

Distinguished Conservation Service Award



Background:

The BSA has maintained an active conservation awards program since 1938. The current group of awards seek to reward Scouts and Venturers who complete large, Eagle sized conservation projects and numerous Merit Badges. The BSA Distinguished Conservation Service (DCS) Award is the highest conservation award for Scouts and Venturers and one of the rarest awards in Scouting.

The fundamental purpose of the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award program is to encourage learning by the participants and to increase public awareness about natural resource conservation. Understanding and practicing sound stewardship of natural resources and environmental protection strengthens Scouting's emphasis on respecting the outdoors. The goal of this awards program is to encourage and recognize truly outstanding efforts undertaken by Scouting units, Scouts and Venturers, adult Scouters, and other individuals, corporations, and institutions that have contributed significantly to natural resource conservation and environmental protection.

Who:

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

Awards:

Scouts and Venturers earn the DCS Award by planning and leading two conservation projects and completing either seven Merit Badges or conservation- related Venturing requirements. One project may be combined with an Eagle project. There is also an adult award and a non-Scouting individual or organizational award.

Projects:

A DCS Award project must be a significant and lasting effort in natural resource conservation or environmental improvement. Each project must be chosen from a list of different disciplines of conservation (projects have to be from different categories, see below). Only one project may be completed on Scout property; other organizations are usually excited to help Scouts find projects.

Projects Categories:

Energy conservation
Soil and water conservation
Fish and wildlife management
Forestry and range management
Air and water pollution control
Resource recovery (recycling)
Hazardous material disposal and management
Invasive species control
Pollinator Habitat Conservation

Starting:

The SOA Conservation Committee exists for one reason: To assist and motivate Scouts and Adults in the design and completion of significant environmental conservation projects. Before starting to work on a DCS Award, Scouts must contact the Council DCS Awards Committee Chair to obtain a Conservation Advisor. These individuals will help Scouts decide on appropriate projects and make sure that they are meeting the application requirements.

Time:

DCS Awards must be completed before Scouts turn eighteen or Venturers turn twenty-one. The award typically takes a year or more to complete. Adult awards require twenty years of service to conservation.

Additional Information:

Please contact Jack Terrill, Conservation Committee & BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Awards Committee Chair. He may be reached by Email Jack.terrill@gmail.com

Resources & Documents:

[Conservation Advisor Information](#)

[BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Project Workbook](#)

[Executive Summary](#)- complete one for each project.

[DCSA comparison to Eagle project](#)

[DCS Award requirements](#)

[DCS Award Application](#)

[BSA Distinguished Conservationist application](#)

<https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BSA-Distinguished-Conservation-Service-Certificate-Award-Application-430-107c-1.pdf>

Adult Advisors should complete the online training DCSA Advisor/Committee Training found in supplemental training my.scouting.org

