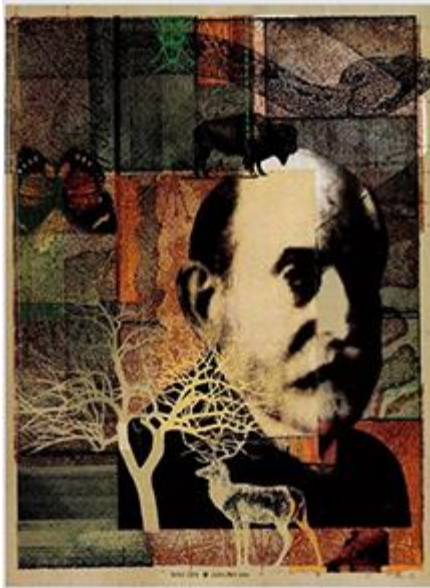




## WILLIAM T. HORNADAY EDITION



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The William T. Hornaday Award is the highest honor presented to Scouts for service to the environment, and 2015 marks the hundredth anniversary of its origins. With the BSA's continued emphasis on stewardship and with new rank requirements involving greater involvement with conservation, it is a good time to revisit the Hornaday Award and the man who made it possible.



## HORNADAY AND HIS BATTLES

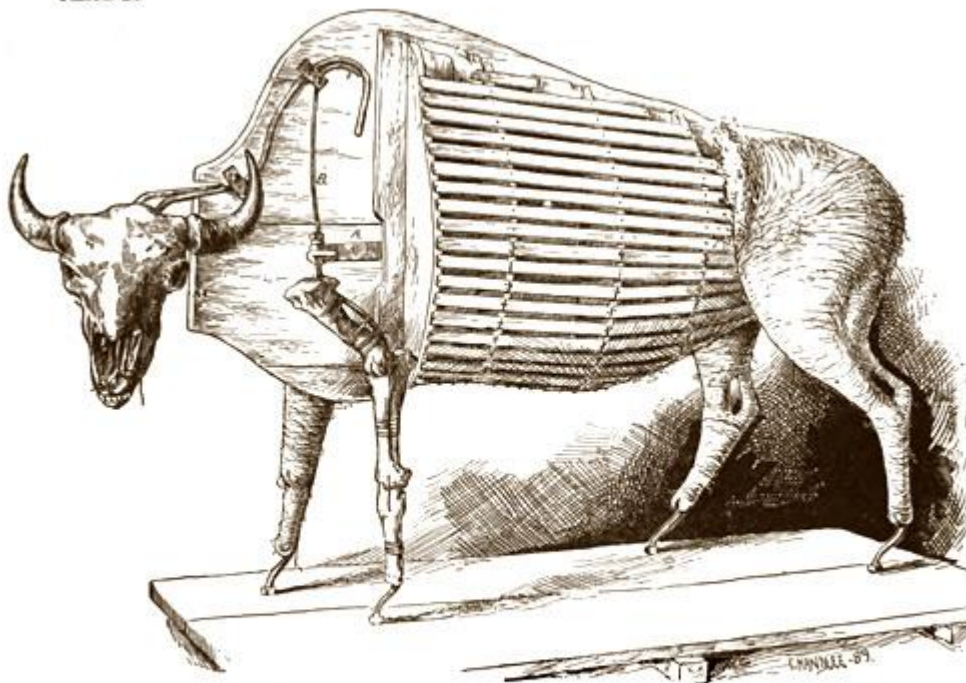
Born in Indiana in 1854, William Hornaday studied zoology and taxidermy at Iowa State University. It was a time when museum exhibits of stuffed animals brought the public face to face with wild creatures they would otherwise never see. Hornaday spent several years as a young scientist traveling the world to gather specimens.



Smithsonian Institution Archives, Image #NHB-3687

William Homaday preparing a museum exhibit

PLATE IX.



MANEIN FOR MALE AMERICAN BISON.—HALF COMPLETED.

From Homaday's 1894 book *Taxidermy and Zoological Collecting*  
The sketch of a frame for mounting a bison hide

His success led him to become the chief taxidermist for the United States National Museum (later called the Smithsonian Institution). He helped establish the National Zoo and became director of the New York's Bronx Zoo, which in turn became the New York Zoological Society.

