

World Conservation Award



All Scouts can earn the World Conservation Award, also called the Panda Award due to the Panda bear on the patch. Requirements vary by program level. Earning the World Conservation Award is one of the requirements for the International Spirit Award.

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/world-conservation/>

Cub Scouts starting at Wolf can earn the Cub Scout version of the award. Each rank has rank-specific requirements that relate to certain of the adventures for that rank. The same emblem is used for all 3 Cub Scout ranks, and even though he or she would wear only one on their uniform, it could still be cool for a Cub to earn it at each rank.

Scouts BSA must earn these merit badges:

Environmental Science OR Sustainability

Soil and Water Conservation OR Fish and Wildlife Management

Citizenship in the World

AND

Participate in a conservation project as part of an approved Scouting program totaling at least three hours that addresses a conservation need common to more than one country

Venturers and Sea Scouts must do the following

Complete the Ecology elective for the Ranger Award:

1. Explain the basic natural systems, cycles, and changes over time and how they are evidenced in a watershed near 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.

2. 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.

- Show the relationships of global events and conditions, both political and environmental, to the areas that you described in steps 1 and 2 above. Determine how conditions in your local area also appear in other areas around the world.

3. Plan a field trip to each of the above areas, including detailed plans for conducting various investigations. Follow all of the requirements such as trip permits, safety plans, transportation plans, equipment needs, etc.

4a. Under the guidance of a natural resources professional, carry out an investigation of an ecological subject approved by your Advisor. Inventory and map the area. Conduct a detailed investigation providing specific data for a specific topic.

4b. Document and present your findings to your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout group, or another group.

5. Teach others in your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Scouts BSA group, or another group how to carry out an ecological investigation. Use steps 3 and 4 above with the group so that they may also learn by doing.

6. Participate in a conservation project as part of an approved Scouting program totaling at least three hours that addresses a conservation need common to more than one country.

AND:

- Describe some of the interrelationships between people and our natural resources that affect our global environment.

- Teach others in your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Scouts BSA group, or another group about the interconnectivity that we all have with each other and our environment.

Conservation Good Turn Award



The Conservation Good Turn Award is an opportunity for Cub Scout packs, Scout troops and Venturing crews to join with conservation or environmental organizations (federal, state, local, or private) to carry out a conservation Good Turn in their home communities.

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation-and-environment/conservation-good-turn/>

The requirements are:

- The Scouting unit contacts a conservation agency and offers to carry out a Good Turn project.
- The agency identifies a worthwhile and needed project that the unit can accomplish.
- Working together in the local community, the unit and the agency plan the details and establish the date, time, and location for carrying out the project.

For a list of state and federal conservation agencies, as well as suggestions for age appropriate projects, use the link above.

A Conservation Good Turn certificate is available at the council service center for units that participate and report on their efforts. The patch should be available at the Scout Shop.

Paul Bunyan Award



This award is primarily about proper use of woods tools (axe, etc.). However, requirement 7 is to perform conservation work using the woods tools Scouts have learned about in the other requirements.

7. With unit leader approval and supervision, using woods tools, spend at least two hours doing one of the following conservation-oriented projects:

- Clear trails or fire lanes for two hours.
- Trim a downed tree, cut into four-foot lengths, and stack; make a brush pile with branches.
- Build a natural retaining wall or irrigation way to aid in a planned conservation effort.

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/paul-bunyan/>

Cub Scout Outdoor Ethics Award



The Northern Star Council Cub Scout Outdoor Ethics Award encourages Cub Scouts to learn about and practice outdoor ethics. This local award replaces the discontinued national BSA Cub Scout Outdoor Ethics Award.

Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.northernstar.org/portals/0/Documents/NCS-Cub-Scouts-and-Leader-Outdoor-Ethics-Award.pdf>

1. Find out how Scouts can make a difference in the outdoors. With Akela, go on line to learn more about the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace and the Conservation Good Turn Award.

Visit: <https://lnt.org/teach/peak/peakonline> and

<http://www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/Youth/ConservationGoodTurn.aspx>

Explain to your Den Leader or your family what you learned about reducing your outdoor impact and how to earn the Conservation Good Turn Award.

2. Discover what you can do to prevent or reduce spreading invasive species. With Akela, check out <http://www.playcleango.org/> sponsored by the MNDNR. Write a paragraph or identify what to do for each of the following. Share at a Den meeting or with your family.

- before you leave home
- when you use firewood
- as you hike, camp or fish

3. Learn how to recognize outdoor impacts made by others and/or evidence of caring for nature. Participate in three separate outdoor activities with your Den or family, lasting at least 30 minutes. Choose 3 of the activities below or do similar ones. Look for signs of use and identify what was done to care for nature or ways to reduce or avoid impacts.

- Take a bike ride or walk
- Walk a dog or observe others with dogs
- Go to a play area at a neighborhood park
- Visit a campsite, lake/river or picnic area
- Attend an outdoor event

Discuss at a Den meeting or with your family what you saw done to care for nature or what you could do to avoid or reduce impacts.

4. Participate in a 1 hour activity to clean up outdoor impacts with your family, Den or Pack. Discuss what you learned from this with your Den or family.

