implemented by a visitation team that reviews the camp's program and operation while the resident camp is in session. Several standards relate to the conservation and environment program emphasis. The council conservation committee may be called upon to assist the camp with meeting the standards. Note that the NCAP standards are updated annually. It is recommended that the current year's NCAP standards be obtained to ensure that the committee's efforts are invested properly.

The following sections provide actual examples of the NCAP standards that will likely fall under the responsibility of the council conservation committee (current as of the publication date of this guidebook).

National Standard: The Camp Conservation Plan

FA-704 Conservation Plan

Standard:

There is an approved and current conservation plan for the camp property. The plan addresses the protection and stewardship of biological, ecological, and cultural resources of the camp property.

Interpretation:

The conservation plan should be approved by the appropriate council officer or committee. A conservation plan is current if it has been reviewed by the appropriate council officer or committee within the past five years and it is not obsolete (e.g., most actions referenced occur in the past) or fails to address an obvious issue (e.g., fire that burned significant portion of camp more than six months before).

RP-251 Conservation Projects

Additionally, there is a recommended practice that references the conservation plan.

Recommended Practice:

The conservation plan required under Standard FA-704 Conservation Plan includes a list of conservation projects that can be done by a den, patrol, pack, troop, or crew while in camp. The list is posted. Staff are available who can instruct in conservation practice and how the project advances the conservation goals for the camp.

Interpretation:

The projects advance the goals of the conservation plan, are meaningful, and assist the units in understanding conservation as it relates to the camp.

The Camp Conservation Plan

A camp conservation plan should be an evolving document that assesses the conditions and provides recommendations to meet the natural resource needs and the objectives of the camp property. The conservation plan should be an accurate and current account of the natural resource management activities that are actually occurring on the property, and it should identify the scope of natural resource management practices that will, or will not, occur on the property in the future. The approved conservation plan should prescribe management practices that incorporate proper and ethical stewardship and the sustainable management of the camp's natural resources based on the current scientific knowledge of forestry, fish and wildlife management, soil and water conservation, and recreational use management. Resource professionals, certified foresters, wildlife biologists, and other conservationists should be recruited to assist with the development of the camp conservation plan.

The camp conservation plan should include a title page, a statement of objectives and desired future condition, a property map with management units identified, a current description and inventory of plant and animal species by management unit, management recommendations, and a schedule to identify completion dates for recommended practices.

Consider incorporating the following elements into the conservation plan:

- Recommendations for sustainable, scientific, and ethical ecosystem management that promote ecosystem health while minimizing impacts from exotic and invasive species of plants and animals. All resource management and timber harvesting practices should be performed under the direction of qualified resource management professionals.
- An inventory of all known resources, including rare, threatened, and endangered species of plants and animals, and recommendations to protect these species and associated habitats.
- A recognition of historical, biological, archaeological, cultural, and geological sites of special interest, and recommendations for their use and protection.
- Guidelines for the camp that are enforced to maintain compliance with applicable forestry-related laws, regulations, and best management practices.
- Recommendations for minimizing disturbances within riparian areas, wetlands, and other ecologically sensitive areas. Designations of camp natural or wild areas.
- Recommendations to ensure that chemical pesticides are applied in accordance with EPA-approved labels and that they are applied only when necessary to meet objectives.
- Requirements for property boundary lines to be marked and maintained.
- Requirements for hunting and fishing programs on camp properties to be performed in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.
- The identification of council policies under which the camp's natural resources will be managed.
- Identification of the primary sources of ecosystem degradation (e.g., air pollution, water pollution, soil erosion, noise, exotic and feral organisms, pest organisms,

aesthetic degradation, wildfire, resource extraction, human use, and community concerns) and recommendations of measures to eliminate or mitigate them.

- Possible inclusion of appendixes that focus on the specific management procedures to use when implementing the management policies for specific resources or needs.

Once an approved camp conservation plan is in place, a list of conservation projects to be performed by a den, patrol, pack, crew, or troop can be developed that are consistent with the plan. The conservation committee should provide an updated conservation project list to the camp ranger, camp director, and the ecology director as needed.

In most councils, the conservation committee is responsible for ensuring that the approved conservation plan is implemented and followed by the camp staff through guidance from the council's Scout executive. The conservation committee should continuously monitor activities at the camp to ensure that recommendations discussed in the plan are followed. Whenever there is a failure to do so, the conservation committee should take appropriate action to rectify any damage and take steps to ensure future compliance with the plan.

Note: Sample camp conservation plans are found at the [BSA's Conservation Resources website](#).

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The primary purpose of the camp conservation plan is to prescribe how the natural resources on the camp property are to be managed. Implementing the camp conservation plan and the management of the natural resources (vegetation, wildlife, fisheries, soils, water, geologic, and air) is also a core responsibility of the conservation committee. It is essential that the camp conservation plan defines the extent and establishes policies relating to the management of these resources. Management activities such as timber harvesting, tree planting, wildlife habitat enhancement projects, hunting, and other practices should be accounted for in the plan and incorporated into the overall camp management program to address long-term goals. Often, timber and other natural resources may represent a capital asset of the council.

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The camp conservation plan should also identify cultural heritage sites and recommendations for protecting them. Heritage sites include historical ruins and precolonial archeological sites that exist on the camp property. The conservation committee may need to consult with local historical societies or experts to assist with identifying heritage sites on the camp property and estimating their value. Cultural heritage sites can be valuable assets for the camp and should be preserved. Documenting heritage sites in the camp conservation plan will help ensure that they are protected when other management activities such as timber harvesting or camp development occur. With the assistance of the council conservation committee, there may also be opportunities to build program activities around the camp's heritage sites.

THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION

Once the camp conservation plan and resource management program have been established, council conservation committees should consider pursuing third-party

certification for their managed forest. The American Forest Foundation's **American Tree Farm System** is an example of a third-party certification program that is designed for family forests and smaller privately-owned forest properties like council camps. Other certification programs include the **Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)** and the **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)**, both of which are more suited for larger forested tracts, including state forests, industrial lands, and larger BSA properties. Under third-party certification systems, an outside entity (third party) certifies that the forest resources on the camp property are being managed sustainably. Each certification system maintains a set of standards that if fulfilled ensures the ethical and sustainable management of the property's resources. In all cases, certification requires that the forest resource management plan (camp conservation plan) is robust, comprehensive, and actively implemented. When timber or fiber is harvested on a certified forest, the harvested product enters a supply chain where it is tracked to the final consumer product. This gives consumers the option of purchasing forest products originating from a certified forest that was managed sustainably—possibly a Scout camp property.

Third-party certification can also provide validation to the Scout council. Having a third party certify that the forest management and timber harvesting on a council property is being performed in a sound, ethical, and sustainable way can help the council overcome controversy and stakeholder concerns that may occur with implementing the forest management program. Depending on the state, attaining certification and associated inspections may even be free of charge. Consider consulting with your state service forester for more information about third-party certification.

Recommended Practice: Invasive Species Management Plan

In addition to the camp conservation plan, the NCAP standards contain a recommended practice related to the risks of invasive plants, animals, and diseases.

RP-752 Invasive Species Control

Standard:

The camp has prepared a plan assessing the risk of invasive species (e.g., emerald ash borer, "rock snot," thistle, etc.) movement into its resource area and has developed appropriate mitigation measures to prevent such movement.

In many cases, a comprehensive camp conservation plan may provide an assessment of invasive species located on the property and the surrounding landscape and the risks that they pose to the natural community. In this case, a separate invasive species management plan may not be needed. However, when invasive species concerns are not a part of the camp conservation plan, the council conservation committee may be called upon to produce an invasive species management plan for the camp property.

Invasive species include plants, animals, and diseases which are often exotic, that invade natural communities and alter the natural condition, often displacing, killing, or otherwise impacting the native species in the ecosystem. With global trade, new species are constantly being introduced to the United States. Some of these introduced species are harmful and can become invasive, causing considerable harm to our landscapes and camp properties.



The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an example of an invasive exotic insect currently causing considerable damage to ash trees in North America. EAB was first discovered in southeastern Michigan in 2002. Native to Asia, this insect has no natural predators and no easy methods of control. As of 2018, the emerald ash borer has spread to 33 states and the Canadian provinces of Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba. At the current rate, the emerald ash borer has the potential to spread across the continent. EAB is now considered the most destructive forest pest ever seen in North America and damage caused will reach the billions of dollars. The emerald ash borer, like many other insects, has the ability to move on firewood and harvested logs. Scout campers could accidentally introduce the emerald ash borer and other harmful insects to new locations simply by bringing contaminated firewood from home to camp. State and federal forestry and land management agencies have encouraged the recreational community to not move firewood. In some places, quarantines exist with regulations and fines that could be imposed on the person moving the firewood. Many Scout camps now have policies in place to prohibit transporting firewood to camp.

The invasive species management plan should include an assessment of invasive species that are found on the camp property and the surrounding landscape. The plan should include recommendations to mitigate the spread of those species. In many cases, it may not be practical to address all invasive species concerns. In these cases, the invasive species management plan can identify priorities where conservation efforts can be focused to achieve the greatest benefit. The invasive species management plan can also identify stewardship practices to be implemented to prevent the spread of invasive species to and throughout the camp property. Practices such as preventing the movement of firewood to prevent the spread of harmful insects, requiring boaters to drain their bilges and wash their boats prior to movement to other bodies of water to prevent the spread of aquatic organisms, and washing off-road recreational vehicles to prevent the spread of invasive plant seeds are examples of practices that could be incorporated into a camp invasive species management plan.

Council conservation committees should consult with state or federal forestry and wildlife officials to obtain technical assistance and recommendations to incorporate into the invasive species management plan. The plan should be updated periodically to address newly introduced species and current concerns on the property and within the landscape.

Note: An invasive species management plan template is located in the appendix of this guidebook.

Recommended Practice: Nature Trail or Exhibit

RP-252 Nature Trail or Exhibit

Standard:

The camp provides a self-guided nature trail, which is clearly labeled, or nature exhibit, which is clearly labeled, introducing participants to local soils, plants, and animals.

A fundamental and arguably the most important role of the council conservation committee is to provide technical assistance and resources to the resident camp director, program director, and ecology director to ensure that the camp's nature program area is well-established and set up to be successful. Every camp should have a nature trail or exhibit that is age-appropriate and captivating to the visiting Scout campers. The nature program area should be well-kept and inviting, allowing Scout campers to learn experientially, in classes or at their own pace. Interpretive trails and exhibits should be designed to provide the best possible experience for the Scout camper. Whether the camp's nature program area is a primitive canopy with picnic tables or a modern nature center and museum, it should be designed, equipped, and maintained with the support of the conservation committee. The seasonal summer camp ecology director will need the year-round support of the conservation committee to be successful.

The committee may be called upon to develop and maintain the camp's nature trail and nature study areas. Additionally, the committee may be requested to gather resources such as field guides, aquariums, nets, experiment equipment,

tools, and many other items that the camp may need or to write grants or solicit donations to purchase needed program equipment. In many cases, the conservation committee may be asked to provide subject matter experts who can assist with development of educational materials or give presentations during merit badge classes or other program opportunities during summer camp and the off-season.

Note: Additional information about the camp nature trail and keeping captive wildlife in a camp nature area can be found in the appendix of this guidebook.

National Standard: The Ecology Director in Camp

SQ-412 Other Program Staff Qualifications

Standard:

All camp activity leadership staff is qualified by age and training or acceptable experience to safely lead a quality program. Supporting staff meets age and training requirements as necessary.

Specific Requirements of the Standard:

If an ecology program is offered, the ecology/conservation director is 18 years of age or older with a valid certificate of training from the Ecology/Conservation section of National Camping School or has equivalent training in conducting an outdoor education program.

PS-211 Nature and Conservation Programs

Standard:

If offered, qualified staff provide hands-on opportunities for conservation and ecological learning projects and provide opportunities for observation of the natural world. Instruction is provided on proper tool use and safety, when needed.

Each resident Scout camp with a nature or ecology program must have a qualified ecology director on staff to manage the program. It is the responsibility of the ecology director to provide life-changing experiences related to conservation and ecology for the attending Scouts. It's an important job!

The ecology director must be at least 18 years of age and either have a current certification from the BSA's National Camping School Ecology Section, or equivalent training. Depending on the situation, the ecology director may have vast experience in conservation education having served several years on camp staff, or the ecology director could be someone entirely new to the camp or even new to Scouting. Regardless of the situation, the council conservation committee should be available to offer support to the ecology director with program and management assistance. The committee may be called upon during the off-season to assist with recruiting or interviewing candidates for the ecology director and staff positions. Once hired, the committee may be asked to provide training to the ecology director and staff, and the committee may be asked to provide access to technical experts and program resources to enhance the resident program and

otherwise assist the ecology director. It is a good practice to invite the resident camp ecology director to serve on the council conservation committee and engage the committee to request assistance as needed.

Conservation committee members should be invited by the camp director to attend the resident camp sessions to observe the ecology program in action, and committee members should consider providing constant feedback and after camp reviews in the spirit of improving the program for the attending Scouts.

National Standard: Outdoor Ethics Awareness Program

PD-107 Outdoor Ethics

Standard:

The camp practices, teaches, and demonstrates BSA outdoor ethics.

Interpretation:

The camp program incorporates elements of the BSA outdoor ethics program (e.g., the Outdoor Code, principles of Leave No Trace) into camp activities or programs. BSA outdoor ethics, including the Outdoor Code, principles of Leave No Trace, or Tread Lightly!, could be included in a first-year camper program or camp craft skills or a separate program, such as offering BSA Leave No Trace 101. Alternatively, including an outdoor ethics theme in a camp activity would also meet the standard.

RP-253 Outdoor Ethics Training

At least one staff member is trained as a Leave No Trace Trainer or Leave No Trace Master Educator. A Leave No Trace Trainer course, Leave No Trace awareness course, or other outdoor ethics awareness workshop is offered to leaders and campers.

Depending on the council, the council outdoor ethics advocate position and delivering the council's outdoor ethics program may fall under the responsibilities of the council conservation committee. In such cases, supporting the outdoor ethics NCAP standards would be an important function of the committee. The committee could be responsible for offering Leave No Trace Trainer and Tread Lightly! Trainer courses during the off-season to train camp staff members or during resident camp to fulfill the NCAP standard. The council conservation committee's role in outdoor ethics advocacy is discussed in greater detail in Chapter 4 of this guidebook.

SUPPORTING THE MANAGEMENT OF CAMP PROPERTIES

The council conservation committee should be involved with the management of the developed camp facilities to include camp trails, campsites, and program areas as well as the natural areas of the camp property. Soil erosion control and drainage, vegetation management, and other concerns relative to creating and maintaining a natural appearance and resource protection are important committee responsibilities. One of the best showplaces for conservation and conservation practices is the local council camp, where conservation practices and ideas for better environmental stewardship are put into action. This showplace of conservation practices does not

come without effort, and the driving force that focuses the effort and defines the vision is the council conservation committee. At council properties, a great opportunity awaits to educate Scouts in proper conservation and environmental practices and projects and to inspire them to pass along their new knowledge.

The buildings and properties at camp should also reflect the theme of conserving resources. This thought extends to the location of buildings and types of materials. Buildings should be designed sustainably, considering firewise principles and incorporating measures to conserve energy and reduce utility costs. The council conservation committee can offer expertise to the council in these areas.

OUTDOOR SAFETY

The safety of those who use the property should also be a consideration of the council conservation committee. Although this responsibility also rests with the council risk management committee, the components of the program that involve natural resources are a responsibility of the council conservation committee. The committee should be responsible for recommending the reduction or mitigation of hazardous conditions present on Scout property resulting from natural conditions such as hazardous trees, steep slopes, swift water, unstable surfaces, insect and arthropod hazards, poisonous reptiles and amphibians, dangerous mammals, troublesome plants, water-borne parasites, severe weather conditions, and high water/flash flood warnings. Council conservation committee members may have expertise in one or more of these areas and can offer recommendations and technical support to the council through the committee.

CHAPTER 4: DELIVERING THE COUNCIL'S CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY PROGRAM

Why do we have a conservation and ecology program emphasis in Scouting? It's critical and it ties into the mission of the Boy Scouts of America:

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

“There is an increasing awareness that Scouting members and other individuals are an integral part of their environment and that their action or inaction affects the quality of life throughout this nation and the world.”—Scouting.org

Through the conservation and ecology program in Scouting we have the opportunity to expose young people to nature and the outdoors. For some Scouts, resident camp may be the only opportunity they have to experience nature. Scouting can provide an opportunity to inspire youth to become more aware and passionate about the natural world, to build their awareness of environmental matters, and to develop citizenship.