While on assignment to the western United States, Hornaday became deeply concerned that bison herds once numbering in the millions had been so thoroughly hunted that only a few thousand animals remained. Without protection, those would soon be killed, too, and the species would become extinct.



United States Dept. of Agriculture photo

**American Bison**

With books, speeches, and lobbying legislators, Hornaday threw himself in to the battle to save the bison. He was passionate, argumentative, and aggressive in their defense and that of all wildlife. He made many enemies as well as allies, but felt it was worth it to promote the cause of wildlife protection.





Smithsonian Institution Archives, Image #79-13252

**Hornaday with a bison calf**

Hornaday joined forces with Theodore Roosevelt and other conservationists to establish the American Bison Society in 1905, and had a strong hand in developing the American Bison Range to rebuild buffalo herds in the Great Plains. The successful campaigns were celebrated on the back of the nickel coin minted by the U.S. Government from 1913 to 1938.



For many decades, Philmont Scout Ranch has also played a role in maintaining the viability of American bison. Waite Phillips, who donated Philmont to the BSA, had enjoyed seeing the animals roaming his ranch. Today, a healthy bison herd grazes in the shadow of the Tooth of Time. A porcelain neckerchief slide, available from Philmont's Tooth of Time Traders, celebrates that aspect of Philmont's heritage.



## PERMANENT WILDLIFE PROTECTION FUND

To further his efforts, Dr. Hornaday led the formation of the Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund (P.W.L.P.F.) with monies to pursue a wide range of projects. Among them was an award to recognize people deeply involved in wildlife protection.



Early P.W.L.P.F. medal

The fund was established in 1915, but awards were not issued until 1917. The first went to philanthropist Margaret Olivia Sage.



Library of Congress photo

Margaret Olivia Sage – First Recipient of a  
P.W.L.P.F. Award

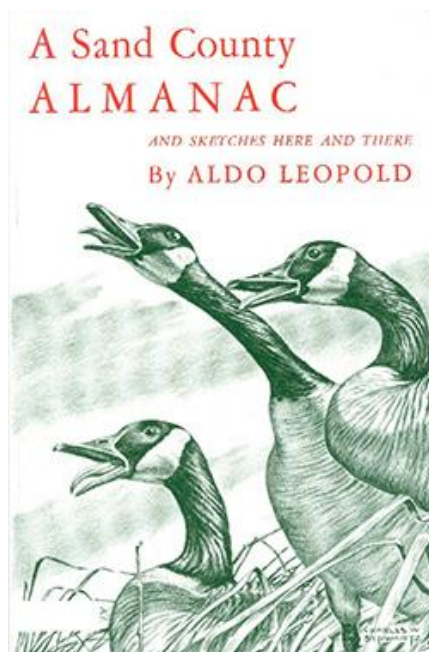
One of the wealthiest Americans of her time, Mrs. Sage donated much of her fortune to support universities, research facilities, and environmental protection projects. Her purchase of Marsh Island off the coast of Louisiana to be a wildlife sanctuary was but one of her qualifications for the first P.W.L.P.F. award.



Aldo Leopold Foundation, Image #2004-0596

**U.S. Forest Ranger Aldo Leopold - 1912**

The second recipient was Aldo Leopold of the U.S. Forest Service, for establishing conservation organizations, promoting game sanctuaries, and working on migratory bird laws and treaties. Dr. Leopold would later write *Sand County Almanac*, laying out a vision of environmental ethics that would influence generations of people concerned about human interaction with the land, and a host of organizations including the Boy Scouts of America.

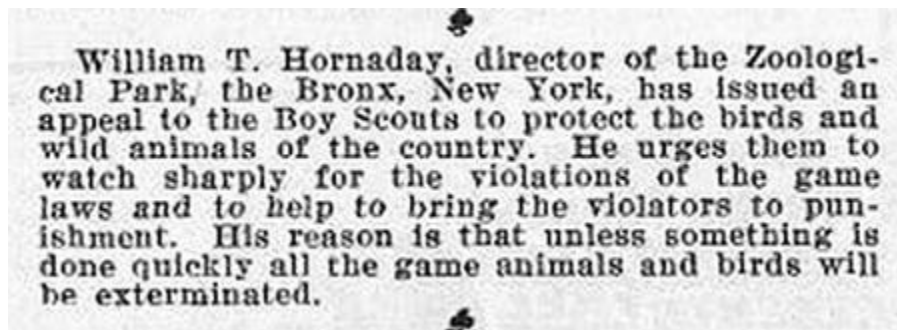


The other two awardees of 1917 were attorney Drew W. Standrod of Boise, Idaho, who had persuaded his state legislature to enact laws protecting the sage grouse, and Dr. T.C. Stephens of Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, for his efforts to restore quail and grouse populations in that state.