5. For Bears and Webelos only. Present what you learned and/or how you completed items 1-4 to the Pack at a Pack meeting.

Older Scout Outdoor Ethics Awards



For Scouts and adults who have a deep interest in the outdoors, nature, and the environment, Scouting's outdoor ethics will give them an ever-deeper appreciation of the richness of the land and how we fit into it. Additional information on the Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action Awards can be found at:

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/outdoor-ethics/awards/>

Scouts BSA

Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award

Scouts interested in learning more about outdoor ethics and Leave No Trace should begin by exploring the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award. The requirements are as follows:

1. Recite from memory and explain the meaning of the **Outdoor Code**.
2. Watch the **National Park Service Leave No Trace video**. It's on the right side of the page.
3. Complete the [Leave No Trace online course](#). Print the certificate.
4. Complete the **Tread Lightly! online course**. Print the certificate.
5. Participate in an outdoor ethics course, workshop, or training activity facilitated by a person who has completed the BSA outdoor ethics orientation course or is a BSA outdoor ethics trainer or master.

Contact Heidi Groven at hlgroven@gmail.com for upcoming courses

Outdoor Ethics Action Award

The Outdoor Ethics Action Award challenges Scouts to take affirmative steps to improve their outdoor skills. The requirements for the Outdoor Ethics Action Award are as follows:

Scout Action Award Requirements

1. Do the following:
 - a. Unless already completed, earn the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award.
 - b. Complete the BSA outdoor ethics orientation course.
 - c. Explain how each of the four points of the [Outdoor Code](#) guides your actions when outdoors.
2. Do the following:
 - a. Read Chapter 7 of the *Scouts BSA Handbook* on Outdoor Ethics.
 - b. Teach a skill related to the Outdoor Code or Leave No Trace to another Scout in your troop or another Scouting unit.
3. Complete one of the following:
 - a. Successfully complete a term as your troop Outdoor Ethics Guide.
 - b. Participate in an outing that emphasizes the complete set of [Leave No Trace](#) or relevant [Tread Lightly!](#) principles. All members of the troop participating in the outing should use the outdoor ethics and the specific skills needed to minimize impacts from their use of the outdoors.
4. Follow the Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, and Tread Lightly! principles on three outings. Write a paragraph on each outing explaining how you followed the Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, and Tread Lightly! Share it with your unit leader or an individual who has completed the BSA outdoor ethics orientation course.
5. On a troop outing, help your troop on a service activity that addresses recreational impacts related to the type of outing. The project should be approved in advance by the landowner or land manager and lead to permanent or long-term improvements.
6. Participate in a report at a court of honor or similar family event on the service activity in Requirement 5.

Venturing

Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award

Venturers interested in learning more about outdoor ethics and Leave No Trace should begin by exploring the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award. The requirements are as follows:

1. Recite from memory and explain the meaning of the **Outdoor Code**.
2. Watch the [National Park Service Leave No Trace video](#).
3. Complete the [Leave No Trace online course](#). Print the certificate.
4. Complete the [Tread Lightly! online course](#). Print the certificate.
5. Participate in an outdoor ethics course, workshop, or training activity facilitated by a person who has completed the BSA outdoor ethics orientation course or is a BSA outdoor ethics trainer or master.

Outdoor Ethics Action Award

The Outdoor Ethics Action Award challenges Venturers to take affirmative steps to improve their outdoor skills—so that they can leave no trace and achieve the goals of the Outdoor Code.

The requirements are as follows:

Venturer Action Award Requirements

1. Do the following:
 - a. Unless already completed, earn the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award.
 - b. Complete the BSA outdoor ethics orientation course.
 - c. Explain how you live up to each of the four points of the [Outdoor Code](#) during an outing or adventure.
2. Do the following:
 - a. Read *Fieldbook* chapters about Leave No Trace, using stoves and campfires, hygiene and waste disposal, and traveling and camping in special environments. Review the discussion of Leave No Trace in the *Ranger Guidebook*, and the foreword and chapters on Conservation Aesthetic, Wilderness, and Land Ethic in *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold. Explain in your own words what Leopold meant when he stated, “A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it does otherwise.”
 - b. Lead a group approved by your unit leader in an activity that explores differing ethical viewpoints using materials from [Scouting’s outdoor ethics page](#), [Leave No Trace](#), or [Tread Lightly!](#)
3. Complete one of the following:
 - a. Become a Leave No Trace Trainer, Tread Lightly! TREAD Trainer, or successfully complete a term as a crew officer with responsibility for outdoor ethics training.
 - b. Research the complete set of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! skills related to a planned outdoor adventure. Working with your crew leadership, prepare for the adventure, including learning the skills needed to minimize impacts. Practice the skills at least once before heading out on your adventure. While on your adventure, all members of the crew participating in the adventure should use the outdoor skills and ethics necessary to minimize impacts from their use of the outdoors.
 - c. Follow the Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, and Tread Lightly! principles on three outings. Develop a poster or presentation explaining how and why you followed the Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, and Tread Lightly! Share it with a group approved by your unit leader or an individual who has completed the outdoor ethics orientation course.
4. Do the following:
 - a. Meet with a land owner or manager responsible for an outdoor recreational area or habitat that you use and/or enjoy and discuss the steps that you and your crew can take to reduce adverse impacts on the recreational ecosystem.
 - b. With your crew leadership, help plan and participate in a campaign to reduce the adverse

impacts on the recreational ecosystem. The campaign should include both service elements (e.g., land ethic—service to the land) and outdoor ethics educational components to help educate the public about how to minimize impacts to the area.