A Scout camp's ecology program may introduce youth to careers in natural resources management or launch a lifelong passion for studying the natural world. Most importantly, through Scouting we may have the opportunity to develop future leaders who are conservation-minded.

Without a doubt, the most important function of the council conservation committee is ensuring that the ecology and conservation program at camp and throughout the council is successful. It's an important task! The council's conservation and ecology program should be both fun and meaningful. If it is fun, the Scouts will want to participate, and if it is meaningful, parents and Scout leaders will support the program and consider participation as time well-spent. Depending on the council, delivering the program may involve many tasks and responsibilities for the council conservation committee. These tasks may range from implementing the council's outdoor ethics program to supporting the ecology- and conservation-based merit badge programs at camp, and much more. In this chapter, we will discuss the council conservation committee's role in delivering the conservation and ecology program in the council.

THE COUNCIL OUTDOOR ETHICS PROGRAM

The council conservation committee will likely have the responsibility to promote outdoor ethics, and conservation, among the council's Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Scouters. Each council should have a council outdoor ethics advocate, who is a Scouting volunteer assigned to promote and deliver the outdoor ethics program in the council and report accomplishments. The Council outdoor ethics advocate should be an active member of the council conservation committee. All Scouting participants should be introduced to outdoor ethics, including the principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! and everyone should be versed in the BSA Outdoor Code.

All council programs and activities should adhere to outdoor ethics principles, the BSA Wilderness Use Policy, and the Outdoor Code. Conservation and outdoor ethics should be emphasized in all council training events.

Outdoor Ethics

For a century, Scouting has relied on outdoor camping experiences as a method for delivering the aims of Scouting. Scouting units participate in a variety of outdoor activities, including frontcountry camping, backcountry camping, backpacking, canoeing, horseback riding, cycling, riding off-road vehicles and jet skis, and many others. Even though outdoor recreation is growing in popularity in the non-Scouting world, Scouting still accounts for the majority of users of our nation's outdoor recreational areas.



Leave No Trace

Outdoor activities are essential to Scouting and are personally rewarding, but an unintended consequence of being in the outdoors is that we can adversely impact our outdoor recreational areas. Our public lands and many of our local council camp program areas, campsites, trails, and backcountry areas show signs of destruction caused by overuse, inappropriate use, and carelessness. Many Scout camping areas have become compacted, contaminated, and littered with campfire remains. Some Scout camp areas have been used, for better or worse, for generations. It is not difficult to recognize the need for remembering the Leave No Trace Seven Principles on our Scout camp properties and in our Scouting program.

Leave No Trace is a national educational effort consisting of seven principles dedicated to enhancing our outdoor ethics by increasing our awareness of the impacts that we produce while enjoying the outdoors. These principles are based on respect for nature and other users and a desire to sustain our outdoor areas in a pristine condition for future generations. The principles can be applied to any outdoor area, from city parks and residential backyards to large wilderness areas, national parks, and national forests. The Leave No Trace Seven Principles are:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

Proper trip planning and preparation helps hikers and campers accomplish trip goals safely and enjoyably while minimizing damage to natural and cultural resources. Campers who plan ahead can avoid unexpected situations, and minimize their impact by complying with area regulations such as observing limitations on group size. Schedule your trek to avoid times of high use. Obtain permits or permission to use the area for your trek.

Proper planning ensures

- Low-risk adventures because campers obtained information concerning geography and weather and prepared accordingly
- Properly located campsites because campers allotted enough time to reach their destination
- Appropriate campfires and minimal trash because of careful meal planning and food repackaging and proper equipment
- Comfortable and fun camping and hiking experiences because the outing matches the skill level of the participants

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Damage to land occurs when visitors trample vegetation or communities of organisms beyond recovery. The resulting barren areas develop into undesirable trails, campsites, and soil erosion.

Concentrate Activity, or Spread Out?

- In high-use areas, campers should concentrate their activities where vegetation is already absent. Minimize resource damage by using existing trails and selecting designated or existing campsites. Keep campsites small by arranging tents in close proximity.
- In more remote, less-traveled areas, campers should generally spread out. When hiking, take different paths to avoid creating new trails that cause erosion. When camping, disperse tents and cooking activities—and move camp daily to avoid creating permanent-looking campsites. Avoid places where impacts are just beginning to show. Always choose the most durable surfaces available: rock, gravel, sand, compacted soil, dry grasses, or snow.
- These guidelines apply to most alpine settings and may be different for other areas, such as deserts. Learn the Leave No Trace techniques for your crew's specific activity or destination. Check with land managers to be sure of the proper technique.

3. Dispose of Waste Properly

This principle reminds back-country visitors to take their trash home with them. It makes sense to carry out of the backcountry the extra materials taken there by your group or others. Inspect your campsite for trash or spilled foods. Accept the challenge of packing out all trash, leftover food, and litter.

Sanitation

Backcountry users create body waste and wastewater that require proper disposal.

- **Wastewater.** Help prevent contamination of natural water sources: After straining food particles, properly dispose of dishwater by dispersing at least 200 feet (about 80 to 100 strides for a youth) from springs, streams, and lakes. Use biodegradable soap 200 feet or more from any water source.
- **Human Waste.** Proper human waste disposal helps prevent the spread of disease and exposure to others. Catholes 6 to 8 inches deep in humus and 200 feet from water, trails, and campsites are often the easiest and most practical way to dispose of feces.

4. Leave What You Find

Allow others a sense of discovery, and preserve the past. Leave rocks, plants, animals, archaeological artifacts, and other objects as you find them. Examine but do not touch cultural or historical structures and artifacts. It may be illegal to remove artifacts.

Minimize Site Alterations

- Do not dig tent trenches or build lean-tos, tables, or chairs. Never hammer nails into trees, hack at trees with hatchets or saws, or damage bark and roots by tying horses to trees for extended periods. Replace surface rocks or twigs that you cleared from the campsite. On high-impact sites, clean the area and dismantle inappropriate user-built facilities such as multiple fire rings and log seats or tables.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Avoid altering a site, digging trenches, or building structures.

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Some people would not think of camping without a campfire. Yet the naturalness of many areas has been degraded by overuse of fires and increasing demand for firewood.

- Lightweight camp stoves make low-impact camping possible by encouraging a shift away from fires. Stoves are fast, eliminate the need for firewood, and make cleanup after meals easier. After dinner, enjoy a candle lantern instead of a fire.
- If you build a fire, the most important consideration is the potential for resource damage. Whenever possible, use an existing campfire ring in a well-placed campsite. Choose not to have a fire in areas where wood is scarce—at higher elevations, in heavily used areas with a limited wood supply, or in desert settings.
- True Leave No Trace fires are small. Use dead and downed wood that can be broken easily by hand. When possible, burn all wood to ash and remove all unburned trash and food from the fire ring. If a site has two or more fire rings, you may dismantle all but one and scatter the materials in the surrounding area. Be certain all wood and campfire debris is dead out.

6. Respect Wildlife

Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. Considerate campers practice these safety methods:

- Observe wildlife from afar to avoid disturbing them.
- Give animals a wide berth, especially during breeding, nesting, and birthing seasons.
- Store food securely and keep garbage and food scraps away from animals so they will not acquire bad habits. Never feed wildlife. Help keep wildlife wild.

You are too close if an animal alters its normal activities.

7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Thoughtful campers respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.

- Travel and camp in small groups (no more than the group size prescribed by land managers).
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Keep the noise down and leave radios, tape players, and pets at home.
- Select campsites away from other groups to help preserve their solitude.
- Always travel and camp quietly to avoid disturbing other visitors.
- Make sure the colors of clothing and gear blend with the environment.
- Respect private property and leave gates (open or closed) as found.
- Be considerate of other campers and respect their privacy.

As a partner of the national Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, the BSA is dedicated to promoting the Leave No Trace Seven Principles in all aspects of the Scouting program. In fact, as previously mentioned, the Boy Scouts of America maintains as an NCAP standard that “The camp program incorporates elements of the BSA outdoor ethics program (e.g., the Outdoor Code, principles of Leave No Trace) into camp activities or programs.”

It is the role of the council conservation committee to ensure that the council's Scouting units are introduced to and abide by the principles of outdoor ethics and that all activities conducted on council properties adhere to the principles as well.

The Leave No Trace Seven Principles ©1999 by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: www.LNT.org. Reprinted by permission.

Council conservation committees should consider having at least one member who is a Leave No Trace Trainer or, preferably, a Leave No Trace Master Educator. This could be the council outdoor ethics advocate. These individuals can guide the conservation committee and direct the council's Leave No Trace awareness program, including conducting training and awareness sessions at local unit meetings, summer camp, roundtables, Wood Badge courses, Powder Horn programs, camporees, and other venues where the Leave No Trace principles can be presented.



Tread Lightly!

Similar to Leave No Trace, **Tread Lightly! Inc.** is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting outdoor recreational access and opportunities through education and stewardship. The principles of Tread Lightly! incorporate an ethical standard for the use of motorized and mechanized recreational vehicles and equipment on the land and water. As a conservation organization, the BSA stresses that Scouts should abide by the Tread Lightly! principles when operating watercraft and motorized vehicles on council properties and other public and private lands. By following the principles of Tread Lightly!, Scout campers can help to maintain and protect our recreational trails and waterways by minimizing the impacts of our outdoor recreation.

The principles of Tread Lightly! are:

T—Travel responsibly on land by staying on designated roads, trails, and areas. Go over, not around, obstacles to avoid widening the trails. Cross streams only at designated fords. When possible, avoid wet, muddy trails. On water, stay on designated waterways and launch your watercraft in designated areas.

R—Respect the rights of others including private property owners, all recreational trail users, campers, and others so they can enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed. Leave gates as you found them. Yield right of way to those passing you or going uphill. On water, respect anglers, swimmers, skiers, boaters, divers, and those on or near shore.

E—Educate yourself prior to your trip by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies. Plan for your trip, take recreation skills classes, and know how to operate your equipment safely.

A—Avoid sensitive areas on land such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands, and streams. Stay on designated routes. This protects wildlife habitats and sensitive soils from damage. Don't disturb historical, archeological, or paleontological sites. On water, avoid operating your watercraft in shallow waters or near shorelines at high speeds.

D—Do your part by modeling appropriate behavior, leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, and repairing degraded areas.

Council conservation committees should require that these principles be followed on council properties, on Scout outings, and in Scouting's boating and off-road vehicle programs. Vehicle impacts should be minimized in our campsites and program areas. Responsible recreation will allow for future enjoyable use of the outdoors. Tread lightly!

Each council camp conservation plan should incorporate the Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! principles. Conservation projects and campsite improvement projects for units and merit badge classes can and should be designed around an outdoor ethics theme. For example, projects could include the rehabilitation or dismantling of campfire rings (minimize campfire impacts) or the improvement and stabilization of hiking trails and high-impact camp areas (travel and camp on durable surfaces/travel responsibly). The council conservation committee should provide the leadership role in the council in promoting outdoor ethics.

It will not be easy to change the way people think and act in the outdoors, and it may take time before “Leave No Trace camping” and “Scout camping” are synonymous. However, with dedication to promoting and adhering to the principles and ethics of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly!, council conservation committees can make a difference. Through leadership, Scouting can ensure that our Scout camps and our nation’s outdoor classrooms are sustained for future generations.

Understanding the Outdoor Code

The Outdoor Code and the principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! are the ethical standards by which we should conduct our outdoor Scouting activities. To earn the Scout rank, a youth must repeat from memory the Outdoor Code and explain what the Outdoor Code means. The council conservation committee should work to ensure that Scouts and Scouters are continually exposed to the Outdoor Code in the troop setting or at camp. For example, the Outdoor Code could be recited, along with the Scout Oath and Scout Law, at troop meetings as a part of the meeting opening or flag ceremony. Scout campers should be reminded to abide by the Outdoor Code, and the council conservation committee should ensure that the Outdoor Code is posted and referenced both during camp and throughout the council outdoor program in camp areas like the trading post, the dining hall, and campsite bulletin boards.

Camp commissioners can be valuable resources for promoting the Outdoor Code during campsite visitations and inspections at resident camp. It is the responsibility of the council conservation committee with the assistance of the camp director, camp ranger, and other camp staff members to ensure that we live by the Outdoor Code in our council camping program. The council conservation committee should always set the appropriate example and follow the Outdoor Code in all of its actions.

SUSTAINABILITY AT CAMP AND THE COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER

A Scout is thrifty. Another function of the council conservation committee is to promote and support the implementation of programs and policies that ensure the sustainability of resources and facilities at the camp and council office. Sustainability can be defined as using resources today in ways that do not impact the ability to use the same resources tomorrow. As BSA properties and facilities age, care is needed to ensure that these properties and facilities are around to provide a place to deliver the Scouting program in the future. Conservation implies that it is also essential to manage our natural resources in a sustainable way.

At camp, it may be the role of the council conservation committee to lead a sustainability audit of the property. Look for opportunities to reduce waste and conserve energy, water, and other resources. Are trails, recreational areas, and natural areas being maintained sustainably? Is the council protecting special areas, cultural sites, and environmentally sensitive areas? Do the camp conservation plan and invasive species management plan lead the camp to a sustainable desired future condition? Answers to these questions may indicate a need for attention to these details at camp.

The council service center should also be a model of sustainability, and performing a sustainability audit of the council service center may result in benefits that include less waste, more recycling, less consumption of office supplies, and lower utility bills. Simple and inexpensive opportunities to reduce energy use such as installing more efficient light bulbs, motion sensors on closet and restroom lights, and window shades to manage the sunlight may be of benefit. Planting shade trees around the office can reduce cooling costs during the summer months and create a more pleasant work environment.

The council conservation committee should be the leader in this effort.



Additional information about sustainability at camp and the council service center can be found in the *Sustainability* merit badge pamphlet and the [Council Sustainability Resource Guide](#).

YOUTH ADVANCEMENT SUPPORT

The Scouting program includes numerous advancement requirements that relate to conservation, environment, and nature study. The council conservation committee has a responsibility to work with the council and district advancement committees and others to promote processes for Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Venturers to complete advancement requirements in those areas. This may include providing assistance to individual youth to meet requirements; assistance to the advancement committee in recruiting adults to serve as merit badge counselors; training sessions for the nature staff at camp; instruction for merit badge workshops; suggestions for conservation service projects; or a variety of other activities aimed at assisting with the council's advancement program.

The membership of the council conservation committee should possess considerable knowledge that can be directed toward the development of educational programs to support advancement. The committee should take the lead in working with council and district advancement committees and others to promote a means

for youth to complete advancement requirements in conservation areas. Educational efforts related to conservation and natural resource management can include designating conservation trainers for Scout advancement. The committee could identify individuals both within and outside of Scouting who are capable of providing support for training in conservation requirements for Scout advancement. This could include direct instruction and counseling, or providing guidance to unit leaders as required.

Cub Scout advancement includes opportunities to learn about the natural world and learn some of the basics of enjoying the outdoors responsibly. Venturers and Sea Scouts can use environmentally based initiatives to complete requirements for a variety of recognitions.

