



Eagle and Distinguished Conservation Service Award Projects Comparison

An Eagle project (or Venturing Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster project) may be combined with a BSA Distinguished Conservation Service project, but only if the Eagle project meets the standards and requirements of a conservation project. There are a few extremely important distinctions to make between projects for both types of awards. The following table should help summarize the differences to keep in mind:

Distinguished Conservation Service Projects		Eagle Scout Service Projects
Two	Number of Projects	One
Unit Leader, Beneficiary, Conservation Adviser, Council Conservation Committee (or equivalent)	Proposal Approval	Unit Leader, Committee, Beneficiary, District
Natural Resource Conservation Related	Scope	Any Topic
Must Lead Both Projects	Leadership	Must Lead a Group
Research Required	Answer the "why?"	Research Not Required
Restricted to Nine Broad Conservation Categories	Focus	Unrestricted Choices
Fundraising Sometimes Needed	Fundraising	Fundraising Can Show Leadership
Must be Long-Lasting / Sustainable	Impact	Tangible Impact at Time of Accomplishment
Unit Leader, Committee, Beneficiary, Landowner, Award Adviser, Conservation Adviser	Approval of Proposal	Unit Leader, Committee, Beneficiary, District
Follow-on work required	Duration	No Follow-on work required
Must monitor to test hypothesis	Monitoring	None required
May Be Done Individually, but Best to Involve Others	Involvement by Others	Group Labor Required
Generally, 200-400 Hours or more *	Time Investment	Generally, 100-200 Hours or less
Council Review & Approval of Projects & Application as part of the DCSA Board of Review	Board of Review/Approval	Local Review & BSA HQ Approval
More Proposal and Planning Time	Phase Time Investment	Balance Proposal and Planning and Reporting, with Accomplishment
Can be Anywhere to Include Scout Property & Private Land	Place	Not on Scout Property
Must Utilize Scientific Method to Select Project Solution	Scientific Method/Hypothesis	Scientific Method Not Required to Select Project Solution





Must Use Entire Workbook, Plan must address comments from Conservation and Award Advisors	Workbook Use	Proposal & Report Required, Planning Optional
Must Educate Others	Education	Education Not Required
Must Inform Others via Media	Publicity	Publicity Not Required

* Note that project hours include those invested by all involved: The Scout/Venturer/ Sea Scout, the Award Adviser, the conservation adviser, the unit leader & approvers, beneficiaries and land owners. It is not just the hours invested on the work days.

Distinguished Conservation Service Award projects are like “supersized Eagle projects” in a field of natural resource conservation. If one is to take an Eagle project and add research on the front end, education throughout the project, and follow-up and monitoring on the back end, it is likely that the Eagle project could be worked into a Distinguished Conservation project. It is important to keep these distinctions in mind when planning an Eagle project to fit Conservation requirements.