- c. Help plan and lead either a traditional or a social media event to educate the general public on the importance of protecting the area addressed in Requirement 5 and how they can help.

National Outdoor Awards Program



While the National Outdoors Awards program initially was designed to provide awards and incentives for camping, hiking, etc., it also includes a conservation component. Information and requirements for all the National Outdoors Awards can be found at:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/youth/awards/noa/>

Conservation. A Scout, Sea Scout, or Venturer may earn the National Outdoor Badge for Conservation upon successfully completing the following requirements:

1. Earn the First Class rank, Sea Scout Apprentice rank, *or* complete Venturing Ranger Award requirements 1-6.
2. Demonstrate the safe use of five of the following conservation tools: pick or pickax; shovel or spade; ax; bow saw; cross-cut saw; prybar; sledge hammer; loppers or shears; fire rake or McLeod; and/or Pulaski. Discuss the ethical use of the tools you chose.
3. Complete the requirements for the following:
 - a. Environmental Science merit badge *or* Sustainability merit badge *or* both Venturing Ranger Conservation core and Ecology elective
 - b. Soil and Water Conservation merit badge
 - c. One of the following merit badges: Fish and Wildlife Management, Forestry, or Mammals
4. Complete 25 hours of conservation work under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America, including hours worked as part of requirements 1 through 3.

A gold device may be earned for each additional 25 hours of conservation work. A silver device is earned for each additional 100 hours of conservation work (for example, the first silver device is earned at 125 total hours of conservation work). Youth may wear any combination of devices totaling his or her current number of hours of conservation work.

Hometown USA - Keep America Beautiful Award



The Hometown U.S.A. Award is a joint program between Keep America Beautiful Inc. (KAB) and the BSA. The purposes of the award are to: educate Scouts BSA about citizenship in relation to conservation and to involve them in community activities relating to environmental issues; offer a way Scouts can develop positive attitudes toward their environment and community while being exposed to interesting career opportunities; and honor Scouts for significant contributions toward keeping America beautiful.

Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/youth/keep-america-beautiful/>

1. **Merit badges.** Earn three merit badges from the following list of 13

Citizenship in the Community
Communication
Energy,
Environmental Science
Fish and Wildlife Management
Forestry
Gardening
Geocaching
Landscape Architecture
Photography
Public Speaking
Soil and Water Conservation
Sustainability

2. **Community service project.** In addition to earning the merit badges, a Scout is required to perform a community service project. The project should involve a minimum of **eight hours** of time, two of which must involve management planning, with the other six consisting of carrying out the project. It should help keep America beautiful and benefit the community either physically or financially. One way to do this is to plan the community service project as part of a Keep America Beautiful program. See some examples below.

- Plan and execute a [Great American Cleanup](#) in your local community. Adopt a park, block, beach, or vacant lot. Remove litter and debris. Build picnic tables or fix up old ones. Paint benches.
- Build a nature trail or trash-less trail for use as an outdoor classroom or for enjoyment.
- Register and organize an [America Recycles Day](#) event that involves your unit (i.e., newspapers, electronic gadgets, and/or bottle collections).
- Conduct a litter survey of local storefronts. Determine areas where litter exists, and work with store owners/local government to help improve conditions.
- Become involved in a local environmental/recycling issue. Attend public meetings, talk to public officials, and make a report to your unit about what you have learned. Decide how you want to become involved in resolving the issue and spend your project time educating your fellow citizens about viewpoint and assisting your “side” in its campaign.
- Develop and help maintain a [community garden](#) or [tree trail](#) in your community.
- Plan and make a presentation to elementary students about the importance of conserving natural resources. Take students on a nature walk, pointing out natural resources.
- Conduct soil and water conservation activities on a heavily used trail to prevent erosion. Record your activities.
- Construct water facilities and plant vegetation that will provide food and shelter for wildlife in appropriate places.
- Organize an anti-litter poster competition among junior and senior high school students. Arrange for businesses to donate awards for the winners and recruit community judges. Include media coverage. Get local businesses and schools to display the posters.

Distinguished Conservation Service Award



This award replaces the former Hornaday Awards for significant conservation service. In 2017, only 0.16% of Eagle Scouts earned a Hornaday Award.

The Distinguished Conservation Service Award can be earned by performing **two** different Eagle Scout like projects with an environmental emphasis, plus earning certain designated merit badges. The projects also must include research, education of others and follow-up plans to ensure that the environmental aims of the projects are achieved.

NOTE: Venturers have different requirements than Boy Scouts

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation-and-environment/conservation-awards-and-recognitions/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 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 project (if applicable). All projects must contribute to environment improvement on a long-term scale.

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.

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(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.