The requirements for Tenderfoot rank through Eagle Scout ask each candidate for advancement to complete a certain number of hours of service, including conservation service. While projects can take a variety of forms (with Scoutmaster approval), all Scouts must include conservation-related efforts to fulfill these requirements. Specific Scout advancement requirements relating to conservation are as follows:

Scout

- Repeat from memory the Outdoor Code. In your own words, explain what the Outdoor Code means to you. *(Requirement 1e)*

Tenderfoot

- Tell how you practiced the Outdoor Code on a campout or outing. *(Requirement 1c)*
- Describe common poisonous or hazardous plants; identify any that grow in your local area or campsite location. Tell how to treat for exposure to them. *(Requirement 4b)*

Second Class

- Explain the principles of Leave No Trace and tell how you practiced them on a campout or outing. This outing must be different from the one used for Tenderfoot requirement 1c. *(Requirement 1b)*
- Identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of wild animals (such as birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, or mollusks) found in your local area or camping location. You may show evidence by tracks, signs, or photographs you have taken. *(Requirement 4)*

First Class

- Explain each of the principles of Tread Lightly! and tell how you practiced them on a campout or outing. The outing must be different from the ones used for Tenderfoot requirement 1c and Second Class requirement 1b. *(Requirement 1b)*
- Identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of native plants found in your local area or campsite location. You may show evidence by identifying fallen leaves or fallen fruit that you find in the field, or as part of a collection you have made, or by photographs you have taken. *(Requirement 5a)*
- Identify two ways to obtain a weather forecast for an upcoming activity. Explain why weather forecasts are important when planning for an event. *(Requirement 5b)*



Scout



Tenderfoot



Second Class



First Class



Life

- Describe at least three natural indicators of impending hazardous weather, the potentially dangerous events that might result from such weather conditions, and the appropriate actions to take. *(Requirement 5c)*
- Describe extreme weather conditions you might encounter in the outdoors in your local geographic area. Discuss how you would determine ahead of time the potential risk of these types of weather dangers, alternative planning considerations to avoid such risks, and how you would prepare for and respond to those weather conditions. *(Requirement 5d)*

Life

- While a Star Scout, participate in six hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. At least three hours of this service must be conservation-related. *(Requirement 4)*

CONSERVATION RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

In addition to rank advancement, a variety of conservation recognitions and awards are available throughout Scouting. These awards are designed to inspire Scouting youth to explore and learn about conservation topics and careers and to develop leadership through their efforts. Awards are also an effective incentive for accomplishing needed conservation projects at camp. An important function of the council conservation committee is to serve as the council's subject matter experts, promoters, and advisors for conservation awards and recognitions. The committee should promote conservation awards whenever possible at camp, council and district events, trainings, and meetings and through council social media and literature. Some awards, such as the William T. Hornaday Awards, require advising and approval from the council conservation committee and the Scout executive. Proper advising is essential and requires training. Nothing is more disappointing than submitting award nominations for Scouts who have invested considerable effort only to find that the application is declined due to a lack of proper advising. The William T. Hornaday program and other conservation awards are discussed below.

World Conservation Award



Cub Scouts



Scouts



Venturers and Sea Scouts

The World Conservation Award provides an opportunity for individual Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts to think globally and act locally to preserve and improve our environment. This program is designed to help youth members gain awareness that all nations are closely related through natural resources and that we are interdependent with our world environment.

Conservation Good Turn

The Conservation Good Turn is an opportunity for Cub Scout packs, Scout troops, Sea Scout ships, and Venturing crews to join with conservation or environmental organizations (federal, state, local, or private) to carry out a conservation Good Turn in their home communities.

National Outdoor Badge—Conservation

When a Scout excels in outdoor participation, there are awards to show for it! This program, conceived by the BSA's National Camping Task Force, includes a series of six badges designed to recognize a Scout, Sea Scout, or Venturer who has exemplary knowledge and experience in performing high-level outdoor activities.

The segments represent six areas of emphasis: Camping, Aquatics, Hiking, Riding, Adventure, and Conservation, with rigorous requirements to earn each segment.

A gold device may be earned for each additional 25 hours of conservation work. A silver device is earned for each additional 100 hours of conservation work (for example, the first silver device is earned at 125 total hours of conservation work).

Hometown U.S.A. Award

The Hometown U.S.A. Award is a joint program between Keep America Beautiful Inc. and the Boy Scouts of America. It is designed to give recognition to the outstanding efforts of Scouts in their communities in regard to citizenship and environmental improvement.

Outdoor Ethics Awards

Guided by the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace, millions of Scouts have enhanced their awareness of the natural world around them, minimizing impact to the land. For Scouts who have a deep interest in the outdoors, nature, and the environment, Scouting's outdoor ethics will give them an ever-deeper appreciation of the richness of the land and how we fit into it. The Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action awards are for those Scouts prepared to venture down the path of really becoming aware of their surroundings and building the skills that will allow them to leave no trace on the land.

Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award

To earn this award, Cub Scouts attend Cub Scout day camp or Cub Scout/Webelos Scout resident camp and complete various requirements for each rank, including completing a certain number of outdoor activities. Among the options is this one:

Complete a nature/conservation project in your area. This project should involve improving, beautifying, or supporting natural habitats. Discuss how this project helped you to respect nature.

Find the latest requirements for each of these awards at www.scouting.org.

William T. Hornaday Awards Program

The Hornaday Awards program recognizes truly outstanding efforts undertaken by Scouting units, Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts, adult Scouters, and other individuals, corporations, and institutions contributing significantly to natural resource conservation and environmental protection.

Dr. William T. Hornaday, director of the New York Zoological Park and founder of the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., was a champion of natural resource conservation and a leader in saving the American bison from extinction. In 1914 he



Conservation Good Turn



National Outdoor Badge including Conservation segment



Hometown U.S.A.



Outdoor Ethics Award



Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award

announced an award he called the Wildlife Protection Medal to challenge Americans to work constructively for wildlife conservation and habitat protection. In 1917 the second medal went to world-famous author, philosopher, and conservationist Aldo Leopold. The award was renamed in Dr. Hornaday's honor after his death in 1937, and came under the custodianship of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Hornaday awards continue to inspire learning and increase public awareness about natural resource conservation. Any Scout, Venturer, or Sea Scout willing to devote the time and energy to work on projects based on sound scientific principles and guided by a conservation professional or a well-versed layperson can qualify. The awards often take months to complete, so activities should be planned well in advance.

Think of It as an Olympic Medal Bestowed by the Earth

Earning a Hornaday Award

Full requirements for earning each of the Hornaday awards can be found at www.scouting.org. They must be completed fully, working in coordination with a qualified conservation advisor.

The following merit badges and project categories are the building blocks for a Scout to earn a Hornaday Award:

Merit Badges

- **Energy**
- **Environmental Science**
- **Fish and Wildlife Management**
- **Forestry**
- **Public Health**
- **Soil and Water Conservation**
- Bird Study
- Fishing
- Fly-Fishing
- Gardening
- Geology
- Insect Study
- Landscape Architecture
- Mammal Study
- Nature
- Nuclear Science
- Oceanography
- Plant Science
- Pulp and Paper
- Reptile and Amphibian Study
- Weather

Project Categories

- Energy conservation
- Soil and water conservation
- Fish and wildlife management
- Forestry and range management
- Air and water pollution control
- Resource recovery (recycling)
- Hazardous material disposal and management
- Invasive species control

William T. Hornaday Unit Certificate

Awarded to a pack, troop, or crew for a unique, substantial conservation project. At least 60 percent of registered unit members must participate.

William T. Hornaday Badge

Awarded to an individual Scout, Venturer, or Sea Scout for outstanding service to conservation and environmental improvement.

Scouts earn three of the merit badges listed above in boldface, plus any two others from the list. They then plan, lead, and carry out a significant project in natural resource conservation from one of the project categories listed.

William T. Hornaday Bronze Medal

Awarded to an individual Scout, Venturer, or Sea Scout for distinguished service in natural resource conservation or environmental improvement. A national committee judges the applications.

Scouts earn the Environmental Science merit badge and at least three additional merit badges listed above in **boldface**, plus any two others from the list. They then plan, lead, and carry out three significant projects from three different project categories.*

William T. Hornaday Silver Medal

Awarded to an individual Scout, Venturer, or Sea Scout for exceptional service in natural resource conservation or environmental improvement. Applications are reviewed by a national committee.

Scouts earn all the merit badges listed above in **boldface**, plus any three others from the list. They then plan, lead, and carry out four significant projects in natural resource conservation or environmental improvements, one each from four of the eight project categories.

William T. Hornaday Gold Certificate

Granted to organizations or individuals by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Nominations are accepted from any recognized conservation or environmental protection organization. The organization or individual should have demonstrated leadership and a commitment to the education of youth on a regional, national, or international level reflecting the natural resource conservation and environmental improvement mission of the William T. Hornaday Awards program.

William T. Hornaday Gold Badge

This conservation award is granted by the local council to an adult Scouter. Nominations are made to the local 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 at the council level.



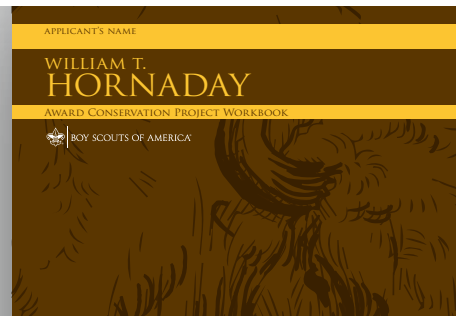
* Venturers and Sea Scouts should consult BSA National Council requirements to understand how they can fulfill expectations for Hornaday badges, bronze medals, and silver medals.

William T. Hornaday Gold Medal

This award is by nomination only and is 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 of at least 20 years. The nominee's accomplishments must be at a regional, national, or international level.

The Hornaday Advisor

Currently, one of the greatest unmet needs in the BSA's conservation program is a lack of trained council Hornaday advisors. Each council conservation committee should have a designated Hornaday advisor who is trained and qualified to coach youth applicants. The Hornaday program is complex and youth dedicate considerable hours in order to earn Hornaday awards. All too often, silver and bronze Hornaday medal applications are rejected at the national board of review for reasons that could have been prevented through proper advising. Applications are frequently submitted with excellent projects that fail to meet a conservation need or do not align with one of the approved project categories. Often, submitted projects do not meet the scale or scope of a Hornaday project or are poorly documented. Proper advising at the council level is essential to ensure Scouting youth invest their time properly.



To address these concerns, the BSA's National Hornaday Committee has developed the *William T. Hornaday Award Conservation Project Workbook* and a Hornaday advisor training course. The course is offered at the Philmont Training Center and periodically at other regional locations. This course will help volunteer leaders support their councils and build capacity to tackle conservation work, establish new partnerships within the community, and implement effective council conservation and/or Hornaday Award committees. The William T. Hornaday awards are extensively covered, as well as how you can support the youth of your council and your role as a William T. Hornaday conservation advisor. The Conservation USA program and its national certification of project leaders are also covered. For more information about Hornaday advisor training, contact the area or regional BSA conservation advocate or visit the Hornaday Award website at www.scouting.org.

SUPPORTING THE SUMMER RESIDENT CAMP PROGRAM

Support of summer camp environmental and conservation programs is also an important responsibility of the council conservation committee. Providing accurate and comprehensive instruction by camp staff is essential to maintain a quality program. Camp staff assigned to teach nature, environmental, and conservation merit badges or other programs must be thoroughly prepared to teach their assignments effectively. Exhibits and displays should be properly set up and maintained. Programs and field studies should be well-planned, well-practiced, and well-executed. This may require the council conservation committee to work with the camp director, program director, and ecology director to assist in preparing the ecology staff and exhibit area. The council conservation committee should also ensure that adequate educational materials are available to support the program, including merit badge pamphlets, field equipment, identification guides, reference books, and other items required in the lesson plans.

ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION MERIT BADGE PROGRAMS

The merit badge program is an essential part of summer resident camp. Many Scouts come to camp specifically to have an opportunity to earn merit badges toward their advancement. Ecology and conservation merit badges are excellent opportunities to share nature with Scouts and expose them to a possible future career in earth sciences or natural resources management. To become an Eagle Scout, a Scout must earn the Environmental Science merit badge or the Sustainability merit badge, which are frequently offered in the camp's ecology program. Some councils may also have merit badge weekends or other activities where Scouts can participate and earn a merit badge.

The council conservation committee should support the council's merit badge program wherever possible to assure that the summer camp ecology director and camp counselors have the knowledge and resources they need to offer a successful merit badge program. Prior to summer camp, the council conservation committee should work with the camp director to secure program materials and supplies needed for the merit badge program. Once the ecology director and staff are hired for the summer, the committee should plan to meet with the staff to offer suggestions and technical expertise to strengthen lesson plans. Committee members may be available to visit camp during the summer or during pre-camp "staff week" to coach the counselors. In many cases, ecology merit badges require that Scouts visit with professionals to discuss the training and education needed in their field. Council conservation committee members can assist with this requirement or help find resource professionals and subject matter experts who can visit the merit badge class.

The development of a list of approved merit badge counselors should be a responsibility of the council conservation committee in partnership with the district or council advancement committee. The committee should maintain a current list of knowledgeable people who are able to serve as merit badge counselors in the area of nature, conservation, and natural resources. In some instances, this might require the recruitment of merit badge counselors to ensure that all of the conservation merit



Environmental Science



Sustainability



Nature

badges have qualified counselors. Council conservation committee members should consider serving as merit badge counselors as well. Merit badge counselors can be recruited to offer instruction at merit badge weekends or to help Scouts complete merit badges they did not complete at summer camp. Regardless of the council situation, the talent and expertise that exists on the council conservation committee should be leveraged and shared to make the merit badge program and the overall summer camp experience as meaningful as possible for the attending Scouts.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS AT CAMP

Scouting units are frequently in need of age-appropriate and meaningful conservation projects. These projects can and should be performed at camp. Council conservation committees should be involved with identifying projects that meet this program need and support the implementation of the camp's conservation plan and invasive species management plan. The council conservation committee should work with the camp director or camp ranger on an annual basis to update and prioritize the camp's list of conservation projects. Additionally, the conservation committee should work to confirm that needed tools, technical expertise, and oversight are available for the projects. The committee should work with the summer camp ecology director (or other conservation project leaders) to make sure that he or she fully understands the projects and expected outcomes. Different merit badges or recognitions require conservation projects that meet a specific requirement related to forestry, soil conservation, or wildlife habitat, for example. The camp's conservation project list should include projects that meet all of these needs.

The BSA's *Conservation Handbook*, second edition, provides considerable details and safety considerations for planning conservation projects. Specific details are provided for trail construction and maintenance and for some wildlife conservation and tree planting practices. The *Conservation Handbook* also contains a helpful conservation project planning checklist to support project planning.

In all cases, conservation projects should be safe and meaningful. Projects should not be "busy work." The project should include a lesson to explain why the project is being conducted and how it improves the natural condition. The primary goal of the conservation project should be youth development, followed by completing the conservation project itself.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS AT THE COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER PROPERTY

Don't forget about the council office property. Many opportunities for Scout conservation projects may exist at the council office. Simple tasks like raking leaves or mulching the landscaping can enhance the council property and save money in the council's maintenance budget. The council conservation committee should consider developing a list of projects that can be conducted at the council office as well, as appropriate.

CONSERVATION TRAINING PROGRAMS

Another responsibility of the council conservation committee may be to offer periodic training opportunities to Scouts and Scouters in the council. The committee members may be involved with district or council training courses to provide expertise on conservation-related matters. Courses such as Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills, Wood Badge, and youth leadership courses or a University of Scouting may include a session on nature studies, outdoor ethics, tree identification, and other topics. Specialized courses to meet certain management needs, such as a hazard tree analysis and maintenance course, a chainsaw operator's course, and a trail development and maintenance course, may also be appropriate. Training opportunities for youth through merit badge workshops, conservation awards workshops, and similar training sessions promote these important components of the Scouting program. Outdoor ethics awareness courses may also be offered and may require the expertise of the conservation committee. Committee members may be called upon to visit roundtable meetings or Order of the Arrow events to offer specific training related to conservation programs and nature studies at camp.

Additionally, there are several national conservation training programs that the council conservation committee may wish to consider attending. These include the following:

BSA National Camping School Ecology/Conservation Section Director

This weeklong course for BSA resident camp ecology directors includes training in planning and developing ecology/conservation programs; soil and water conservation; forestry, fish, and wildlife management; nature trail construction; and outdoor ethics. Opportunities for practice teaching are also available. Completion of this course results in a five-year certification that fulfills the National Camp Accreditation Program standards for the resident camp ecology director position.

William T. Hornaday Award Advisor Training

Discussed previously in this chapter, the William T. Hornaday advisor training is essential for the council conservation committee's Hornaday advisor.

Conservation USA

Conservation USA training gives volunteer leaders specialized skills for training and leading volunteer crews to carry out conservation projects, resulting in environmental education and greater stewardship of our natural and cultural resources. Conservation USA's fundamental goal is to encourage youth and adults to increase the level of ownership and stewardship of their environment through volunteerism and skills development. This course will help your council build capacity to tackle conservation work, establish new partnerships within the community, and implement an effective council conservation and/or Hornaday committee. Successful completion of the course will result in a national Conservation USA project leader certificate.

Outdoor Ethics Training

As mentioned previously in this chapter, multiple training opportunities in outdoor ethics exist through our partnerships with Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly!. Council outdoor ethics advocates and council conservation committee members can find local opportunities to attend Leave No Trace or Tread Trainer courses. More advanced outdoor ethics training such as Leave No Trace Master Educator or Master Tread Trainer can often be found at the regional level or through opportunities advertised by the National Outdoor Ethics Subcommittee and regional outdoor ethics advocates.