## WILLIAM HORNADAY AND SCOUTING

Dr. Hornaday knew a great deal about the Boy Scout movement. He had met Daniel Carter Beard, a founder of the BSA, in 1883. The two became close friends and shared many ideas, especially about ways to promote conservation ethics among young people. A 1911 Boys' Life magazine, published just a year after the BSA began, carried this item:



A decade later, Hornaday laid out the objectives of the Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund medal that Boy Scouts could earn:

- **Furnish a lasting token of appreciation of valuable services rendered to the wild life cause**
- **Attract attention to the duty of the good citizen toward wild life**
- **Develop new leaders in the warfare against the destroyers of wild life**

*Scouting* magazine in 1921 referred to "The Hornaday medal for Distinguished Service to Wild Life" and encouraged boys to pursue it, but noted the requirements were so difficult that no Scout had yet completed them.

A BSA committee formed to make requirements more accessible, and in 1922 the Gold Badge for youth was created to recognize *valuable* service to wildlife protection. (The Gold Medal, set aside for adults, honored *distinguished* service.)





Gold Badge of the Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund

A new pamphlet about the award explained that:

**"To work for Permanent Wild Life Conservation is a task which ought to appeal to every boy, especially to every scout, who is a sworn friend to all harmless creatures in feathers and furs, and is himself dedicated in helpfulness to his community and to his country."**

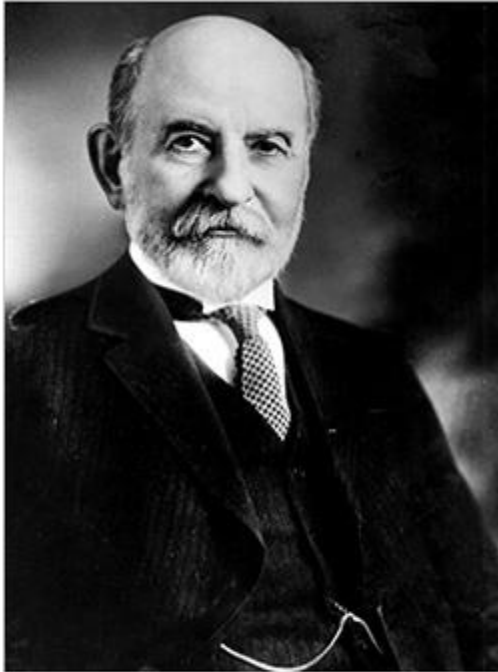
Scouts did begin receiving the award, though to this day it remains one of the most challenging programs the BSA has to offer.



William C. Darrah, a 1927 winner of a Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund award

Dr. Hornaday stayed active within the Boy Scout movement, writing articles for *Boys' Life* magazine and passages on conservation for several editions of the Boy Scout Handbook. Throughout, he never wavered from his strong stand on the importance of wild life protection and the roles that all Americans can play in the preservation of animals and their environments.

Upon his death in 1937, the Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund award was renamed in Hornaday's honor. His old friend Daniel Carter Beard served as a pallbearer at his funeral.



Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library  
**William Temple Hornaday**



Underwood & Underwood - Library of Congress  
**Daniel Carter Beard**



## THE HORNADAY AWARDS TODAY

A hundred years after its founding, the Hornaday awards are as vital as when they were established. BSA units, their members, and Scout leaders are all eligible. (For more on the Hornaday Awards Program and specific requirements, see [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).)



**Hornaday Badge**

Upon approval of a local council, the Hornaday badge is awarded to a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer for outstanding service to conservation and environmental improvement.



**Hornaday Bronze and Silver Medals**

Granted to a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer for exceptional and distinguished service to conservation and environmental improvement. (The distinction between the bronze and silver medals is based primarily on the number and quality of the projects and their impact on the local community.)



