Hornaday and Eagle Projects

An Eagle project (or Venturing Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster project) may be combined with a Hornaday project, but only if the Eagle project fits the vision of William T. Hornaday. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>William T. Hornaday Projects</th>
<th>Eagle Scout Service Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Related</td>
<td>Any Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Leadership Not Required, but Highly Recommended</td>
<td>Must Lead a Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much Research Required</td>
<td>Research Not Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted to Certain Categories</td>
<td>Unrestricted Choices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Fundraising Required, but May be Necessary</td>
<td>Fundraising Can Show Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must be Long-Lasting</td>
<td>Need Not Have Tangible Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few Approvals Required</td>
<td>Many People Must Approve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot be a “One Time” Event</td>
<td>No Follow-up Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Be Done Individually, but Best to Involve Others</td>
<td>Group Labor Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generally 200-400 Hours, Increases With Age</td>
<td>Generally 100-200 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Review May be Required</td>
<td>Only Local Review Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Planning Time, Less Labor</td>
<td>Balance Labor and Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must Utilize Scientific Method</td>
<td>Scientific Method Not Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must Educate Others</td>
<td>Education Not Required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hornaday projects are kind of like “supersized Eagle projects” in a field of 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 Hornaday project. It is important to keep these distinctions in mind when planning an Eagle project to fit Hornaday requirements. Before worrying about the Hornaday aspect of the effort, get the Eagle Project Proposal approved. Then add the Hornaday components with the help of your Conservation Advisor and Hornaday Advisor. Since Hornaday projects require much more and generally have different requirements when compared to Eagle projects, some Scouts may find it easier to get the Eagle project completed and return to the same site with a Hornaday project, effectively breaking up the process and
effort into two separate projects for quicker approval and less confusion. One could, for example, complete manual labor of a project for the Eagle side and then work on erecting conservation related barriers as a part of the Hornaday effort.

Note that a single project can count for many things: the Eagle rank and the Sea Scout Quartermaster Rank or the Venturing Summit Award, the Hornaday Badge, the Hornaday Unit Award, either the Hornaday Bronze or Silver Medal, and the Venturing Ranger Award Conservation elective.

After completing the combined Hornaday and Eagle project, apply for the William T. Hornaday Badge and receive it while working toward a Medal. Applying for a Badge using the Eagle Workbook is strongly discouraged, and separate write-ups are required for the Eagle project and the Hornaday Badge project.

Hornaday Badges can be approved retroactively for Eagle projects. Usually the Hornaday Coordinator will review the Eagle Application and advise the Candidate on which elements he needs to add to make the project Hornaday worthy. The Candidate can then complete these elements and apply for a Hornaday Badge with a new write-up including all of the Eagle and added elements of the newly revised project.

Should the Eagle Scout turn eighteen and wish to receive a Hornaday Badge retroactively, he will need to apply as a Venturer and complete those requirements instead of the Merit Badges due to the added elements to the Eagle project completed while a Venturer.

As an example to how this works, I combined my Eagle project with my Hornaday Badge project (at age thirteen; age is an important factor to consider when reading into the complexity of any Hornaday project). The Eagle component was initially simply landscaping a bare area in front of my middle school. This project lent itself to the leadership components required for the Eagle rank. Once I learned about the Hornaday Awards, I translated this project so that it still included the construction portion to fulfill the Eagle leadership component, but added the conservation awareness portions. Thus, I determined that the area around the school had recently been clear-cut to make room for a new subdivision and that small animals were likely displaced. I researched the types of animals displaced and their habitats and selected native plants that would provide shelter for these animals. I then constructed the area that included an educational outdoor classroom like space for middle school kids to be exposed to a wildlife habitat during lunch. Finally, I created a follow-up and monitoring plan that the school continues to follow in order to make sure that the project is kept up.
Basic Information Guide
William T. Hornaday Awards for Distinguished Service to Conservation
Blue Ridge Mountains Council Conservation Committee

Background Established in 1914 by conservation giant Dr. William T. Hornaday, this group of awards seeks to reward Scouts who have completed large, Eagle sized conservation projects and numerous Merit Badges. Since its inception, just over 1,000 Hornaday medals have been awarded. The Silver Medal is the highest possible conservation award for Boy Scouts and Venturers.

Who Scouts interested in earning a Hornaday award may be currently working on conservation related Merit Badges, an applicable Eagle project, or have time left in Scouting and are looking for a challenging and rewarding experience.

Awards For Scouts, there are three different levels of Hornaday awards. The badge is awarded to Scouts who plan and lead one conservation project and earn five conservation Merit Badges. A bronze medal requires completion of six Merit Badges and three projects, while the Silver Medal dictates earning nine conservation related Merit Badges and completing four Eagle sized projects. A Hornaday badge may be combined with an Eagle project. There is also a Unit Award, two adult awards given by nomination, and an individual or organizational award.

Projects A Hornaday project must be a significant and lasting effort in natural resource conservation or environmental improvements. Each Hornaday project must be chosen from a list of different disciplines of conservation. Only one project may be completed on Boy Scout property, but may other organizations have worthy potential projects.

Starting Before starting to work on a Hornaday award, Scouts must contact the Hornaday Coordinator to obtain a Conservation Advisor. The Conservation Advisor will help Scouts decide on appropriate projects and make sure that they are meeting Hornaday application requirements.

Time Hornaday awards must be completed before Scouts turn eighteen or Venturers turn twenty-one. A Badge or Unit Award typically takes six months to complete; a Silver Medal may take up to three years. Adult awards require three or twenty years of service to conservation.

The above information is provided by the Blue Ridge Mountain Council, BSA.

Additional Information

William Croker, Hornaday Awards Advisor, Greater St. Louis Area Council: whcroker@gmail.com, (636) 256-3257
Process for Boy Scouts, Venturers, and Units Earning a William T. Hornaday Award

1. Contact Hornaday Awards Coordinator
2. Select Conservation Advisor
3. Project Outline
4. Project Proposal
5. Project Plan
6. Conduct Project
7. Project Report
8. Complete Additional Projects (2 or 3+)
9. Application
10. Review by Conservation Committee
11. Award Presentation

Complete Required Badges (Scouts and Venturers only)

3. Possible Project Categories
   - Energy Conservation
   - Soil and Water Conservation
   - Fish and Wildlife Management
   - Air and Water Pollution Control
   - Resource Recovery (Recycling)
   - Hazardous Material Disposal
   - Invasive Species Control

4. Project Benefiting Orgs.
   - Conservancies, Community Agencies, Land Trusts, Religious Organizations, Schools, Service Groups, Local Government, USDA, State Parks, NOAA, VDGIF, VADOF, Scout Reservation (Only 1 Project)

5. Project Plan
   - Organization
   - Design
   - Materials and Budget
   - Leadership and Workers
   - Schedule
   - Benefit
   - Safety Plan

7. Project Report
   - Service Hours by All Involved
   - Maps
   - Pictures
   - Communication Notes
   - Publicity
   - Letters of Appreciation
   - Maintenance Plan

9. Application
   - Scouts/Venturers
     - Badge: 5 MB, 1 Project
     - Bronze Medal: 6 MB, 3 Projects
     - Silver Medal: 9 MB, 4+ Projects
   - Units
     - Certificate: 1 Project, 60% of Unit Participates

Approvals
- A1, A2, A3, A4, A5
- All Approved By Benefiting Organization, Conservation Advisor, and Hornaday Coordinator, A5 Goes to Council Or National Committee