Outdoor Program Conferences and Seminars

Every two years, the National Outdoor Conference is hosted at one of the BSA's national high-adventure bases. These conferences offer the latest information on Scouting's outdoor programs, including the conservation and ecology program. Additionally, the BSA regions host regional outdoor program seminars periodically where Scouting professionals and volunteers involved with delivering the council outdoor program (and the conservation and ecology program) can gather at a more local level. These seminars are very informative and highly recommended.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES/DISTRICT AND COUNCIL EVENTS

The council conservation committee should be proactive in the pursuit of opportunities to introduce conservation, nature, and natural resource education at council and district functions. This might include providing leadership at camporees, special events, or focused merit badge workshops. These events provide a great opportunity for council conservation committees to showcase the council's conservation program by offering conservation projects, ecology merit badges, awareness workshops, conservation training, and other activities. The council conservation committee may even be involved with hosting a Hornaday weekend or a conservation camporee. The following case study shows one council's approach.

CASE STUDY

Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation EcoChallenge 2017

Provided by Stephen Scannell,

Western Massachusetts Council and area conservation advocate

The mission of the Western Massachusetts Council Conservation Committee “is to promote and support the conservation education program and facilitate wise use of the natural resources of the council. It provides guidance to the ecology and conservation program delivered to the youth by promoting the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation as a living classroom for environmental education, providing advancement opportunities through trained leaders, supported conservation projects, and a quality merit badge program, and by promoting outdoor ethics and Leave No Trace principles. The committee assists in administering the forest stewardship management and camp conservation plans, supervising trail construction and maintenance, and acting as the advisory committee for the William T. Hornaday program within the council.”

To help fulfill its mission, the conservation committee offered to direct



Stephen Scannell

a councilwide conservation-themed camporee named EcoChallenge 2017. The goal of the event was to showcase real-life career and educational opportunities in conservation related fields. Coupled with a sampling of activities related to ecology and conservation merit badges were hands-on competitions and presentations delivered by outside partners and government agencies. These activities gave Scouts a chance to see conservation specialists in action and showcased some of their day-to-day tasks and the techniques used in their professions.

Demonstrations and exhibits were scheduled in rotations with patrols moving through the morning and early afternoon sessions. A summary of the participating partners and their activities follows:

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife):

MassWildlife provided fish and wildlife related artifacts and handouts to promote interest in environmental science, natural resources, forestry, and wildlife and fisheries careers. MassWildlife supported the Certified Angler Instructors program by providing fishing equipment and instructors who taught skills to allow for safe, responsible, and successful fishing activities. Scouts learned casting techniques and proper knots and developed an understanding of fish and game laws.

DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation)**Forest Health Program:**

Representatives provided an introduction to monitoring and assessing factors that influence the health of Massachusetts' forests. Scouts learned about aerial surveys, pheromone traps, visual survey, and ground truthing. They also were able to debark ash logs to check for emerald ash borers, use an arborist's slingshot to set pheromone traps, and identify other forest pests.

**DCR Service Forestry Program and Bay State Forestry Service/
private licensed forester:**

Our district forester teamed with a private licensed forester to teach Scouts the basics of measuring the volume of wood in a standing tree using a variety of forestry tools. Tree identification, determining tree growth patterns, and uses of forest products were also covered.

NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service):

This federal agency helps America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners conserve the nation's soil, water, air, and other natural resources. Scouts were able to learn about NRCS programs being implemented at the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation through its forest stewardship management plan, including wildlife habitat enhancement, invasive species management, forest stand improvement through early successional growth stands, and other sustainable forest practices.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

A representative from the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge discussed how to conserve, protect, and enhance the abundance and diversity of native plant, fish, and wildlife species and the ecosystems on which they depend throughout the 7,200,000-

acre Connecticut River watershed. Examples of invasive species management in the watershed were highlighted.

TACF (The American Chestnut Foundation):

The Massachusetts/Rhode Island chapter of TACF educated Scouts on the history of the American chestnut, its many uses as a premier wood product and wildlife food source, the blight that devastated the original range of the tree, and the restoration efforts underway to restore a healthy population of disease-resistant trees to forests from Maine to Georgia. Members roasted chestnuts for Scouts to sample.

Smith Associates Surveyors Inc./private licensed surveyor:

Representatives demonstrated basic surveying skills and instruments. Scouts tried modern surveying equipment and were able to relate basic compass and orienteering skills to professional surveying. Education and training necessary to pursue a career in the field were discussed.

Northern Tree Service Inc./private tree service company:

A work crew was on hand to present bucket truck demonstrations as well as display climbing and rigging skills. Tree health and hazard limbs were discussed. Job training and career opportunities were reviewed.

The Naturalist's Club:

This Western Massachusetts club for nature enthusiasts led Scouts to Russell Pond where they practiced dip net skills in search of the many important aquatic invertebrates that populate the pond and fill an important role in the food chain. Scouts were instructed in identification techniques.

Alpine Solar Heat and Hot Water/private solar company:

Scouts were able to view a solar demonstration and learn how solar hot water heaters operate. The importance of renewable energy technology and the goal of a sustainable energy future were discussed.

Leave No Trace:

Our council Master Educators and Trainers presented hands-on activities that covered the seven principles of Leave No Trace camping and hiking. Scouts were able to hang a bear bag, show how to minimize campsite impact, and relate the Outdoor Code to their outdoor ethics practices.

Based upon evaluations of the weekend, the highlight for the Scouts was the two-hour conservation project. Because of the large number of Scouts to accommodate, three different projects were conducted: constructing water bars on eroded trails, building bat houses, and constructing mulched paths around the pollinator garden. Each of the sessions began with an overview of the project including discussing the conservation concern and exploring various solutions. Proper planning, equipment checks, and safety protocols were discussed. Upon completion the Scouts felt they had made a meaningful conservation contribution to the camp and reported a tremendous sense of accomplishment.

The BSA's national Hornaday exhibit was on display. Named after the pioneering conservationist, the William T. Hornaday awards are the highest conservation awards a Scout may earn and the highest conservation honor an adult or organization may be nominated for. The exhibit was on display throughout the weekend, with a Friday night cracker barrel devoted to a short talk on the Hornaday program by a trained Hornaday advisor. Participants learned how to become one of the exceptional Scouts who is up for the challenge of continuing the lasting conservation legacy demonstrated by William T. Hornaday. The talk and exhibit provided inspiration and helped frame the weekend around the conservation theme.

A councilwide event with a conservation focus can provide a fresh idea to a camporee and can give a boost to the ecology and conservation program in your council. Be sure to plan well in advance. While most federal and state agencies have education and public outreach programs, they need ample time for scheduling and budgetary considerations. Your conservation committee can seek guidance from your area conservation advocate to help ensure a successful program.

The council conservation committee may also assume responsibility for providing special programs and activities that support the council's conservation program. These may be presentations for local community organizations, displays regarding Scout conservation programs at community celebrations or in public spaces, special programs for Scout families, an awareness day for the Scout camp's adjacent landowners, recognition of non-Scout assistance with the Scouting program or facilities, activities to assist the council conservation committee with inventorying the resources on the Scout properties, hunting and fishing awareness programs, and other programs and activities that promote Scouting and create positive public relations for the council.

There are a number of special programs and activities that may be sponsored by the council conservation committee to support its mission and strengthen its role within the Scouting community. These programs and activities are limited only by the needs of the local council and the imagination of the committee.

Some programs and activities that have proved useful include:

- Creation of a conservation committee website to post important conservation information for the Scouting community
- Development of a Leave No Trace hangtag specific to the camp property
- Establishment of a Hornaday award scholarship program
- Establishment of a conservation grant program
- Establishment of a local council conservation service award program
- Establishment of a hazardous tree analysis and removal program
- Establishment of an environmental area adoption program for units to “adopt” campsites, trails, streams, etc., on camp properties
- Establishment of a liaison with local colleges and universities to assist with research, inventory, and planning activities on camp properties
- Sponsorship of a resource ramble to inventory the natural and cultural resources of the camp property
- Sponsorship of conservation camporees at the district or council levels
- Sponsorship of reforestation efforts to enhance native vegetation or restore extirpated species
- Production of a newsletter or section in the local council newsletter relating conservation news and events to the Scouting community
- Development of checklists of natural resources that are located at the Scout camp
- Production of a wildlife guide with safety tips for campers regarding wildlife found on the camp property and other areas used by the Scouting community
- Investigation of the potential of camp properties to be placed under a conservation easement, carbon sequestration agreement, stream banking project, wind power contract, or similar arrangements to both protect assets and generate funding

CHAPTER 5: REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES

EARNING REVENUE AND OBTAINING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONSERVATION

Depending on council policies and available markets and resources, the council conservation committee may be involved with implementing commercial management of resources on the camp property. This may include traditional forest products such as sawtimber, veneer, or pulpwood for local markets or nontraditional commercial opportunities such as harvesting medicinal plants, greenery, and even edible plants and mushrooms. The council conservation committee may be involved with developing a hunting lease or management program to harvest fish and game species on the property. While forest and wildlife resources are important for their environmental value, they also represent a capital asset to the council. Regardless of the commercial management approaches taken, the council conservation committee should be involved to confirm that activities are performed ethically, safely, and in accordance with the camp conservation plan. Members of the conservation committee such as foresters or wildlife biologists should provide technical expertise to promote the sustainable and appropriate management of the resources being managed or harvested. It is also important to ensure that all relevant laws and regulations are followed and associated permits are obtained for harvesting and hunting where required.

In addition to the financial benefits that a commercial operation can bring to the camp and council, the operation at camp can serve to interest Scouts in a career in resource management. Scouts can work on nature and conservation merit badges during their stay at camp, but witnessing the operation of a commercial natural resource practice can broaden their understanding of the entrepreneurial value of conservation activity as it relates to daily life.

A variety of financial assistance programs for conservation planning and practice implementation also exist. Conservation easements may also be an option on your Scout camp property. In this chapter, some examples of possible revenue sources, conservation easements, and financial assistance programs are discussed.

WHITE PAPER: FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR CONSERVATION ON SCOUT CAMP PROPERTIES

Properly managed private forest lands, wetlands, and open spaces (including Scout properties) provide public benefits such as clean water, clean air, and habitat for wildlife. Consequently, a variety of federal, state, and private technical and financial assistance programs have been established to provide support to private landowners who perform conservation work at these sites. Scout camp projects such as soil and water conservation, tree and shrub planting, invasive species control, and wildlife habitat and forest stand improvement can receive funding, technical help, and the planning required for these practices. In some states, funding is also available to assist with developing plans for camp conservation and invasive species management, as well as forest stewardship plans.

Most financial assistance programs require the submission of written plans describing the conservation practices to be implemented, work to be accomplished, and maintenance needs. A detailed plan for camp conservation or a forest stewardship plan can meet this requirement.

How to Get Started

The first step is to contact and build relationships with such individuals as state service foresters, Forestry Cooperative Extension agents, state wildlife agency representatives, and district conservationists from the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These agencies have a mandate to provide technical assistance to private landowners. They can also tell you about financial assistance programs in your area and help you sign up for and implement the projects funded by the programs. In addition, all of these people are worth considering as potential members of your council conservation committee, particularly if they have a Scouting background.

Where to Get Help

State Forestry Agencies

The forestry agency in each state receives federal funding to provide technical assistance to private forest landowners under the [Forest Stewardship Program](#). Each state utilizes this funding in different ways. Most state forestry agencies can send service foresters to perform a site visit on the Scout camp property, and often those agencies can prepare a forest stewardship plan for the property that could serve as the camp's conservation plan. In other states, the forestry agencies offer financial assistance to cover some of the costs of hiring a consultant forester to prepare your plan.

The state service forester can also assist you with selecting appropriate government forestry-related conservation practices to help you meet your camp's natural resource management objectives. The forester can direct you to the appropriate agency, where you can enroll in financial assistance programs. There may also be local programs funded by industry groups, boards, conservation organizations, and others to which the service forester has access. Some practices that the forester may be able to assist

with include tree planting, wildlife habitat enhancement, forest stand improvement, forest road and trail maintenance, invasive species management, prescribed burning, forest pest management, and property boundary management. You should also ask the state forestry agency about conservation education funding to support your camp's ecology program.

As an example, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service website has a [forest stewardship](#) link that provides considerable information about financial assistance and technical assistance opportunities in Maryland.

Cooperative Extension Agent

Every state has a land grant university with a cooperative extension program that has been established to provide education to the public and private landowners. Extension agents are highly skilled, with a wealth of knowledge in topics such as agriculture, gardening, environment and natural resources management, nutrition, community planning, and much more. Some universities have extension agents in each county and some have foresters or wildlife biologists who are extension agents. Cooperative extension websites like the one hosted by the [University of Georgia](#) provide state residents with information on a variety of topics and may offer fact sheets about conservation practices and financial assistance programs. The cooperative extension agent may also have publications to support your camp's ecology and conservation programs.

State Wildlife Agencies

Biologists on staff at some state wildlife or fish and game agencies may be available to visit Scout camps, perform assessments, and advise management on ways to enhance the wildlife habitat. States may offer financial assistance to implement certain wildlife habitat enhancement projects through opportunities like the [Landowner Incentive Program](#) in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Financial assistance may be available for practices ranging from invasive species removal and construction of nesting boxes to restoration of natural communities and promotion and protection of rare species and their habitats. Some state wildlife agencies publish educational materials and resources that can support your camp's ecology and conservation program. They may also have information related to fishing, hunting, and regulations for keeping live animals and other specimens in your ecology program area.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

[NRCS](#) helps America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners conserve the nation's soil, water, air, and other natural resources by offering essential technical expertise and conservation planning. All programs are voluntary, with science-based solutions that benefit the landowner and the environment. NRCS service centers in each state have trained conservationists on staff to provide technical service. There are numerous [NRCS financial assistance programs](#) for such practices as tree planting, forest improvement, invasive species removal, soil and water conservation, and wildlife habitat enhancement. Three NRCS programs well-suited for Scout camp properties are the [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#), the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) , and the [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\)](#), which is administered

by the USDA Farm Service Agency with the assistance of NRCS and the state's forestry agency. You should also look for other landscape-specific or state-specific NRCS programs in your camp's area.

Federal Land Management Agencies

The U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Department of Defense, the Army Corps of Engineers, and other federal agencies collectively manage millions of acres of our nation's federally owned land. These agencies employ foresters, wildlife biologists, and other natural resource specialists who may be available through outreach programs to offer technical assistance and educational programs and materials for your Scout camp, particularly if the camp is located within or adjacent to federal land managed by these agencies.

Grants and Other Contributions

Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, corporations, and foundations offer grants to support conservation or educational activities that may take place on your Scout camp property. Be aware that competition for these grants can be substantial, so it is good to include additional partners, matching funds, in-kind services, diversity targets, and number of youth served in your grant proposal. Additionally, setting achievable goals for the grant projects that align with the grant application and the mission of the granting institution is an important consideration. Most of these sources target start-up or innovative projects that will become self-sufficient rather than projects that require annual contributions. Many of these opportunities can be found by conducting a simple internet search.

Colleges and Universities

Colleges and universities with forestry or natural resource management programs may have resources, faculty, or student interns to provide technical assistance for the natural resource management of Scout camp properties.

Monitoring and Maintenance

Regardless of the conservation work you perform on your Scout camp property, there is always a need to monitor and maintain the practice to ensure that it continues to provide value. Many financial assistance programs require that the practice be maintained for the life of a contract or until the practice is self-sustainable. Maintenance can be an opportunity for Scouts to perform conservation work. Maintenance and monitoring of conservation practices should be a part of your annual work plan for the camp property or assigned to the camp conservation committee. Conservation practices should not be implemented unless there is a commitment to maintain the practices throughout their lifespan.

Additional Information

For more information about conservation practices on Scout camp properties, consider contacting your BSA area conservation and environment advocate, or your BSA regional task force for conservation and environment.

WHITE PAPER: CONSIDERATIONS FOR HARVESTING TIMBER ON SCOUT CAMP PROPERTIES

Careful consideration and planning should be applied to any potential timber harvest on Scout camp properties. Timber on Scout properties could represent one of your council's most valuable capital assets. The decision to harvest, and the type of harvest methods utilized, could improve or reduce the future value and health of the forest, its recreational potential, wildlife habitat, and most importantly, the ability to support a Scout camping program. A poorly planned timber harvest may not maximize the financial return and could result in legal issues related to contractual compliance and permitting. Poor planning may result in the spread of invasive plants, insects, and diseases. Poor communication may lead to political issues with Scout volunteers and other stakeholders. If your council has a conservation committee, it is highly recommended to seek its input, leadership, and endorsement in regard to the harvest activities and locations. The harvest should be addressed in and consistent with the camp conservation plan.

