

Conservation and Community Service Requirements in Scouting

Updated 2020 11 19

Rank requirements

Scouts must meet requirements for hours of community service for Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life rank advancement.

Life rank advancement requires 6 hours of community service, at least 3 of which must be conservation related.

<https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Scouts-BSA-Requirements-3321619.pdf>

Tenderfoot requirement # 7b

Participate in a total of one hour of service in one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. Explain how your service to others relates to the Scout slogan and Scout motto.

Second Class # 8e

Participate in two hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. Tell how your service to others relates to the Scout Oath.

First Class requirement # 9d

Participate in three hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. The project(s) must not be the same service project(s) used for Tenderfoot requirement 7b and Second Class requirement 8e. Explain how your service to others relates to the Scout Law.

Star requirement # 4

While a First Class Scout, participate in six hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster.

Life requirement # 4

While a Star Scout, participate in six hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. At least three hours of this service must be conservation related.

Merit badge requirements

Conservation-related and community service requirements for merit badge completions are listed below:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

Bird Study Merit Badge

9. Do one of the following:

- a. Build a bird feeder and put it in an appropriate place in your yard or another location.
- b. Build a bird bath and put it in an appropriate place.
- c. Build a backyard sanctuary for birds by planting trees and shrubs for food and cover.

Camping Merit Badge

9. Show experience in camping by doing the following:

- (c) Perform a conservation project approved by the landowner or land managing agency. This can be done alone or with others.

Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge

7. Do the following:

- a. Identify three charitable organizations outside of Scouting that interest you and bring people in your community together to work for the good of your community.
- b. Pick ONE of the organizations you chose for requirement –

7a. Using a variety of resources (including newspapers, fliers and other literature, the Internet, volunteers, and employees of the organization), find out more about this organization.

- c. With your counselor's and your parent's approval, contact the organization you chose for requirement 7b, and find out what young people can do to help. While working on this merit badge, volunteer at least eight hours of your time for the organization. After your volunteer experience is over, discuss what you have learned with your counselor.

Fish and Wildlife Management Merit Badge requirement # 5

5. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Construct, erect, and check regularly at least two artificial nest boxes (wood duck, bluebird, squirrel, etc.) and keep written records for one nesting season.
- b. Construct, erect, and check regularly bird feeders and keep written records of the kinds of birds visiting the feeders.
- c. Develop and implement a fishery improvement project or a backyard wildlife habitat improvement project. Share the results with your counselor.
- d. Design and construct a wildlife blind near a game trail, water hole, salt lick, bird feeder, or birdbath and take good photographs or make sketches from the blind of any combination of 10 wild birds, mammals, reptiles, or amphibians.

Forestry Merit Badge requirements # 5, 6

5. With your parent's and counselor's approval, do ONE of the following:
- (a) Visit a managed public or private forest area with the manager or a forester who is familiar with it. Write a brief report describing the type of forest, the management objectives, and the forestry techniques used to achieve the objectives.
 - (b) With a knowledgeable individual, visit a logging operation or wood-using manufacturing plant. Write a brief report describing the following:
 - (1) The species and size of trees being harvested or used and the location of the harvest area or manufacturer
 - (2) The origin of the forest or stands of trees being utilized (e.g., planted or natural)
 - (3) The forest's successional stage. What is its future?
 - (4) Where the trees are coming from (land ownership) or where they are going (type of mill or processing plant)
 - (5) The products that are made from the trees
 - (6) How the products are made and used
 - (7) How waste materials from the logging operation or manufacturing plant are disposed of or utilized
 - (c) Take part in a forest-fire prevention campaign in cooperation with your local fire warden, state wildfire agency, forester, or counselor. Write a brief report describing the campaign, how it will help prevent wildfires, and your part in it.
6. In your camp, local recreation area (park or equivalent), or neighborhood, inventory the trees that may be a hazard to structures or people. Make a list by area (campsite, road, trail, street, etc.). Note the species and hazardous condition and suggest a remedy (removal or trimming). Make your list available to the proper authority or agency.

Mammal Study Merit Badge requirement # 5

5. Working with your counselor, select and carry out one project that will influence the numbers of one or more mammals.

Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge requirement # 7

7. Do TWO of the following:
- (a) Make a trip to TWO of the following places. Write a report of more than 500 words about the soil and water and energy conservation practices you saw.
 - (1) An agricultural experiment
 - (2) A managed forest or woodlot, range, or pasture
 - (3) A wildlife refuge or a fish or game management area
 - (4) A conservation-managed farm or ranch
 - (5) A managed watershed
 - (6) A waste-treatment plant
 - (7) A public drinking water treatment plant
 - (8) An industry water use installation
 - (9) A desalinization plant
 - (b) Plant 100 trees, bushes, and/or vines for a good purpose.

