

CUB SCOUT CONSERVATION GOOD TURN AWARD

Since 1910, conservation has been an integral part of the program of the Boy Scouts of America. The BSA has been a positive force in conservation and environmental efforts. Scouts have rendered distinguished public service by helping to conserve wildlife, energy, forests, soil, and water. Past generations of Scouts have been widely recognized for undertaking conservation Good Turn action projects in their local communities.



Scouts of today have grown up with words such as *ecosystem* and *biodiversity*. They recognize the need for, and the benefits of, conserving natural resources. Scouts understand that we all must work together for the betterment of the land, forests, wildlife, air, and water.

Much has been accomplished in recent years by individual Scouts and through unit conservation Good Turns. Much more needs to be done.

Support Your Local Conservationists

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

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.

Participating Agencies

Many federal agencies are resources for the BSA's Conservation Good Turn. These agencies include:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - Soil Conservation Service
 - Forest Service
 - Extension Service

- U.S. Department of the Interior
 - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - National Park Service
 - Geological Survey
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Bureau of Reclamation

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Recognitions

A Conservation Good Turn certificate is available at the council service center for units that participate and report on their efforts. A Conservation-Good Turn patch is also available for purchase at the council service center to recognize individual youth and adult members who participate in a meaningful conservation project. The *World Conservation Award* provides another opportunity for individual Cub



Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Explorers to "think globally" and "act locally" to preserve and improve our environment. This program is designed to make Scouts and Explorers aware that all nations are closely related through natural resources and that we are interdependent with our world environment. Applications for this award are available at the council service center.

Project Ideas

Conservation and environmental agencies typically have a backlog of needed projects that they have been unable to carry out, for lack of funding or volunteers. The list of possible Good turn projects is limited only by the needs of the agency and the willingness of the Scouting unit. In every community, whether urban, suburban, or rural, worthwhile-projects await all Scouting units.

Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts

Cub Scouting conservation, projects should involve the entire Cub Scout pack, each den, adult leaders, and family members. Hands-on projects help Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts realize that everyone can do things to care for the environment. Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts participating in the Conservation Good Turn can also meet some advancement requirements. Suggested projects include, but are not limited to:

- Plant grasses, trees, shrubs, and ground cover to stop soil erosion.
- As a den or pack, adopt a park. Remove litter and garbage from a favorite neighborhood recreation area or park.
- Organize or participate in a recycling program in your neighborhood, or visit a recycling center.
- Arrange a natural resources awareness program. Invite natural resource professionals such as wildlife biologists, soil conservationists, foresters, or conservation officers to speak to your pack.
- Participate in a beach or waterfront cleanup. Record the items collected and determine the possible harmful effects to wildlife. With youth participation, develop a plan to educate the public about the dangers posed to wildlife.
- From a local, state, or national organization that is concerned about environmental protection, obtain suggestions for den and pack projects to improve the environment.
- As a den or pack, visit a public utility to learn about the wise use of resources, and become involved in programs offered by utilities to help consumers conserve resources.
- Contact the camp ranger or BSA local council property superintendent for information about camp needs and plans. Establish a nature trail, plant vegetation, or carry out other needed projects as requested by the camp ranger.

NOTE: *There is not a separate requirement sheet because this award must be earned as a unit. Your unit leader will submit all of the necessary paperwork and obtain your patch for you.*