Before harvesting timber, it is important to know your objectives and the desired future condition. Objectives should not just be driven by financial need, but the need to maintain the forest in perpetuity in a healthy condition to support the property's Scout camping and nature program needs and other nature-based values. The harvest activity should be timed to consider impacts to peak Scouting and hunting seasons and wildlife nesting seasons, and timed to take advantage of market considerations. Harvesting timber can be very complicated, and it is important to have the support of a local expert to guide you through the process.

Many state forestry agencies and cooperative extension agents offer a "Call Before You Cut" hotline, a phone number you can call to receive free and impartial technical assistance in your state. In many states, professional foresters and loggers must maintain a professional license and liability insurance in order to operate. A listing of certified and trained professionals can be obtained from your state forestry agency.

It is generally recommended to seek the services of a consultant forester, who will work for you to ensure that your interests are maintained throughout the timber harvest. The forester can develop a prescription and mark the timber to ensure that the appropriate trees are removed and retained to meet your camp's objectives. A forester can prepare a timber sale prospectus, or an inventory of the timber being sold, and provide you with an expected value. The forester can assist you with preparing a timber sale contract and securing bids from reputable and trained professional loggers. The forester can ensure that all proper permits are obtained and regulations are followed. The forester can monitor the harvest and oversee the logging activity, looking out for the camp's best interest. Finally, the forester can work with the logger to make sure that the landings, skid trails, and roads are restored and left in proper condition following the harvest. While consultant foresters typically work for commission, their involvement is well worth the cost, and bids for the timber are often higher when a forester is known to be involved with the harvest. You may also find consultant foresters with a Scouting background who may work for a discount. State agency

service foresters may also be available to provide some of the technical assistance, but the capacity and availability of state forestry resources varies by state.

If you are actively managing the forest resources on your Scout camp property, consider working with your forester (or other qualified resource professional) to develop a comprehensive forest stewardship plan for the property. One of the most highly rated sources of landowner assistance across the country is the Forest Stewardship Program. A forest stewardship plan will provide you with advice not only on the trees but also on the forest's other plants and flowers, the wildlife, the soil, the water, the recreational potential, and the aesthetic value. The advice can also include information on habitat projects, tree planting, potential future timber sales, and Scout conservation projects to meet the long-term goals of the camp property. Financial assistance is often available for preparing and implementing the forest stewardship plan. The plan can also open the door for forest certification programs, such as the American Forest Foundation's Tree Farm Program, and conservation easement programs. Finally, the forest stewardship plan can fulfill the BSA's camp conservation plan and invasive species management plan requirements in the National Camp Accreditation Program.

The following is an example timber harvest invitation to bid letter, a sample timber sale prospectus, and an example timber sale contract that is based on an actual timber harvest that occurred with the assistance of a consultant forester on a Scout camp property in a mid-Atlantic state. You may wish to use this "harvest template" for your camp, adding and modifying specific provisions to meet your needs as appropriate. Different regions of the country, with differing forest conditions and related regulations, may require additional provisions. It is recommended to have the Scout council's legal counsel review any timber sale contract and invitation to bid on timber before it is finalized.

For additional information, consider contacting your BSA area or regional conservation program advocate, your state forestry agency, or state cooperative extension agent as appropriate.



Truckloads of pulpwood at the landing on a Scout camp timber harvest

Karen J. Sykes/U.S. Forest Service

Sample Invitation to Bid on Timber Letter

December 1, 2018

To Forest Product Operator:

The _____ Council, Boy Scouts of America, requests your bid for standing timber for sale located on approximately XXX acres of _____ Camp/Scout Reservation, near (town, state) in _____ County. Bids are due with a 10% deposit and a signed copy of the enclosed contract in a sealed envelope by 1 p.m. on December 31, 2008. Please mail or deliver your bid package to:

_____ Council, BSA

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

ATTN: _____, Camping Director

Label the outside of the envelope “SEALED TIMBER HARVEST BID”

All deposits will be returned to unsuccessful bidders by January 10, 2009.

A public showing of the timber will be held on Friday, December 19, 2008, at 1 p.m. Interested parties should meet at the camp headquarters parking lot. (See attached map.) Additional prebid access to the property shall be granted by appointment only by contacting ____, camp ranger (phone No.). Please note the attached prospectus is an estimate. The timber was marked and tallied by (forester). Questions concerning this prospectus should be directed to (forester and phone No.).

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to receiving your bid.

Sincerely,

Name

Camping Director

Phone No.

Sample Timber Sale Prospectus

Note: This is a sample timber prospectus for a sawtimber sale in the mid-Atlantic area. Local markets, mill preferences, and standards may require the use of different log scaling rules or the marketing of different products. It is recommended to seek local professional forestry assistance.

Timber Prospectus – _____ Scout Camp/Reservation
~ 30 Acres, Fall 2008

DBH	Red Oak	Scarlet	Black Oak	White Oak	Chestnut Oak	Hickory	Yellow-Poplar	Total # Trees	Total Vol. BDFt
12"	1	27	22	3	23			76	
Volume	56	1530	1232	142	1342				4,302
14"	7	60	35	6	46		2	156	
Volume	654	5544	3108	549	4020		210		14,085
16"	4	67	28	4	53			156	
Volume	461	10099	4034	535	7394				22,523
18"	11	49	25	4	35	1		125	
Volume	2124	10274	4801	640	6285	184			24,308
20"	3	33	25	1	18		1	81	
Volume	764	8950	6469	171	3959		234		20,547
22"	3	25	20	1	25		2	76	
Volume	948	8317	6423	211	6694		802		23,395
24"	3	8	6		18			35	
Volume	787	3433	2076		6608				12,904
26"		8	3		7			18	
Volume		4616	1470		3240				9,326
28"	2	1	2		3			8	
Volume	1215	616	1098		1580				4,509
30"	1	2			1			4	
Volume	560	1708			403				2,671
32"					1			1	
Volume					644				644
Total Trees	35	280	166	19	230	1	5	736	
Total Volume BDFt	7,569	55,087	30,711	2,248	42,169	184	1,246		139,214

1. DBH measured at 4½ feet above ground.
2. Volumes calculated by international ¼-inch rule, Form Class 78.
3. Cull trees marked with X are logger's choice and not factored into the prospectus.
4. Prospectus prepared by: (forester).

Forester's Seal:

Sample Timber Harvest Contract

Timber Sale Agreement

This agreement entered into this _____ day of _____, 20XX, between _____ of _____ County, (State), hereinafter called “purchaser,” and the _____ Council, Boy Scouts of America, (insert BSA council address), hereinafter called “seller.

Article 1: The seller hereby sells to purchaser for the sum of _____ (\$ _____), to be paid as hereinafter provided, all the presently marked sawtimber in standing trees in the ____ areas of _____ Scout Reservation/ Camp, _____ Council, BSA, situated in _____ County, (State), and located on the property of the seller approximately X miles from (nearest town). Trees marked are those that presently have a slash of blue paint at eye level, in addition to a spot at the base of the tree. Additional trees are marked as logger’s choice with a blue “X.” The seller retains the rights to the tops and lops. (Seller may wish to require purchaser to remove, windrow, or otherwise move all logging debris, but doing so could reduce revenue from the harvest.)

The seller agrees to the following conditions:

1. Seller covenants and agrees that he will indemnify the purchaser against all actions, suits, claims, or expenses resulting from the cutting of any marked trees on lands claimed and designated by the seller which, in fact, are the lands of another property owner.
2. Seller grants the purchaser the right of ingress and egress to the area of sold timber, including his men and equipment, between the hours of 0700 hours on Mondays through 1600 hours on Fridays only for the duration of this agreement. Weekend access is denied, unless otherwise agreed upon by the seller. (This can be customized for the specific camp as appropriate.)
3. Seller covenants that he is the legal owner of the real estate on which said timber is located and he has the legal rights to sell same.
4. The seller shall remove all tent floor boards and picnic tables from the timber harvest area as directed by the purchaser.

Article 2: The purchaser agrees to cut and remove said timber in strict accordance with the following conditions:

Sample Timber Harvest Contract (continued)

1. Unless extension time is granted in writing by the seller, all sold timber shall be cut and removed from seller's property as well as all purchaser's men and equipment and all other duties of purchaser under this agreement shall be completed on or before (date). Trees marked as "logger's choice" shall be cut and reduced to within 48 inches of the ground. No unmarked trees of any kind shall be cut. In circumstances where unmarked trees are damaged by the harvesting operation, the purchaser agrees to pay the seller liquidated damages in the amount of \$.50/ board foot for the damaged trees. Damaged trees shall only be cut if agreed upon in writing by the seller. Damage includes skidder damage to the base of a tree or hazardous "widow-makers" left in a crown.
2. The purchaser shall not assign this contract in whole or part, without the written consent of the seller.
3. The purchaser shall be deemed an independent contractor and shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations. The purchaser shall hold a valid state of ____ Forest Product Operator's License and the required amount of liability insurance as directed by this licensure.
4. Care shall be exercised at all times by the purchaser and his employees against the starting and spread of wildfire.
5. The purchaser agrees to remove all tops and lops from obvious camping areas and hiking trails.
6. The purchaser agrees to reduce all tops and lops to within 48 inches of the ground.
7. The purchaser agrees to cut all stumps to a height no greater than 18 inches.
8. The purchaser agrees to repair all damages to fields, roads, trails, camping areas, buildings, utility lines, water lines, and other improvements incurred during the duration of this agreement. Landings, skid trails, and roads shall be restored, repaired, stabilized, and seeded at the conclusion of the timber harvest activities.
9. The purchaser agrees to avoid dropping trees across property lines, and in instances where it is unavoidable to drop trees across the property lines, the purchaser shall remove all tops and lops from neighboring properties.

Sample Timber Harvest Contract (continued)

10. The purchaser will obtain all required permits and will abide by all required best management practices, regulations, and laws that pertain to the timber harvest operation. The purchaser will provide a copy of all required permits, licenses, and a certificate of insurance to seller prior to initiating timber harvesting activities.

Article 3: The purchaser agrees to pay for the timber included in this contract in the following manner:

10% of bid due at time of contract submittal

90% of bid due on or before _____

Article 4: It is mutually understood and agreed by and between the parties hereto, as follows:

1. All timber included in this agreement shall remain the property of the seller until paid for in full, but all risk of loss shall be on the purchaser.
2. In case of dispute over the terms of this contract, such matters of disputes shall be referred to arbitrators, one of whom shall be selected by the seller and one by the purchaser. The two thus selected shall appoint a third arbitrator and the decision of the majority of said arbitrators shall be final and binding on all of the parties to this agreement.
3. This agreement shall be binding upon the parties, their heirs, administrators, executors, successors, or assigns; this provision, however, not to permit assignment by purchaser.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have thereunto set their hands this

_____ day of _____ 20XX.

Witness:

_____ (Seal)

(Seller)

_____ (Seal)

(Purchaser)

WHITE PAPER: BSA PROPERTY HUNTING LEASE TEMPLATE

The following template can be used and customized by Scout councils that are interested in establishing a hunting lease on their property. This particular lease is designed to be renewed each year of a five-year term, which allows the Scout council the authority to terminate the lease in any given year. This annual renewal process also encourages the LESSEE to be a good steward of the property.

A Scout council may want to modify this lease to exclude certain dates from hunting or add other considerations specific to the Scout camp operation. For example, there may be certain local customs that may be legal but not compatible with the Scout camp property, such as the use of ATVs. It is best to have all of these considerations described in the hunting lease.

It is recommended that the Scout council submit this lease template to their attorney for legal review to ensure that any local provisions are satisfied and that all interests of the Scout council are maintained.

HUNTING LEASE – XXXX SCOUT RESERVATION/CAMP

THIS CONTRACT made this 1st day of September 20XX (insert actual date), between the XXXX COUNCIL INC., BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, LESSOR, and _____, LESSEE.

Witnesseth that the LESSOR for and in consideration of the sum for year one of the base contract per Attachment A (50% payable with signed contract and balance due beginning the first day of hunting season) grants to LESSEE upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth the exclusive right to hunt (list specific game species here) in season and have hunting rights during that time on the property of the LESSOR known as XXXX SCOUT RESERVATION/CAMP, operated as a Scout camp, situated in _____ County, (State).

This permit will be in effect contingent upon the LESSEE securing insurance as required by the LESSOR. It is mutually agreed and understood between the parties hereto as follows:

1. The term LESSEE shall for the purposes of this permit refer to (insert name of lessee/hunt club, etc.) itself and its members, individually or collectively. LESSEE agrees to limit the total group to maximum of (insert no. of hunters) individuals on any one hunting day and furnish names of all persons to LESSOR in the format indicated.
2. The hunting rights granted herein are for the sole use of the LESSEE and its members, and rights shall not be sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred to any other person(s), group(s), or organization(s).
3. The permit covers the (state) (insert specific game species) hunting season per Attachment A multiyear provision of (insert number of years for contract) years. Saturdays and Sundays are not included with the exception of the first day of shotgun season on the Saturday after Thanksgiving when hunting is permitted.

The exception will be reviewed and given on a year-to-year basis for the term of the permit. (Preceding language in bold can be customized by Scout camp.) All rules or laws related to hunting in (state) are in force and must be observed.

4. LESSEE shall take reasonable precautions and measures to prevent forest fires. Should the LESSEE discover a forest fire on this tract or adjoining lands, the camp ranger shall be notified of the location of the fire and the LESSEE shall then assist in the control of the fire at no charge to the LESSOR. Local authorities will be notified by the LESSEE in the event the camp ranger is not available.
5. LESSEE covenants that it will not build or maintain any fires on the property, and that it will not cut, damage, or destroy any living vegetation on the property and will not use paint to mark trails or stands. No permanent tree stands will be erected or nails used in temporary stands.
6. Roads and trails, which may be used for vehicular traffic by LESSEE if any, are shown on the camp map provided to LESSEE. LESSEE covenants to leave all roads, trails, gates, or fences on the property in at least as good condition as at the signing of this permit. (Provision could be added to address use of ATVs or repairs to any property damage caused by LESSEE).
7. LESSEE may post the property and take any reasonable steps to prohibit hunting and trespassing thereon by unauthorized persons, in accordance with state game regulations.
8. LESSEE is to provide each person in the group with a personal identification card (to be visibly displayed on the individual hunter's outer garment at all times while on the property) and a vehicle identification card to be displayed in the windshield of the vehicle when on the property. These identification cards are to be shown to the camp ranger OR LESSOR representative on request.
9. LESSOR is to provide a gate lock system.
10. The hunting privileges granted hereunder are subject to the right of the LESSOR to use the property for any and all other purposes as it may deem expedient and proper, including the harvesting of timber and Scouting activities including camping.
11. LESSEE covenants that all persons hunting on this property will comply with the terms of the permit and that they will observe and comply with all state and federal laws, rules, and regulations applicable to hunting,
12. LESSEE will not leave refuse, field dressing (all field dressing must be removed or buried under a minimum of six [6] inches of soil away from any road or trail or non-dig areas), or trash on the property.
13. LESSEE will not interfere with any operation by the LESSOR on or in relation to this property.
14. LESSEE will provide a signed Hold Harmless Agreement form for each individual member.
15. LESSOR will provide to the group the use of camp cabins or campsites for the purpose of club meetings by prior arrangement with the camping services at

an additional cost. (Add additional language to specify the coordination process as appropriate.)

- 16. The LESSEE further agrees that, due to Scouting program, certain days or areas might be limited or off limits based on activities. These dates and limitations will be specified by (fill in date) annually.
- 17. The LESSEE also agrees that all hunting is to begin Monday one-half hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset each day and cease at 12 p.m. local time on Fridays during the term of this permit. (Preceding language can be customized by Scout camp.)
- 18. LESSEE shall be responsible for the procuring annually of \$1,000,000 in liability insurance acceptable to the LESSOR, with XXXX Council Inc., Boy Scouts of America listed as the co-insured.
- 19. Upon LESSOR’S acceptance of the agreed-upon fee and the selected multi-year provision, the lease will be renewed per that provision. Option years will be reviewed and granted at the end of the base contract on a year-to-year basis by the LESSOR.
- 20. As this property is a Scout camp, no controlled substances, including but not limited to alcohol, marijuana, and unprescribed drugs, can be used on the property. All our buildings are smoke free.
- 21. LESSOR reserves the right to terminate this permit without notice or refund in the event the LESSEE fails to comply with any of the terms or conditions of this permit, and may also terminate this permit at any time upon refund to the LESSEE a pro rata of the rental paid hereunder.

