Expectations
Applicants for the bronze and silver medals are expected to do the following:

1. Describe the origination of the idea.
2. State the project’s purpose and identify the conservation issue it addresses.
3. Conduct research, investigation, and study.
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5. Implement and manage the projects.
6. Demonstrate leadership and involve others.
7. Describe how the project influenced the attitudes of others.
8. Record the time and resources devoted to each project.
9. Explain the relationships among projects, if projects are interrelated. Each project, however, must be from a different category of conservation, as described in the application packet.

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, 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.

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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!
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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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✵ Gold badge. Awarded by the local council to an adult Scouter or Venturing leader who has demonstrated leadership and a commitment to the education of youth on a council or district level for significant conservation efforts for a period of at least three years.

✵ Gold medal. Awarded to an adult Scouter or Venturing leader for outstanding service in natural resource conservation and youth education at the regional, national, or international level. Nominations are reviewed by a national committee.

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
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Conservation Project Categories
1. Energy conservation
2. Soil and water conservation
3. Fish and wildlife management
4. Forestry and range management
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