

BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Program

November 9, 2020

Youth Award - BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award

Scouts BSA

1. Be a First Class Scout.
2. Earn the following five Merit Badges:
 - Environmental Science, Fish and Wildlife Management, Forestry, Soil and Water Conservation, and Sustainability.
3. Earn any two of the following Merit Badges:
 - Bird Study, Energy, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Gardening, Geology, Insect Study, Landscape Architecture, Mammal Study, Nature, Nuclear Science, Oceanography, Plant Science, Pulp and Paper, Reptile and Amphibian Study, or Weather.
4. Plan, lead and carry out two conservation projects, from two different categories (Categories include Air and Water Pollution Control, Energy Conservation, Fish & Wildlife Management, Forestry & Range Management, Hazardous Materials Disposal and Management, Invasive Species Control, Pollinator Management, Resource Recovery, or Soil & Water Conservation). The projects must be developed under the guidance and pre-approval of the Scout's Unit Leader, a BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Adviser and the Council Conservation Committee. One of the projects may include the Scout's Eagle Scout, Venturing Summit Award, or Sea Scout Quartermaster project, if applicable. All projects must contribute to environment improvement on a long-term scale. Applicants must use the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Workbook to document each of the service projects.
5. Successfully pass a board of review conducted by the local Council's Conservation Committee.

Venturing and Sea Scouts

1. Plan, lead and carry out two conservation projects, from two different categories (Categories include Air and Water Pollution Control, Energy Conservation, Fish & Wildlife Management, Forestry & Range Management, Hazardous Materials Disposal and Management, Invasive Species Control, Pollinator Management, Resource Recovery, or Soil & Water Conservation). The projects must be developed under the guidance of and pre-approval by the applicants Unit Leader, a BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Adviser and the Council Conservation Committee. One of the projects may include the Scout's Eagle Scout, Venturing Summit Award, or Sea Scout Quartermaster project (if applicable). All projects must contribute to environment improvement on a long-term scale. Applicants must use the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Workbook to document each of the service projects.
2. Do 2 (a) and (b)
 - a. Make a tabletop display or presentation on one of your conservation projects for a crew, ship, post, a Cub Scout or Scouts BSA group, or another group.
 - b. Submit an article about your project to a local newspaper, radio station, your school newspaper, internet publication, or TV station.
3. Lead a Cub Scout or Scouts BSA group in carrying out an age appropriate conservation project from a BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award project category (see list in requirement 1 above).
4. Write a paper or make a presentation on a plant or wildlife species.
Include its value as seen from various perspectives, some of the problems various species face, and how we might be able to help.
5. Do both 5(a) and (b).
 - (a) Select an area approved by your BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Adviser that contains several species of wildlife or plants. Observe this area thoroughly in various conditions and seasons of the year. Study the history of this area, paying attention to how it has changed over time, ownership, land use patterns, and landform and climate changes.

- (b) Make a presentation on interaction between species; the reaction of various species to changes in conditions or outside influences; the degree to which this area provides food, shelter, materials, and protection for each species; population trends; your predictions on the future of these species; suggested actions to protect or enhance the populations; and the investigation methods that you used.
6. Do 6(a) and (b)
 - (a) Study a specific plant or wildlife species approved by your Adviser that can be found in several different areas. Observe this species thoroughly in various areas and seasons of the year. Study the history of this species paying attention to how it has adapted over time.
 - (b) Make a presentation on this species; any reactions to changes in conditions or outside influences; this species' needs for food, soil, shelter, materials, protection, assistance with propagation, etc.; population trends; your prediction for the future of this species; suggested actions to protect or enhance the population; and the investigation methods you used.
 7. Explain the basic natural systems, cycles, and changes over time and how they are evidenced in a watershed near to where you live. Include the four basic elements, land use patterns, and at least six different species in your analysis and how they have changed over time. Discuss both biological and physical components.
 8. Describe at least four environmental study areas near where you live. Include the reasons for selecting these areas, their boundaries, user groups, past inventories, any outside forces that interact with them, and a list of what things could be studied at each of them.
 9. Plan a field trip to each of the above areas, including detailed plans for consolidating various investigations. Follow all the requirements such as landowner permissions and/or needed permits, safety plans, transportation plans, equipment needs, etc.
 10. Do 10(a) and (b).
 - (a) Under the guidance of a natural resource professional, carry out an investigation of an ecological subject approved by your BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Adviser in one of the areas selected above. Inventory and map the area. Conduct a detailed investigation providing specific data for a specific topic.
 - (b) Document and present your findings to a crew, ship, post, pack, troop, or another group.
 11. Teach others in a crew, ship, post, pack, troop, or another group how to carry out an ecological investigation. Use steps 9 and 10 above with the group so that they may also learn by doing.
 12. Successfully pass a board of review conducted by the local Council's Conservation Committee.

Adult Award - BSA Distinguished Conservationist

This award is by nomination only and is for an adult Scouter who has rendered distinguished and exemplary service to natural resource conservation and environmental improvement over a sustained period (at least 20 years). The focus of the award nomination should be on the nominee's involvement with youth, especially in the areas of education and volunteerism and inspiring them to excel in conservation, natural resources management and environmental improvement. Nominations are accepted from any recognized conservation or environmental protection organization.

The nominee's accomplishments must be at a regional, national, or international level. In an attached letter of nomination, indicate the contributions made by the nominee and whether the accomplishments cited were part of the nominee's paid professional responsibilities and/or voluntary activities. Central to the selection process is the influence the nominee has had on educational programs emphasizing sound stewardship of natural resources and inspiring youth to excel in conservation, natural resources management and environmental improvement. The nominee should have no part in writing the nomination and should not be aware of the nomination until the time of presentation, if possible.

This application to be submitted to the National BSA Director of Conservation and reviewed by the National Conservation Awards Committee.

Organization - BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Certificate

This conservation award is 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 BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Awards program.

A letter of nomination should be addressed to the BSA Director of Conservation. Letters of endorsement are encouraged.

This application to be submitted to the National BSA Director of Conservation and reviewed by the National Conservation Awards Committee.