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Venturers only. In addition to the required project documentation, as outlined above under “Expectations,” provide specific information on the following:
- The research performed in connection with the conservation projects undertaken. The relevant research must be cited at the appropriate location in the conservation project documentation. A bibliography must be provided that lists sources cited. The bibliography must be formatted according to established standards.
- The applicant’s entire Hornaday effort. This evaluation, included in the application in a separate section, should contain information on alternatives considered for each project and an explanation of why each specific conservation project was selected, procedures used, processes used, staffing levels used, funding requirements, and so on the following.
- The lessons learned. Included in the report in a separate section, this details what the applicant, in hindsight, would do differently on each project. The section should include recommended changes in project selection; procedures, processes, and staffing levels used; funding requirements; and evaluations of project effectiveness over time.

There must be clear written evidence in your application that you did indeed plan, lead, and carry out long-term, substantial projects in the different conservation categories. Past winners have indicated that it takes at least 18 months to complete all the requirements. Judges check to see that all necessary signatures are on the applications; that the applicant (except for Venturer applicants) was not yet 18 when all requirements were completed; that all merit badge requirements have been completed; and that the projects are substantial and well-documented.

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Download the Hornaday application from www.scouting.org/scoutsources/Awards/HornadayAwards1/forms.aspx. You may also call or visit your local council service center and ask for a Hornaday Awards application package, No. 430-107. Or, contact the national office: Boy Scouts of America, S250, P.O. Box 152079, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, TX 75015-2079; telephone 972-580-2434.

Are There Any Other Hints You Can Give Me?
Just two: Be sure you and your conservation adviser have in hand and thoroughly understand the information in the application and guidelines. And, start early in your Scouting career! Remember that it usually takes at least 18 months of concentrated work to earn either of the Hornaday medals.

Good Luck!
Many Scouts will, as adults, assume significant leadership positions involving decisions that affect our nation’s natural resources. This is why professional conservationists and others interested in environmental improvement view the Hornaday Awards program as a solid investment in our nation’s future.
As a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer, you belong to one of the world’s oldest environmental organizations. By subscribing to the Outdoor Code, you’re already doing a lot to help conserve renewable natural resources. But do you yearn to do more? Great! There’s a special way for individual Scouts or Scouting units to make a real contribution.

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

Who Was William T. Hornaday?
Dr. Hornaday (1854–1937) was a pioneer in wildlife conservation. He believed in Scouting. He helped found the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and was founder, then director, of the New York Zoological Park for more than 20 years.

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

An “Olympics of Conservation”
There are several different Hornaday awards. (The gold badge and gold medal are for adults.) Think of them as an “olympics of conservation,” with an ever-increasing scale of challenge.

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

* **Badge.** Awarded to an individual Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer for outstanding service to conservation and environmental improvement.

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

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How Do I Earn a Hornaday Bronze or Silver Medal?
Since 1917, about 1,100 Hornaday medals have been awarded. The Wild Life Protection Fund was a forerunner to the Hornaday Awards. Dr. William T. Hornaday, an ardent conservationist, established this awards program to recognize Scouts who undertook and completed truly exceptional conservation projects. Earning one is hard work—it is supposed to be—but it’s worth it.

A good idea is to start with the badge and then work up to the bronze or silver medal. You must be a First Class Scout or a Venturer, and you must have a conservation adviser. Then you do your homework to fulfill the advancement requirements and conservation projects you want to complete.

Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers must complete specific advancement requirements to earn the Hornaday badge, bronze medal, or silver medal. The requirements are described in the application packet, No. 430-107. In addition, applicants must plan, lead, and carry out at least one significant project in natural resource conservation as listed below.

- Hornaday badge: one project
- Hornaday bronze medal: at least three projects
- Hornaday silver medal: at least four projects

Conservation Project Categories
1. Energy conservation
2. Soil and water conservation
3. Fish and wildlife management
4. Forestry and range management
5. Air and water pollution control
6. Resource recovery (recycling)
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