

Conservation Awards Frequently Asked Questions

Why did the BSA discontinue the William T. Hornaday awards program?

As part of the BSA's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, the organization is in the process of reviewing all aspects of our programs and awards to ensure each component models this commitment. During a review of the William T. Hornaday Award, the BSA uncovered issues with Dr. Hornaday that go against the BSA's values, and it was determined that the conservation award should no longer bear his name in order to uphold the BSA's commitment against racism and discrimination.

What are the categories of recognition in the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Awards program?

Youth – BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award

Adult – BSA Distinguished Conservationist

Organization – BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Certificate

Will the new BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Awards program have the same requirements as the previous William T. Hornaday Awards?

No. The new awards program has been streamlined and modernized to help make these important conservation efforts even more accessible for today's members.

I have earned a William T. Hornaday Award (Badge, Medal or Unit Certificate), will I need to replace it?

No. Your legacy award can now be referred to as the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award.

I lost the William T. Hornaday Award (Badge, Medal or unit Certificate), can I get a replacement?

The BSA is unable to replace medals or badges earned by previous award recipients; however, replacement certificates can be requested.

I am currently working on a Bronze or Silver William T. Hornaday Medal, should I stop and transfer to the new program?

If a youth is **currently working** on the William T. Hornaday Bronze or Silver Awards, the following awards will be available until June 30, 2021. After June 30, 2021, there will no longer be Bronze or Silver awards. Youth must have started either their 3rd or 4th project by October 13, 2020 to be eligible to earn these interim awards.

BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award with Bronze Honor BSA

Distinguished Conservation Service Award with Silver Honors

Youth must complete the requirements by no later than June 30, 2021. These applications will be processed by the National Conservation Committee.

How will the awards be processed?

The new BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Awards will be reviewed and awarded through the local council using a Board of Review format. Information on the awards is available on the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Awards website. Applicants for the

Bronze or Silver Honors will be processed through the National Conservation Committee's Awards Committee.

[Do the conservation service projects have to be preapproved?](#)

Yes. Your unit leader and Conservation Award Advisor or Council Conservation Committee designee approves the projects. **[View the award requirements.](#)**

[Can I still earn the William T. Hornaday Badge?](#)

No. The new BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Awards program does not have an award level for a single service project, but we encourage you to complete a second project and earn the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award.

[Can my unit still earn the William T. Hornaday Unit Award?](#)

No. In developing the new awards program it was determined that to avoid duplication of numerous awards that units should earn the **[Conservation Good Turn Award.](#)**