- (c) Seed an area of at least 1/5 acre for some worthwhile conservation purpose, using suitable grasses or legumes alone or in a mixture.
- (d) Study a soil survey report. Describe the things in it. On tracing paper over any of the soil maps, outline an area with three or more different kinds of soil. List each kind of soil by full name and map symbol.
- (e) Make a list of places in your neighborhood, camps, school ground, or park that have erosion, sedimentation, or pollution problems. Describe how these could be corrected through individual or group action.
- (f) Carry out any other soil and water conservation project approved by your merit badge counselor.

Scout Award requirements

Some Scout awards include requirements for conservation-related service.

50-Miler Award requirement # 3

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/430-067_WB.pdf

During the time on the trail or waterway, complete a minimum of 10 hours each of group work on projects to improve the trail, springs, campsite, portage, or area. If, after checking with recognized authorities, it is not possible to complete 10 hours each of group work on the trail, a similar project may be done in the unit's home area. (There should be no unauthorized cutting of brush or timber.)

Conservation Good Turn Unit Certificate or Scout patch

Participate in a conservation- or environment-related service project.

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

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/GTFAapplication.pdf>

<https://www.scoutshop.org/conservation-good-turn-emblem-149.html>

Keep America Beautiful Hometown USA Award requirement # 2

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/keep-america-beautiful-hometown-usa-award/>

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.

Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/what-cub-scouts-earn/other-youth-awards/>

https://i9peu1ikn3a16vg4e45rqi17-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/512-01319-CS-Outdoor-Activity-Awd_WEB.pdf

Cub Scout World Conservation Award

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/cubscouts/pdf/512-036_wb.pdf

Scouts BSA World Conservation Award

https://i9peu1ikn3a16vg4e45rqi17-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/World_Conservation_Application-Scouts-BSA-1.pdf

Venturer/Sea Scout World Conservation Award

https://i9peu1ikn3a16vg4e45rqi17-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Venturing_World_Conservation_Award.pdf

Paul Bunyan Award requirement # 7

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

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 with branches.
- Build a natural retaining wall or irrigation way to aid in a planned conservation effort.

Outdoor Ethics Action Award

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

Scout Action Award requirement # 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.

Scouter Action Award requirement # 7

Assist your unit in arranging for a service project emphasizing outdoor ethics with a local landowner or land manager. The project must be approved by the landowner or land manager in advance. Participate in that project. The project should lead to permanent or long-term improvements.

National Honor Patrol Award requirement # 4

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/512-021_WB.pdf

Complete two Good Turns or service projects approved by the patrol leaders' council.

Scouting EPA Award

On August 17, 2020, the EPA and BSA issued a press release and held a signing ceremony in Washington, D.C. announcing a new Scouting EPA Award, recognized by a patch.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-boy-scouts-announce-collaboration-environmental-education-award-program-and-special>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR3Jc9hmJSczsyBsFSq5XJGgIsKWIGd1BAEN19IUSyL_bpBxe7QiUE9sCA4&feature=youtu.be&v=s_6V4fRrGmo&app=desktop

Scouts must complete requirements before December 31, 2021.
Requirements are discussed at 6:40 and following on the video.

Scouts must earn 4 merit badges, including 1 merit badge from each of 3 groups,

- one from Animal Studies Group (Bird Study, Insect Study, Mammal Study, Reptile and Amphibian Study),
- one from Outdoor Activity Group (Backpacking, Camping, Canoeing, Climbing, Gardening),
- one from Earth Sciences Group (Energy, Forestry, Geology, Oceanography, Plant Science, Weather).
- The fourth merit badge is Public Health.

Scouts must also participate in an Environmental or Public Health Community Service project for 6 hours of service.

Hornaday Awards

Hornaday Awards for conservation-related projects and service were among the most prestigious awards in Scouting. On October 12, 2020, BSA discontinued the Hornaday Award program.

Here are links to information about and requirements for these awards:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/Hornaday_Award_Conservation_Project_Workbook.pdf

http://www.ncacbsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/NCAC_Hornaday_Awards_Guide.pdf

<https://vulcandistrict.com/hornaday-award/>

<https://williamobrochta.net/hornaday>

On October 12, 2020, BSA discontinued the Hornaday Award program. Information is posted at

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

On November 9, 2020, BSA published details and requirements for new conservation awards:

- BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award for youth
- BSA Distinguished Conservationist for adults
- BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Certificate for organizations and individuals

Details are available at

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation-and-environment/conservation-awards-and-recognitions/bsa-distinguished-conservation-service-award/>