Signed and hereto:

For: For:

(Leasing Organization) XXXX Council Inc.

XXXX Boy Scouts of America

(LESSEE) (LESSOR)

President/ Authorized Representative	Camping Director
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Secretary	Scout Executive
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Date	Date
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WHITE PAPER: THE TRUTH ABOUT CONSERVATION EASEMENTS—AN EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR PRESERVING BSA PROPERTIES AND GENERATING REVENUE



Several Scout properties have entered into a conservation easement through the federal Forest Legacy Program, administered by the state and the U.S. Forest Service.

Michael Huneke

In recent years, several Scout councils have opted to place portions of their Scout camp properties into conservation easements. While conservation easements can generate significant revenue and provide for the long-term protection of the property, there are also restrictions associated with placing conservation easements on council lands. There is considerable misinformation about conservation easements within the Scouting community, and this paper attempts to provide a brief overview of accurate information and resources that may benefit Scout councils that are considering conservation easements as a land management tool or a way to retain their camp. To sell or not to sell a conservation easement requires careful weighing of trade-offs and benefits.

What Is a Conservation Easement?

The Nature Conservancy defines a conservation easement as a voluntary, legally binding agreement that limits certain types of uses or prevents development from taking place on a piece of property now and in the future, while protecting the property's ecological or open-space values.

Conservation easement sales are a part of the totality of rights to use the land. Conservation easements allow landowners to continue to own and use their land while development and/or other rights are transferred to another entity in exchange for tax benefits and/or a negotiated purchase price. The conservation easement is designed to

permanently protect the ecological or cultural values of the property for the benefit of the public. Most conservation easements are perpetual, meaning that they are attached to the deed, and stay with the property, even if it becomes sold to another party. Easements are typically held by government agencies or local land trust organizations. Some easement programs are very restrictive, while other easement programs can be negotiable. They can be written to provide for facility maintenance, timber harvesting, natural resource management, and potentially even limited future construction consistent with the easement and designated uses of the land.

What Are the Benefits of a Conservation Easement?

Typically, the greatest benefit to the landowner is the onetime payment made to purchase the easement. Most easement programs pay the landowner for the rights that are being purchased, often at the appraised fair market value. Depending on the land value, development pressures, and values at risk, this payment can be substantial, often thousands of dollars per acre. This onetime payment can be used to offset debt or make needed improvements.

From a conservation standpoint, preserving the land with its associated resource values as a lasting legacy for future generations is a significant benefit. Positive public relations, political gains, and enhanced relationships with neighbors and interest groups are all outcomes that are derived from being good stewards of our lands.

Other benefits to the property owner are associated with performing the due diligence required for the easement, such as getting the property lines surveyed, developing a conservation plan, and forming relationships with local resource professionals who may be able to assist you with future conservation and land management needs.

And the Trade-offs?

The reality is, when you sell development rights and enter an easement, the development rights are sold forever. Depending on the easement's restrictions, construction of future camp buildings may be prohibited or permanently limited to designated areas of the land. Should you decide to sell a conservation easement, you will be paid its value at the time of the sale, which means the remaining value of the land will be lower. Even though you will retain ownership of the land, once the easement is in place, you are required to abide by the terms of the easement. Part of these requirements might include periodic monitoring by the easement holder to ensure that the agreement is upheld.

It costs money and it may take several years to enter into an easement agreement. Some programs require leveraging matching funds from a third party, or they may place the responsibility of paying for items such as property surveys, title searches, and appraisals on the landowner. Some conservation easement programs will cover the cost of these documents for the landowner. However, the landowner's legal fees are often not covered.

Other Thoughts to Consider

What are the long-term plans for the property? Will there be a future need to develop new camp facilities, or is the camp considered excess council property that may be offered for sale in the future? Could portions of the property be placed in an easement while the developed and more heavily used camp areas remain out of the easement?

Consider involving legal counsel early in the process. Recruit subject matter experts and qualified council volunteers to serve on the planning team. Foresters, surveyors, appraisers, real estate experts, and attorneys are all good resources to recruit if they are available to assist with the process.

Conduct research. Visit with local land trusts or local government planners who work with easements in your area. Determine what options are available in your area and identify the program that best suits your needs. Not all easement programs are the same.

Additional information about conservation easements can be found at these websites:

- [The Nature Conservancy](#)
- [American Forest Foundation](#)
- [Land Trust Alliance](#)
- [U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program](#)

APPENDIX

Forest Matters Stewardship Newsletter Summer 2016

After establishing the conservation easement, the conservation committee began work on updating the stewardship plan. By then, the existing stewardship plan was about to expire and a new one needed to be written. Hartman had a forestry background from his college days and took the lead in learning about stewardship plans. “Bob came to a field tour that I conducted and asked a lot of pertinent questions about stewardship plans and management practices,” recalled Wildermuth.

“Robin is the consulting forester that you dream about finding. I work with him on a frequent basis. We reviewed several consulting foresters before selecting Robin,” said Hartman.

Because Resica Falls is such a large, complex property, the stewardship plan recommended a host of treatment options to create a vegetative mosaic to optimize the potential of its resources. The plan has recommendations for just about every type of timber management option possible. Treatments include commercial thinning, intermediate thinning, seed tree release, and even some small patches of clear cutting to create open areas and provide early successional habitat for wildlife species that depend on this type of habitat. In one area, the camp removed a small patch of birch and replanted it with Norway spruce, red spruce, and a pitch x loblolly pine cross (*Pinus rigida x taeda*) to establish winter cover.



Bob Hartman.



Trees at Resica Falls Boy Scout Camp.

The stewardship plan also has treatments for controlling invasive species like multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, and autumn olive. At one time these plants were brought in to stabilize the soil, but they were found to outcompete native plants for resources while at the same time providing little value to wildlife. Certified professionals chemically treat invasive species at the camp.

Skid trails remained after logging activities at Resica Falls in the 1970s. Some of these skid trails were converted into a network of recreation trails throughout the camp. The stewardship plan identified places where these trails needed to be stabilized and have water bars added to reduce the impacts of soil erosion. The stewardship plan also identified areas that needed deer exclusion fences to eliminate the excessive impacts that deer can have on plant regeneration.

The Cradle of Liberty Council works cooperatively with the Natural Lands Trust to develop and carry out the stewardship plan. Since the council entered into a conservation easement with the Natural Lands Trust, the trust reviews and approves all projects.

Forest Matters Stewardship Newsletter Summer 2016

Though a stewardship plan typically covers a 10-year span, it is not a static document. Changes can be made using an addendum, which is what happened at Resica Falls when they learned about golden-winged warblers. The golden-winged warbler has undergone significant population declines in Pennsylvania due to the loss of early successional forest habitat. The warbler is now considered a species of concern. Work at Resica Falls through a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant has resulted in the creation of 200 acres of warbler habitat to date at the camp.

A portion of the funding to carry out projects identified in Resica Falls' stewardship plan comes from cost-share grants from the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance for conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related natural resources.

NRCS has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that permits the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry to inspect EQIP contracts on behalf of NRCS. "Cost-share funds are released to the recipient once we have certified completion of the project," said Monroe County Service Forester Garrett Beers.

Although the cost-share program is a great resource to obtain funds for project work, it covers only a percentage set by NRCS at a predetermined rate. The remainder of the cost is the responsibility of the landowner. In some cases, the cost of a project can be more than anticipated. That happened at Resica Falls for a project to enhance and expand wildlife habitat by mowing. To handle these unexpected situations, revenue generated from timber sales is placed into a fund to cover shortfalls.

Funds to accomplish work identified in the stewardship plan also come from money raised through hunting and fishing fees. Trout are stocked along a 7-mile stretch of Bushkill Creek. This area is one of the leading areas on the East Coast for fly fishing, and the council has a permit system for catch and release fishing at Resica Falls. The council also allows hunting access for a fee and offers a reduced fee to individuals willing to volunteer some time to help with projects.

Those with little background in the intricacies of land management may perceive some of the activities at Resica Falls as a radical departure from what was present just a few short years ago. But under the guidance of a forest stewardship plan, resource managers have enhanced the structure and health of the forest. They have created and improved different habitat types that create a mosaic of ecotypes that offer benefits to a greater diversity of wildlife. They have also removed invasive species that, while appearing to provide a thick, lush environment, in actuality provide little sustenance while crowding out native plants that can better support wildlife.

The conservation committee at Resica Falls has achieved many positive results through projects identified in its stewardship plan. The next challenge will be involving other council members to join the committee with the same dedication and drive to keep the momentum going forward. The current stewardship plan is in year 6 of the 10-year planning document. The conservation committee foresees beginning discussion on a new stewardship plan when the current plan is within 2 years of expiring.



View of Bushkill Creek above Resica Falls.

WHITE PAPER: THE CAMP NATURE TRAIL— SHARING NATURE WITH SCOUTS

Why Do We Need a Nature Trail?

The Boy Scouts of America’s National Camp Accreditation Program Recommended Practice 252 (RP-252 Nature Trail or Exhibit) states, “The camp provides a self-guided nature trail, which is clearly labeled, or nature exhibit, which is clearly labeled, introducing participants to local soils, plants and animals.” This standard is verified by the “observation of the trail or museum and signage.”

The camp nature trail and associated nature exhibits are essential components of the camp’s ecology program during both the resident summer camping season and the weekend camping season. A well-designed trail, just like a well-designed ecology program, can captivate participants and inspire them to learn more about nature. The nature trail encourages exploration of the camp’s natural areas, and it leads Scouts to a better understanding of conservation and the environment.

Self-guided trails allow participants to explore the trail at their own pace without the need for facilitation. If well-designed, a camp’s nature trail can assist Scout leaders with the completion of certain rank advancement and merit badge requirements and promote a better understanding of outdoor ethics.



Camp Oest nature trail at Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation.

Michael Huneke

Considerations for Designing and Maintaining Your Camp Nature Trail

Here are some ideas for developing and maintaining a nature trail.

Trail development: The principles of trail layout, construction, and maintenance apply to nature trails. Some key factors include:

- **Accessibility:** Make the trail accessible to everyone. Refer to ADA trail requirements. Even if the trail doesn't meet all the standards, taking the requirements into consideration during trail development will improve accessibility. Some factors include:
 - Seek an area without steep slopes or plan to lay out and construct the trail to decrease slope. Utilize switchbacks and seek areas with firm, durable surfaces.
- **Layout:** Select an appropriate path to maximize learning opportunities.
 - Locate key items of interest, such as different species of trees or plants, bodies of water, marshes, rock outcroppings, or other natural features. Wind the trail to visit near or within sight of these areas. Avoid sensitive environmental areas that have species of concern or endangered species habitat.
 - Avoid putting a trail directly next to a stream, lake, or marsh where it could create an adverse impact.
 - Where a slope exists, avoid laying out the trail directly down the slope. Cut across the slope to avoid damaging erosion of the trail surface or erosion into a wetland or body of water.
 - Make the trail winding versus straight.
 - Other considerations:
 - Is it desirable to have the trail form a loop that brings the participant back to the starting location, or is it better to have a trail that starts and stops at different locations?
 - Incorporate small gathering spots or clearings along the trail where group discussions and activities can take place.
 - Install benches or wildlife blinds. (These are great conservation community service projects.)
 - Where required, minimize environmental impact by constructing bridges, boardwalks, and other durable surfaces.

Maintenance: Maintenance is critical! Consider trail maintenance needs such as future erosion problems, trail marking, and vegetation clearing and control needs. Properly designed trails are durable and require less maintenance. A wonderful trail with very little or no maintenance will lose its appeal very quickly.



A trail with steps may not be the best design for all users. Use proper trail construction techniques.

Michael Huneke

Program area integration: Work with other program areas to integrate other appropriate activities such as geocaching or orienteering using the nature trail. Work with the aquatics director or waterfront program area to make the nature trail site accessible from the water by boat where feasible and environmentally appropriate.

Sharing nature with Scouts: The nature trail should be age-appropriate. Design it to meet all potential camp users. Consult Cub Scout, Scout, and Venturing requirements.

- **Advancement opportunities:** Incorporate stops on the nature trail that facilitate rank advancement. For example, nature-related requirements for Scouting advancement include:
 - Tenderfoot Requirement 4b: Describe common poisonous or hazardous plants; identify any that grow in your local area or campsite location. Tell how to treat for exposure to them.
 - Second Class Requirement 4b: Identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of wild animals (such as birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, mollusks) found in your local area or camping location. You may show evidence by tracks, signs, or photographs you have taken.
 - First Class Requirement 5a: Identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of native plants found in your local area or campsite location. You may show evidence by identifying fallen leaves or fallen fruit that you find in the field, or as part of a collection you have made, or by photographs you have taken.
 - Merit badge offerings such as Forestry, Bird Study, Environmental Science, and other nature-related topics can benefit when the nature trail interpretation is designed to address their requirements.

- **Nature trail interpretation:** There are different ways to present nature-themed information. Trails can use a guidebook that leads the participants and describes the themes or observations at designated stops along the trail. Trails can also use permanent or temporary signage. Make sure the signs are maintained and kept up to date as conditions along the trail can change over time. Note: Avoid nailing signs or markers to trees, as this can cause tree damage. Instead, use posts or other markers that cause less of an environmental impact.
 - Design stops along the trail to effectively share nature in all seasons and during day and night.
 - Encourage participants to use senses other than sight. Share nature by encouraging hearing, touching, and even smelling different items along the trail.
 - Show/discuss conservation practices that may be implemented on the camp property, and encourage discussion about the purposes and outcomes and participation in the implementation of conservation practices and projects.
 - Discuss conservation issues and problems, such as invasive plants and soil and water conservation issues.
 - Promote the conduct of conservation projects. Show examples of where they have been completed and where to get information about needed conservation projects at the camp.
 - Incorporate outdoor ethics and the principles of Leave No Trace.
 - Use your imagination, and seek feedback from trail users!

Promoting the trail: Make sure that the nature trail is on the camp map and that it is promoted at check-in, on camp bulletin boards, and in the ecology program area. Ensure that trail guides are readily available at the camp headquarters building, nature lodge, and trading post.

Make it fun! Most importantly, the nature trail should be informative *and fun!* Consider making the nature trail hike a part of a camp activity, a game, or a larger camp award. For example, in a Cub Scout camp, Scouts may receive a bead for hiking the trail or answering questions on a trail guide. Create a council environmental award program to promote nature activities and the nature trail.

Where Can I Get Assistance?

Building and maintaining the camp's nature trail are tasks that should be addressed and guided by the council conservation committee with the support of others such as the camp ranger, the ecology director, and other key staff members.

When designing the trail, refer to *The Conservation Handbook*, No. 33570. This publication, available through the BSA Supply Group, is an excellent reference for trail construction and maintenance. The U.S. Forest Service [Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook](#) is another helpful publication.

Above all, ensure that the information presented on the trail is accurate. Technical assistance can be obtained from experts from state forestry and wildlife agencies, local nature centers, universities, and other nonprofit organizations. These groups may also be able to provide funding or other resources to support your camp's conservation education needs. Additionally, your area conservation advocate or regional conservation task force is there to help.

WHITE PAPER: CONSIDERATIONS FOR KEEPING CAPTIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE IN A SCOUT CAMP

Introduction

Nature exhibits, aquariums, and terrariums with captive fish and wildlife are often used in camp nature centers as methods of sharing nature with Scouts. If managed properly in a safe and ethical way, these exhibits serve as excellent teaching tools. Scouts receive a meaningful learning experience and feel inspired and connected with nature. They gain a greater respect for wildlife, ultimately becoming more conservation-minded.

While there truly is no substitute for viewing nature in the wild, such opportunities are limited or nonexistent at some Scout camp properties. With that in mind, the BSA's National Conservation Subcommittee offers these recommendations to guide captive fish and wildlife nature programs at BSA camps.

Note that there is no national BSA policy or standard related to keeping captive fish and wildlife in Scout camps or other program areas. Aquariums, terrariums, and nature exhibits with fish and wildlife are maintained on Scout property solely at the discretion of the local council.