**Hornaday Gold Badge**

The gold badge is awarded by a local council to an adult Scouter. The nominee should have demonstrated leadership and a commitment to the education of youth on a council or district level for significant conservation efforts over a period of at least three years.



**Hornaday Gold Medal**

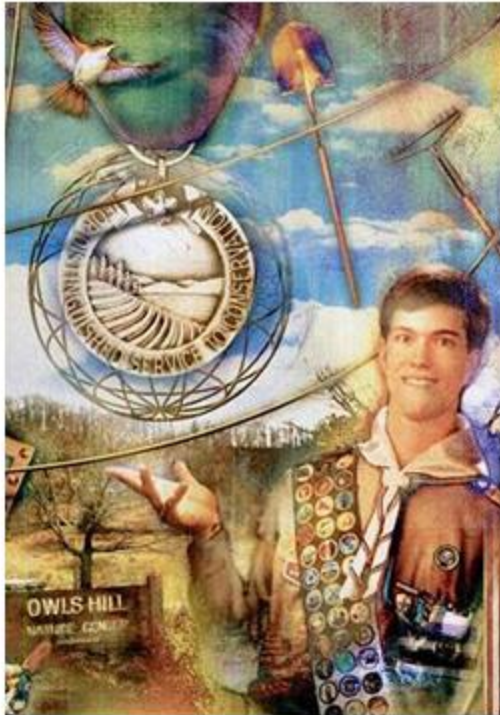
The gold medal recognizes an adult Scouter for unusual and distinguished service in natural resource conservation and environmental improvement at the regional, national, or international level over a period of twenty years or more.

#### **Hornaday Unit Award**

Given to a pack, troop, team, or crew of five or more Scouts or Venturers for a unique, substantial conservation project. At least 60 percent of the registered unit members must participate.

#### **Hornaday Gold Certificate**

Granted to organizations or individuals demonstrating leadership and commitment to the education of youth on a regional, national, or international level that reflects the mission of the William T. Hornaday Awards program.



cHornaday Silver Medal Winners Phillip Zimmermann and Joshua Stone



## A PERSONAL HORNADAY STORY

As writer of the Be Prepared Newsletter, I have many opportunities to explore Scouting's past, including the story of William T. Hornaday. As an outdoor educator and author of current editions of the Boy Scout Handbook, Fieldbook, and Conservation Handbook, I've actively promoted environmental ethics important to Dr. Hornaday. In 2010 I was honored to receive the Hornaday Gold Medal.





Chief Seattle Council photo

**Robert Birkby Receiving the Hornaday Gold Medal**

Last summer I traveled to the Russian Far East to assist in designing and building hiking trails in Sikote-Alin Nature Reserve. The enormous area north of Vladivostok is home to endangered Siberian tigers.



Robert Birkby photo

**A Siberian tiger killed by poachers is on exhibit in a Russian Far East museum**

Siberian tigers face deadly threats from poaching and shrinking habitat. Once numbering in the thousands, there are only a few hundred left. Saving them from extinction is a challenge even greater than that faced by William Hornaday in his efforts to rescue the American bison.



Robert Birkby photo

**Wildlife Conserveation Society headquarters in the Russian Far East**

While in Russia, I stayed at the headquarters of the Wildlife Conservation Society in the village of Terney. Previously known as the New York Zoological Society, the organization was founded by none other than William T. Hornaday. I had, in a way, traveled to the far side of the globe to help out while based at Hornaday's place.



Robert Birkby photo

### **Russian researchers study Siberian tiger tracks**

As I hiked Sikote-Alin trails with researchers dedicated to protecting Siberian tigers, I thought of the many Scouts who, like me, have been energized by the Hornaday awards program to protect wildlife and the environment. Dr. Hornaday would be proud of the legacy he has left around the world. Following in his footsteps is a pathway worthy of every Scout's consideration.





Photo courtesy of Robert Birkby

**A Russian youth conservation club accepts  
a copy of the new BSA Fieldbook from the author**



(This edition of the *Be Prepared Newsletter* was developed and written by Robert Birkby, author of the current editions of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, *Fieldbook*, *Scout Stuff*, *The Conservation Handbook*, and *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*.)