



Council Conservation Committee

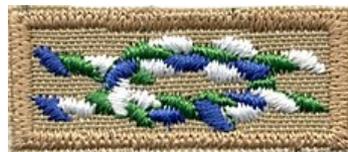
Distinguished Conservation Service Award





Distinguished Conservation Service Award

- **The *Basics*:**
 - The Distinguished Conservation Service Award is a Council approved award
 - The workbook is required for each project and must be completed in its entirety by the Scout/Venturer/ Sea Scout
 - The Award Adviser and the Conservation Adviser are involved with the project throughout the proposal, planning, accomplishment, and reporting.
- Councils should develop their own policies and procedures to administer and oversee the Award
- A Council Board of Review is required to assess every application by a Scout/Venturer/Sea Scout
- The Scout/Venturer/ Sea Scout is recognized with a certificate and a “knot.”





Distinguished Conservation Service Award

- The *goal* of this presentation is to achieve consistency across the many BSA Councils.
- The *benchmark* documentation for the award is found at:

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

- BSA has established Adviser training on Scouting U.
 - The Adviser course should be completed by the Council Conservation Committee Chair, the Council Distinguished Conservation Service Award Coordinator (if specified) or the Council designated lead for overseeing the program.
- Each Council should develop Distinguished Conservation Service Award implementation policies and procedures





If There is No Council Conservation Committee

- **The Council Executive identifies the process and contacts for the Council**
- **Alternatives include:**
 - **Assigning this responsibility to the Council Advancement & Recognition Committee**
 - **Requesting assistance from an adjoining Council that has a Conservation Committee**
 - **Taking action to establish a Council Conservation Committee**





Role of the Conservation Committee

- **Oversight of Distinguished Conservation Service Award administration within the Council**
- **Promotion of the Award**
- **Education of Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts, Scouters and Parents on the requirements**
- **Identification of Advisers – and assisting them in gaining the required training to be a Distinguished Conservation Service Award Adviser**
- **Assist with identification of conservation advisers to advise Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts**
- **Development of Council specific resources to assist project accomplishment**
- **Rules of engagement for projects on BSA properties and camps**





Role of the Conservation Committee

- Determine, and publish, Council policies and procedures for the Distinguished Conservation Service Award program
- Assist Scouts/Venturers/ Sea Scouts with guidance on the *Trail to Distinguished Conservation Service Award approval & award*
- Develop procedures to identify and train Advisers
- Develop procedures to identify conservation advisers
- Coordinate with the Council Property Committee opportunities for Distinguished Conservation Service Award projects on BSA property
- Projects conducted on council properties must be consistent with the Camp Conservation Plan
- Develop resources to assist Scouts/Venturers/Sea Scouts with their projects
- Coordinate Scouting activities with identified land managers and project beneficiaries





Role of the Conservation Committee

- Assist the Scout/Venture/Sea Scout in organizing their project delivery team
 - Award Adviser
 - Conservation Adviser
 - Beneficiary and/or land manager
 - Unit Leader
- Conduct project proposal review and approval (*note this is required prior to beginning field work*)
- Conduct Distinguished Conservation Service Award Boards of Review
- Assist with guidance and support for project planning
- Recommend to the Council Executive, the approval of the Candidate being awarded the Distinguished Conservation Service Award
- Gain National BSA coordination on the Council approved award





Implementing Policies and Procedures

Ideally these policies and procedures should be posted on the Council website.

- Points of contact
- Process for submitting project proposals for review and approval
- Process for supporting project planning
- Process for submitting the application and request for a Board of Review
- Timelines for project proposal review and accomplishment of Boards of Review
- Board of Review membership
- Development of project support resources
- Methods to access Advisers and conservation advisers
- Other items and issues of interest within the Council





Distinguished Conservation Service Award Toolbox

- **The following documents are provided to assist Councils with the administration of the Distinguished Conservation Service Award and development of Council policies and procedures:**
 - **Project Process Handout**
 - **Comparison Eagle to DCSA**
 - **Project Proposal Evaluation**
 - **Project Plan Guide**
 - **Board of Review Documents**
 - **Scouts BSA**
 - **Venturers and Sea Scouts**
 - **Executive Summary Template**





Distinguished Conservation Service Award Process

- **The Basics**
 - The Candidate must use the current Workbook
 - The Candidate accomplishes two projects
 - Project proposal evaluation may be sequential
 - The Board of Review will review both project workbooks, along with the award application
 - The Scout accomplishes merit badges
 - Venturer's and Sea Scouts accomplishes respective additional requirements
 - Process is similar to the Eagle Scout project proposal approval and Board of Review process
 - Adherence and demonstrated understanding/application of the Guide to Safe Scouting is a must!