Outdoor Ethics

Activities that we cherish in our Scouting programs may, at times, come into conflict with our principles of outdoor ethics. If we aren't careful, camping in the backcountry, fishing, holding a campfire, or even keeping a box turtle as a pet may have an unintended impact on our environment. For that reason, whenever we enjoy the outdoors, we should consider the benefits and costs of our actions and choose alternatives, if appropriate, to reduce our impact.

The nature program area at a Scout camp is no exception. A council should only keep captured fish and wildlife in a camp nature center if it clearly benefits the Scouts and provides a quality learning experience. Implications for outdoor ethics, as well as costs, should be carefully assessed before an exhibit is planned. Our actions must always send the proper message as we teach Scouts about ecology, conservation, and the natural world. Seasonal ecology staff should be properly trained by the council conservation committee or other experts in the care and handling of captive animals annually.

Recommendations

- **Abide by federal, state, and local laws and regulations.** Before developing a program or exhibit with captive fish and wildlife, Scout councils should check with the state's wildlife division or fish and game department to make sure their plans will be in compliance. Permits may be required, and there may be regulations that limit the quantity and species being kept for educational purposes. For example, federal laws such as the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) make it illegal for anyone to take or possess "any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird" without a federal permit. [The Endangered Species Act](#) requires permits for activities that affect federally listed species; the use of live endangered species for educational purposes is not a permitted use. States have similar laws covering endangered species. Councils and their camp ecology staff

must become familiar with all endangered plant and animal species that inhabit their area. Federal- and state-protected species should not be captured, collected, harmed, harassed, or used in any Scout nature exhibit or display.

- **Avoid keeping venomous animals.** Venomous or otherwise poisonous reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, spiders, scorpions, and the like should not be kept in Scout program areas nor handled by Scouts or Scouters. Many of these species are protected by regulations, and common sense dictates that possessing them places Scouts, visitors, and camp staff at risk.
- **Avoid keeping wild birds, mammals, and protected wildlife.** Captured wild mammals of any kind should not be kept in Scout camps. Birds and mammals in particular may carry diseases that can be transferred to humans. Federal law prohibits possessing migratory birds, and there are likely local regulations that prohibit the possession of mammals.
- **Reptiles and amphibians.** Whenever feasible, it is always best for your nature exhibit to contain store-purchased and captive-bred reptiles and amphibians, as opposed to removing them from the wild. Local stores and licensed breeders may offer the same types of native species that inhabit your Scout property.
- **Avoid keeping breeding animals, eggs, or juveniles.** Avoid impacting the reproductive potential, life cycles, and population of the camp's native wildlife.
- **Follow proper procedures when an exhibit animal dies.** The body of a deceased animal should be treated with respect and disposed of in an appropriate manner. Avoid disturbing native plant vegetation if you are burying the animal. As an alternative, taxidermy may allow the animal to continue serving an educational purpose.
- **Keeping and caring for fish and wildlife.** If a Scout council chooses to maintain a natural exhibit with captive fish and wildlife, steps should be taken to ensure that the animals receive proper care. Animals should be kept in a habitat that resembles their native environment with suitable cover, water, and other necessities such as a heat source. Adequate and proper food should be provided, and animals should be properly handled. Exhibits should be kept in clean order, and only compatible fish and animals should be kept in the same exhibit. Sick or injured animals may be unpredictable and should not be kept in a nature exhibit. Sanitation resources should be provided if animals are being handled by Scouts, and they should be directed to wash their hands immediately afterward. Ensure that soaps and hand sanitizers do not come into contact with the wildlife and are not dumped into nearby streams, other bodies of water, or wetlands. Keep any captured animals for only a limited time, such as one week, and release them back to their original location and natural environment.
- **Closing captive fish and wildlife exhibits.** It is critically important to properly close the nature exhibit at the end of the program season. Native, adult wild species need to be returned to the exact habitat location where they were captured. Non-native species that were obtained from any place outside their natural habitats should never be released into the wild; invasive species pose a key threat to endangered species and populations of native species throughout

the U.S. If non-native plants were used in the captive animal exhibit, those plants should be sealed in a plastic bag and placed in the trash.

Following these recommendations will connect Scouts to nature while teaching them to be good stewards of the environment.

WHITE PAPER: INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN TEMPLATE

The Boy Scouts of America's National Camp Accreditation Program specifies that Scout camp properties need an invasive species management plan. Because BSA camps manage natural lands, an appropriate plan needs to be developed and implemented to deal with the effects of invasive species. Invasive species can be defined as an alien (or non-native) species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Like an invading army, invasive species can take over and degrade natural ecosystems. Invasives disrupt the intricate web of life for plants, animals, and microorganisms and compete for limited natural resources. Invasives can impact nature in many ways including growing and spreading rapidly over large areas, displacing native plants including rare or endangered species, reducing food and shelter for native wildlife, eliminating host plants of native insects, and competing for native plant pollinators. Some invasives spread so rapidly that they muscle out most other native plants, changing a forest, meadow, wetland, or body of water into a landscape dominated by invasive species.

The following invasive species management plan (ISMP) example is based on criteria established by the National Invasive Species Council. This template can be customized by Scout councils to conform to the council's resources and capabilities and to meet the local need to deal with invasive species. Ideally, the ISMP should be part of the overall camp conservation plan, or at a minimum, it should be consistent with and complementary to the camp conservation plan.

Where practical, the Scout camp ISMP should address key components including 1) prevention, 2) early detection and response, 3) control and management, 4) restoration, and 5) organizational collaboration. These form the main structure of the National Invasive Species Management Plan that should serve as the basis for the development of any invasive species management plan.

The ISMP should be updated periodically to accommodate any changing concerns or issues, discovery of new invasive species on camp properties, and local regulations and policies. Ideally, the plan should be prepared with the assistance of a natural resource professional or other skilled individual and the council conservation committee. Most states have some form of invasive species program within the state natural resources department or agriculture department where the Scout camp can find technical assistance. The ISMP should become part of the overall management of the camp property, and the plan should be referenced when making camp-related management decisions impacting its natural resources.

The contents of the ISMP need to conform to the safety policies of the Boy Scouts of America and guidelines identified in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. Specific directions, such as those found on pesticide manufacturers' labels, must be strictly followed. Additionally, local regulations related to integrated pest management and requirements for pesticide application licensure must be met.

While it may not be possible to eliminate all invasive species of plants, animals, insects, and diseases on Scout camp properties, emphasis needs to be placed on removing new invasions, eradicating small infestations, and dealing with infestations that adversely impact the camp's ability to provide the Scouting outdoor program.

Scouting's conservation emphasis and the proper stewardship of its properties and resources dictate that Scouts should strive to prevent the spread of invasive species. Effective management of invasive species will help ensure that Scout camp properties properly and professionally manage natural resources that contribute mightily to Scouting's outdoor programs and other services. Since invasive species do not respect boundary lines, the camp should coordinate invasive species activities with state and local environmental agencies, as well as adjacent landowners whose land may be affected by the approaches used to manage invasive species on Scout property or whose property may be a source for invasives moving onto the Scout camp property.

Camp staff responsible for overseeing Scout service projects or merit badge work are encouraged to coordinate with the camp's invasive species coordinator or council conservation committee to ensure that invasive species management becomes a focus of camp conservation programs and projects.

Invasive Species Management Plan for _____ Scout Camp/Reservation

_____ Scout Council, BSA

Camp Address

Prepared By:
XXX Council Conservation Committee
Xxx XX, 20XX

Overview:

Landscape: The XXX Scout Camp is located in ____ County, State, in a landscape dominated by *(describe landscape, e.g., fragmented forest, agricultural land and development)*. The Scout property consists of X total acres and consists primarily of _____ *(e.g., forestland)*, including X acres of _____ *(e.g., mixed oak hardwood forest and white pine plantations)*. There are X acres of _____ *(e.g., agricultural fields, typically planted in corn and soybeans, and X acres of sports fields)* on the property. The property contains numerous bodies of water including _____ *(e.g., small streams and wetlands, and a X-acre lake)*.

The property lies within the _____ watershed. *(e.g., This watershed provides municipal drinking water for the city/county of ____ and is therefore designated by the state as a High Conservation Value Forest.)*

Species at-Risk: The property contains suitable habitat and/or a small population of _____ *(e.g., bog turtles, Houston toad, etc.)*, which are federally or state listed as endangered species, or are federal candidate species or state species of concern. There are no other known rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants or animals on or near the property.

More than ____ Scout campers/others utilize the property annually and depend on the camp for recreational use.

This invasive species plan is meant to complement the camp conservation plan prepared on _____ *(date)*.

Goal:

Example: The goal of the XXX Scout camp ISMP is to provide an assessment of and recommendations for managing the invasive species on the property in order to conserve the natural resources of the camp and maintain a physical environment conducive to Scouting.

Vision:

Example: The desired future condition of the XXX Scout Camp property is to achieve a sustainable and healthy condition in each of the ecosystems on the property, where invasive species are eliminated where possible and minimized at a minimum, to enable the property to fulfill Scouting responsibility to conserve natural resources while providing a continuous flow of benefits including recreation, forest products, wildlife habitat, and watershed protection in perpetuity.

Invasive Species Management: (this section will address the following topics):

Part 1: Prevention *(some typical examples follow)*

Camp Firewood:

Scout units are notified by email prior to coming to camp that they will be provided with free firewood upon their arrival at camp, and/or they are encouraged to forage for downed woody debris for campfire use, and they are strictly prohibited from bringing firewood from home or from a prior camp. The use of site-provided wood or on-site gathered wood ensures Scouts do not transport firewood (which could potentially carry invasive insects and diseases) to camp. When units check in at the camp, the check-in process should include an inquiry about whether the unit has brought any firewood onto the camp property. Any firewood brought to the camp property shall be burned on-site within 24 hours, including any residual chips, bark, or debris. Additional information about moving firewood and related state regulations is found in the appendix of this plan.

Camp Fishing Bait Policy:

To preserve the camp's aquatic ecosystems from the accidental introduction of aquatic nuisance species, no live bait purchased outside the county may be used in the lake.

Forestry:

Only native and indigenous plant species will be planted. The council conservation committee shall preapprove any plants being planted on the camp property.

Part 2: Early Detection and Monitoring *(a typical protocol follows)*

Monitoring:

Monitoring will occur annually to track known and existing invasive species occurrences and to identify newly discovered occurrences.

Upon discovery and confirmation of new invasive species occurrences, the species' location will be noted. The camp invasive species coordinator or other party designated by the council conservation committee in coordination with other appropriate council committees and personnel will assemble an appropriate group

to develop a plan of action to mitigate the invasive species occurrence and/or to report its existence to the appropriate governmental agencies to seek assistance and guidance.

Part 3: Control and Management (a typical protocol follows)

Inventory/Assessment of Invasive Species

Example: A thorough initial assessment of the invasive species on XXX Scout Camp property was performed by _____, during the months of _____, with monitoring scheduled annually thereafter. Camp staff personnel are taught to recognize current and likely future invasive species and to promptly report any discovery of new invasive species or current invasive species moving into previously uninfected areas to the council conservation committee and camp invasive species coordinator. The following invasive species were identified on the property during the initial assessment held _____ (dates).

(examples follow)

Insects:



Michael Montgomery, USDA
Forest Service, Bugwood.org

- Hemlock woolly adelgid

Example discussion: The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) was first noticed on the camp property in 2006. The HWA is fully established on the small, 0.2-acre grove of hemlock trees growing in Hemlock Valley. Many of the trees are in various stages of defoliation and several have died in recent years.

- Gypsy moth: Discussion ...
- Emerald ash borer ...
- Add others as appropriate ...

Plants:

Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

- Multiflora rose

Example discussion: Multiflora rose is the most significant invasive plant at the camp and on surrounding properties. It forms dense thickets in the forest understory and along field edges throughout the camp property. Multiflora rose has sharp thorns that reduce the recreational potential and access to the forest, and it has been displacing native vegetation by impeding regeneration of native forest understory plants and tree seedlings.

- Japanese stiltgrass: *Discussion ...*
- Oriental bittersweet ...
- Phragmites ...
- Bradford pear ...
- *Add others as appropriate*

Animals:

- Asian Carp

Example discussion: Located in the XXX Camp lake, Asian carp is believed to have arrived in the lake from an upstream source. This fish species has the potential to compete with native fish species. This fish is fully established and is successfully reproducing in the lake.

Diseases:

There are no major diseases noted on the XXX Scout Camp property at this time; however, thousand cankers disease on black walnut has been discovered in a neighboring county.

Management of Invasive Species (*Enter the plan and action items for each species listed separately. The emphasis here is on removal of the invasive species.*)

Example...

Multiflora Rose: Multiflora rose is fully established on the property and on adjacent properties. Camp XXXX will prioritize its removal efforts of multiflora rose to high-use recreational areas and along sports field edges where the species could negatively impact the recreational potential.

Multiflora rose will be managed following any timber harvest or reforestation activity. Mechanical removal of multiflora rose serves as a valuable unit conservation project in forest management, wildlife habitat enhancement, or invasive species control. Scouts performing mechanical removal of multiflora rose will use work gloves, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and eye protection. Scouts will be instructed to use caution working around multiflora rose to avoid injuries from thorns, and proper techniques for using appropriate hand tools should be demonstrated.

Chemical herbicide treatments are effective and can be performed by camp maintenance personnel if they are licensed, and in accordance with the manufacturer's label as appropriate; however, **chemical herbicides should not be handled or used in any way by Scouts**. Additional information about multiflora rose control can be found in the appendix of this plan.

Similar recommendations should be provided for each invasive species identified.

Part 4: Restoration *(a typical protocol follows)*

Budgets may preclude expansive replanting or restoration, but the camp will include replanting of native plant species in the planning phase of all restoration efforts following invasive plant removals. Restoration work and any replanting should be consistent with the camp conservation plan.

Part 5: Organizational Collaboration *(a typical protocol follows)*

The council conservation committee will collaborate and partner with state and local environmental agencies with responsibilities for or interest in invasive species management.

Responsibilities: *(a typical protocol follows)*

1. Council conservation committee
 - Provides primary leadership for the development of ISMPs at council camps
 - Reviews and approves all ISMPs and their updates
 - Serves as the primary source for technical information on invasive species identification and control
 - Establishes partnerships with state and local environmental organizations whose mission is dealing with invasive species.

- Serves as the council point of contact with partner organizations.
 - Reviews and approves the selection of the camp invasive species management coordinator
 - Provides technical support to the camp invasive species management coordinator
 - Provides recommendations to Scout executive or staff personnel designated to make management decisions
2. Camp invasive species management coordinator
- Implements the camp ISMP
 - Reports sightings of new invasive species to the council conservation committee and other appropriate parties
3. Campmasters
- Maintain a list of conservation service projects that include invasive species
 - Make units or organizations using the camp aware of the projects upon check-in
 - Provide guidance to units or organizations interested in doing invasive species-themed conservation service projects including species identification, location, methods needed, and safety precautions

Invasive Species Management Schedule: *(example)*

Date Action

6–8/2014 Summer camp conservation projects work to mechanically remove multiflora rose from border of sports field and Yorktown Campsite.

9/2014 Camp Ranger treats remaining multiflora rose with chemical herbicide around border of sports field and Yorktown Campsite during the week when no camp users are present.

5/2015–5/2020 Monitor spread of multiflora rose with an eye to preventing its spread beyond currently infected areas; continue to perform mechanical and chemical treatments as needed in priority use areas and newly infected areas.

5/2015–5/2020 Monitor camp for invasive species

Add recommendations for other invasive species as appropriate

6/2019 Develop invasive species management plan update

Approval:

Council Conservation Committee signature

Date

Camp Director's signature

Date

Scout Executive signature

Date

*Sample Invasive Species Management Plan
Management Activity Documentation Table*

**Council XXX
Location
Invasive Species Management Plan
Invasive Species Actions**

As of:

Species	Location	Acreage	Control Actions Planned				Actions Taken/Done			



Ute Park Fire

In June 2018, more than 28,000 acres of Philmont Scout Ranch burned in the Ute Park Fire. Backcountry programs were disrupted for the entire summer.

WHITE PAPER: CONSIDERATIONS FOR WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION, MITIGATION, AND POST-FIRE RESTORATION ON COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Every year, various regions of the country experience wildfire seasons that can be catastrophic. Prolonged drought, fuel accumulation, and forest mortality from insects and disease, coupled with expanding development in the urban/wildland interface, can lead to destructive and costly wildfires. When weather conditions, topography, and accumulations of dry fuel align, fires can be unstoppable. Virtually every region of the country can experience high fire danger and catastrophic fire occurrence.

The Boy Scouts of America maintains camp properties across the United States. These properties tend to be located in the urban/wildland interface, or often in remote forested areas where Scouts can experience the natural environment. This paper provides some recommendations for local Scout council planners, council conservation committees, camp directors, camp rangers, and other decision-makers to consider to increase preparedness for wildland fire and to know what to do if a wildfire occurs on your camp property.

Fire Prevention and Preparedness

“Only You Can Prevent Wildfires”

Through the assistance of the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the National Association of State Foresters, Smokey Bear has been spreading this message for more than 70 years, with only a slight change from the term “forest fires” to “wildfires.” Fires are a part of the environment and naturally occur in many places in our country. While wildfires may not be avoidable, planning and prevention can reduce the damage they cause.



Firefighters monitor a wildfire near Cody, Wyoming, 2016.

Michael Huneke

Firewise: Resources are available for Scout camps to become more “fire wise.” Visit the [Firewise](#) website to learn about approaches for making your Scout camp properties and facilities more fire resistant. The website offers tips that camps can consider for structure protection, vegetation and landscape management, building construction, and facility layout.

Consider contacting your state forestry agency for local recommendations and potential opportunities for grant funds and financial assistance that may be available through programs in your state and community.

Preplanning: Do you have a camp wildfire plan? Preplanning with your local fire warden, state forestry official, or local volunteer fire department is a good practice. In many states, technical and financial assistance may be available from state forestry agencies or local fire protection agencies. Check with your insurance carrier and investigate if preplanning and risk reduction can reduce your insurance rates. Preplanning and inviting local first responders to visit and familiarize themselves with your camp properties will create efficiencies during an actual emergency.



Consider values at risk. Preplanning to protect historic cabins and valuable program facilities can make a difference.

Michael Huneke

A fire plan is a helpful document that identifies values at risk, hazards, resources, and preplanned strategies for dealing with a wildfire. Here are some items to consider in a fire plan.

- Identify fuel conditions that are of concern and approaches for reducing risk in the fire environment.
- Identify and obtain coordinates for nearby water sources such as dip sites and draft sites.

- Identify opportunities to enhance water sources and access to them.
- Establish agreements where required for using neighboring property dip sites and access.
- Identify resource concerns and access issues that should be considered before using a water source.
- Identify and obtain coordinates for helicopter landing sites and aviation hazards such as towers and utility lines.
- Identify bridge weight limits, septic tank locations, and overhead and underground utilities that may pose a hazard to responding resources.
- Identify locked gates, fences, cattle guards, etc., that may impact access.
- Identify roads and turnarounds that are suitable (and not suitable) for fire engine access.
- Identify staging areas and preplan sites where heavy equipment can be unloaded.
- Identify a safety zone where individuals could shelter in place.
- Develop structure protection plans and identify which buildings are defensible and which are not.
- Plan, install, and maintain fuel breaks, access trails, and fire roads.
- Identify protocols for dealing with livestock or horses if they are on the property.
- Include pictures, maps, and aerial photos.
- Identify routine annual maintenance needs such as raking leaves away from cabins, removing leaves and pine needles from roofs and rain gutters, storing firewood away from structures, etc.
- Conduct drills with first responders and state and municipal emergency management officials.
- Preplan evacuations, escape routes, gathering points, and trigger points for evacuations.
- Ensure fire plan is current and all partners have copies.
- Post state fire regulations in conspicuous locations and ensure campers are aware of the current fire danger.

Mitigation: Depending on your state or location, financial assistance may be available from a variety of sources for performing fuels reduction and other efforts to reduce the wildfire risk in the wildland areas in and around your camp property. Your state forestry agency may be able to assist or provide grant funds. Funding may also be available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for fuel break construction, water source development, fuels reduction, or timber stand improvement practices through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), although funding levels and practice availability vary from state to state.

Wildfire versus Controlled/Prescribed Fire

Fire is not uniformly bad. Often it is a normal and important element of a healthy ecosystem. Land managers use fire where it is environmentally appropriate. This natural resource management tool can be applied to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires by limiting the buildup of fuel that can create conditions for a wildfire, to restore wildlife habitat, and to help maintain forests or habitats that are healthy. This is often performed on sites that have evolved with fire.

In an article in *Fire Management Today*, Karen Miranda Gleason and Shawn Gillette wrote: “The elimination of naturally occurring wildland fire due to fire suppression and fragmentation of the landscape by agriculture and urban development has led to a decline in diversity, abundance, and nutritional value of habitats. The overgrowth of brush and trees in natural areas and the increased likelihood of large, damaging fires have the potential to do substantial harm to wildlife.

“Fast-moving fires can overwhelm or trap younger and slower animals, just as these fires pose a great threat to human life and property. High-intensity fires may decimate plants serving as food sources and delay repopulation of wildlife in burned areas.

“Fire remains a critical tool for the management of wildlife habitat. Fire managers plan prescribed burns that cleanse and rejuvenate natural areas and present less of a threat to wildlife than large, fast-moving, high-intensity wildland fires.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

“Prescribed burns can be designed to burn slower and at lower intensity than wildland fire. Prescribed burns also ensure escape routes for wildlife and can be timed to avoid mating and nesting seasons.”

Restoration and Rehabilitation: In the event that a wildfire causes damage to your camp property, reforestation or revegetation of burned areas should be performed to restore the proper conditions. Reforestation, watershed protection, and habitat restoration needs are sources of good conservation projects meeting merit badge requirements and potential Hornaday project requirements.

Primary considerations for restoration should include:

- Stabilizing the soil. This is critical to support future vegetative growth and prevent siltation of aquatic habitats. Slopes are the highest priority to address.
- Along with appropriate technical ecosystem restoration guidance, develop a plan that will create the most appropriate habitat or future forest condition. This may be different from what existed before the fire.
- Ensure that plant materials used in restoration are native, locally produced, indigenous, and best suited for the site, habitat, and camp needs.
- Recognize that wildfires can alter the hydrology of a site. Groundwater discharge and streamflow may be impacted, which could affect camp resources, facilities, and program.

Rehabilitation of fire lines and dozer lines, impacted water sources, safety zones, and staging areas may be required. Salvage and removal of trees damaged and weakened by fire should be considered, especially if safety issues are a concern. Remember that standing dead trees in natural areas are habitat.

There are resources available to restore and rehabilitate the burned area. With all of these practices, it is recommended to begin your search for assistance by contacting the state forestry and wildlife agency. As with prevention and mitigation, financial and technical assistance for restoration work may be available from state and federal sources. The state forestry and wildlife agencies, state or regional native plant societies, and environmental not-for-profit organizations often can assist.

The previously mentioned EQIP may provide funding for reforestation and restoration in your state. Additionally, the USDA Farm Service Agency manages the [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](#), which can provide funding for forest restoration following a qualifying natural disaster such as a wildfire. There may also be local or state programs or grant funds that may be available through the state forestry agency.

Finally, consider seeking assistance from legal counsel and from your insurance provider. Funding may also be available from the agency responsible for the fire or the responsible party through a civil action.



Structures lost on the Gap Fire in Northern California, 2016.

Michael Huneke

Need Help?

For more information, contact your [state forester](#), wildlife management department, state or local native plant society, conservation not-for-profit organization, or your local federal land management office.

The BSA's [National Conservation Subcommittee](#) has agency representatives and subject matter experts that are also available to assist you.

Fire prevention, presuppression, rehabilitation and restoration needs could serve as excellent conservation projects for Scouts working toward one of the [William T. Hornaday awards](#). Consider encouraging Scout conservation projects to complete the work needed on camp property.

WHITE PAPER: CONSERVATION PLANS FOR CAMP PROPERTIES

The BSA's National Camp Accreditation Program requires councils that have camp properties to have a conservation plan. More specifically, the standard for FA-704 Conservation Plan states: *There is an approved and current conservation plan for the camp property. The plan addresses the protection and stewardship of biological, ecological, and cultural resources of the camp property.*

Why Get a Conservation Plan?

Conservation of natural resources is a critical step to ensure the sustainability of the land and all it provides. Besides recreation, properly managed Scout properties protect soil and water, enhance wildlife habitat, maintain forests, protect cultural and historic sites, and serve as an outdoor learning center for future decision-makers. Our Scout camp properties need to be managed to provide us with a setting to deliver the BSA's outdoor program. The complexity of managing these properties can best be accomplished by obtaining a conservation plan that recognizes objectives for the property, inventories and analyzes resources, identifies opportunities to improve and protect resources, and provides a schedule to implement conservation options. Additionally, conservation plans are often a prerequisite for participation in federal conservation financial assistance programs and third-party certification.

How to Get a Conservation Plan

Developing a conservation plan can be daunting and may require professional assistance. One option to consider is the [Forest Stewardship Program](#). The program was authorized by Congress in 1978 with standards and direction from the U.S. Forest Service to encourage long-term stewardship by assisting private landowners in actively managing their properties.



Dave Weissert, left, camp ranger of Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation, receives a Stewardship Forest sign from Michael Huneke, U.S. Forest Service Forest Stewardship Program manager, and Chris Smith, Maryland State Forest ranger.

Matt Tansy/U.S. Forest Service

Much like the BSA's National Camp Accreditation program, the Forest Stewardship Program has national standards that apply to all properties in the program. These standards would fulfill the requirements established in NCAP Standard FA-704. A forest stewardship plan, typically written for a 10-year period, identifies opportunities to enhance the natural condition of the property and may reveal areas that require attention.

Getting Started

The U.S. Forest Service partners with state foresters by providing matching funds so individual states can administer a program with foresters who know and work with local landowners. For more information, please contact your [state forestry agency](#) and ask to speak with someone about enrolling your camp property in the Forest Stewardship Program. Most state agencies offer financial assistance for developing a forest stewardship plan. (See "Financial and Technical Assistance Programs for Conservation on Scout Camp Properties" elsewhere in this guidebook.)

Developing a Plan

Through the Forest Stewardship Program, you will be directed to enlist a plan preparer to assist you. This plan preparer will be a local forester trained in creating a plan to meet the objectives of the Scout council. This forester may be with a state agency or may be a consultant. In some cases, councils may have Scouters who are professional foresters and qualified to write plans.

After meeting with council representatives, the forester will spend time on the property to assess various resource elements such as trees, water, wildlife, roads, and trails, as well as cultural and historic sites.

The forester will review available information applicable to wildlife in regard to biological diversity and historical information. Where forest management is a concern, the forester will conduct a timber cruise and prepare silvicultural recommendations to maintain a healthy forest condition.

Implementing Your Plan

A forest stewardship plan provides a 10-year activity implementation strategy to accomplish the council's objectives. Examples of activities might include maintaining boundary lines, improving roads and trails, treating invasive species, improving wildlife habitat, or improving timber stands. A well-developed activity strategy makes sure individual practices consider all forest attributes and objectives to enhance the property as a whole. Some activities fall under the heading of conservation projects and might involve local staff, Scouters, and Scouts. Recruiting natural resource professionals (i.e., foresters, wildlife biologists, etc.) to serve on council conservation committees would aid in the implementation strategy.

Some Scout properties look to timber harvesting as a source of revenue. Cutting trees can be controversial. Having a forest stewardship plan with an implementation strategy will assist the council in making decisions that meet legal and environmental requirements and sustain a healthy forest.

Certification

Nowadays many proactive landowners seek to have their lands placed under a forestry certification. By enlisting in a certification program, a landowner ensures environmental performance in a sustainable fashion. Certification independently assesses forest management planning and practices against a sustainable forestry management standard. Certification is valuable because it provides confirmation through a third party (someone other than the BSA) that the council is managing the camp sustainably.

Some Scout properties look to timber harvesting as a source of revenue. Cutting trees can be controversial. Having a forest stewardship plan with an implementation strategy will assist the council in making decisions that meet legal and environmental requirements and sustain a healthy forest.



American Tree Farm System
We grow stewardship from the roots.

American Tree Farm System

In 1941, the [American Tree Farm System \(ATFS\)](#) was created as a recognition program for landowners practicing good forest stewardship. ATFS is the largest and oldest woodland certification system in America. It is internationally recognized by the [Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification](#) and meets strict third-party certification standards. ATFS specializes in certifying private forests, primarily those held by individuals and families, and currently certifies more than 20 million acres of forestland. State tree farm programs exist in 42 states. Those without one are Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Hawaii, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Utah. Scout properties in these states should contact their state forestry agencies or their cooperative extension forestry agent for other certification options.

There are other certification programs, but ATFS is more appropriate for small forest ownerships. In fact many Scout programs are already covered by this program. Certification under the major systems (SFI and FSC) is more difficult for small landowners because of the significant annual audit costs and the large amount of record keeping and preparation costs.

Finally, a national management plan template was developed by the U.S. Forest Service, NRCS, and ATFS, which allows any property holding an approved forest stewardship plan to qualify to be in the American tree farm program. To enroll in the tree farm program, contact your [state tree farm committee](#).

Additional information about camp conservation planning can be found in the *Council Conservation Committee Guidebook* or through the BSA's [National Conservation Subcommittee](#).

Sample camp conservation plans can be found at the [BSA's Conservation Resources website](#).

A CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY: BOY SCOUT CAMP TAKES ACTION TO PROTECT AND MANAGE FOREST RESOURCES

Forest Matters Stewardship Newsletter Summer 2016

Boy Scout Camp Takes Action to Protect and Manage Forest Resources

Devin Wanner, U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

All photos by Sandy Clark, U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

Nestled in Monroe County in the Pocono Mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania is the Resica Falls Boy Scout Camp—a 4,200-acre retreat whose signature feature is Resica Falls along Bushkill Creek. The camp provides clear streams and waterfalls, and what seems like endless mountain trails for Scouts to explore nature.

Resica Falls was established in 1957 in a joint effort between the Valley Forge and Philadelphia Boy Scout Councils. In 1996, these two councils merged to create the Cradle of Liberty Council.

The Boy Scouts have operated Resica Falls for 60 years. Over the last two decades, the Cradle of Liberty Council has become more proactive in managing Resica Falls' forest resources and providing permanent protection to the camp.

"Bob Hartman is the driving force behind the success at Resica Falls. He carries the biggest load," said Consulting Forester Robin Wildermuth, who runs Woodland Management Services. Hartman is the Chairman of the council's Conservation Committee for Resica Falls.

Forest Stewardship at Resica Falls

Forest stewardship plans are planning documents that describe the natural resources on a property and the management activities that can be pursued to enhance those resources. A stewardship plan generally provides direction for a 10-year period and is driven by the management objectives of the property owner.

In the case of Resica Falls, one of the conservation committee's primary objectives was to improve the quality of its timber resources. The camp underwent extensive timber cutting about 40 years ago and was then left to regenerate naturally. "An additional problem was that around 2007 the oak resources got pounded by a combination of factors, including an outbreak of the invasive insect gypsy moth," said Wildermuth.

Forest stewardship activity at Resica Falls really started taking off in 2006 when the council entered into a conservation easement [see sidebar at right] with the Natural Lands Trust on behalf of Middle Smithfield Township in Monroe County. The easement permanently restricts development on the property, which will keep the camp's forests as forest for scouting use.



Resica Falls near the camp entrance.

Conservation easements are a tool that limits certain rights otherwise held by a landowner. Just like other real property interest, the easement is recorded with the local land records and becomes part of the chain of title for the property. Once established, the easement applies to the current landowner and all subsequent owners. The easement's purposes will vary depending on the character of the property, the goals of the land trust, and the needs of the landowners.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Huneke is employed by the USDA Forest Service in Washington, D.C., and currently serves on the BSA's National Conservation Subcommittee and the National William T. Hornaday Awards Committee. He is the author of several BSA conservation white papers and the Ecology syllabus for the BSA's National Camping School. Huneke was also the project manager for the second edition of the BSA's *Conservation Handbook*. A certified forester, wildland firefighter, lifelong Scouter, and conservationist, Huneke is a recipient of the William T. Hornaday Gold Medal. He is a Distinguished Eagle Scout and a Scoutmaster in the Baltimore Area Council.

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Mark Rey	Subcommittee chair, Michigan State University
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Doug Blankinship	Bureau of Land Management
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Preston Bruenn	Campfire Club of America
Lewis E. Gorman III	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, retired
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Brian R. Gray	Boy Scouts of America, Outdoor Program coordinator
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George McDonald	National Park Service

Maria Parisi	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
R. Max Peterson	USDA Forest Service, retired
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