Distinguished Conservation Service Award Process

- **The Candidate visits the Council Conservation Committee several times**
 - A visit for each project proposal review and approval
 - Other potential visits may be to confer with the Adviser with review of the project plan
 - Final visit is the Distinguished Conservation Service Award Board of Review
- **The project and final application evaluation is:**
 - Based on current criteria
 - Uses evaluation checklist for the project proposal, project plan and the final application
- **Feedback**
 - To the Candidate is essential
 - To the Adviser and the Conservation Adviser is vital





Distinguished Conservation Service Award Process

- **Project proposal – the ‘first 15 pages of the workbook’**
 - **Project Definition**
 - **Identify the project delivery team**
 - **Natural Resource Issue**
 - **Research & Alternative solution identification – leading to the selected alternative**
 - **Assessing Viability of Proposed Solution**
 - **Initial Planning**
 - **Proposed budget**
 - **Education & Publicity Components**
 - **Viability of Proposed Schedule**
- **A project proposal evaluation guide is available for adoption by Councils**





Distinguished Conservation Service Award Process

- **Initial Visit– proposal approval**
 - **Workbook Proposal – the Candidate provides the project proposal, in accordance with Council policies, to the Council office, who in-turn sends the project proposal section to the designated Council Distinguished Conservation Service Award Coordinator**
 - **Council Conservation Committee review of project proposal may be by:**
 - **An ‘informal’ discussion – either in-person or by a ‘virtual’ means**
 - **Review of the submitted documentation**
 - **The Council Conservation Committee (using Project Proposal Evaluation) will determine if the proposal has met established criteria**
 - **If it does not, the project proposal will be returned to the Candidate with specific feedback and a request for a plan and schedule for the proposal resubmission.**
 - **If the project proposal is acceptable, the Council Conservation Committee Distinguished Conservation Service Award Coordinator sign the project proposal and return it to the Candidate – according to established council procedures.**





Distinguished Conservation Service Award Process

- **Visit Two – planning approval**
 - Depending on Council policy, this review may just be with the Distinguished Conservation Service Award adviser and the conservation adviser. It may not involve the Council Conservation Committee
 - The Candidate develops the project plan, assisted where appropriate by the Conservation Adviser and the Award Adviser.
 - The Conservation Adviser and Award Adviser (using the Project Plan Evaluation) will determine if the project continues to meet the goals, objectives, commitments made in the approved project proposal
 - The Conservation Adviser and Award Adviser will explicitly send their approval of the Project plan to the Scout/Venturer/Sea Scout with any comments.





Distinguished Conservation Service Award Process

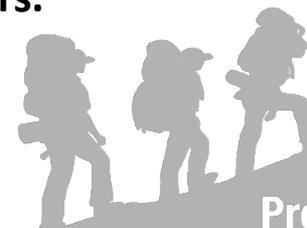
- **Visit Three – Board of Review – Documentation**
 - The Candidate will deliver the final Distinguished Conservation Service Award application package to the Council – as prescribed by Council procedures.
 - The final award package will include
 - Workbook for project 1, to include beneficiary endorsement and appropriate supporting documentation (photos, maps, news articles, etc)
 - Workbook for project 2, to include beneficiary endorsement and appropriate supporting documentation (photos, maps, news articles, etc)
 - Award Application
 - Executive Summary for each project
 - The Award application package may be provided (electronically or physical copy) to each Board member several days prior to the Board of Review





Distinguished Conservation Service Award Process

- **Visit Three – Board of Review** *(continued)*
 - **Prior to the Board of Review, members will review the application package using the appropriate Board of Review checklist**
 - **The Board of Review Procedures are similar to those for an Eagle Board of Review – as established in the BSA Guide to Advancement**
 - **Board of Review Membership is the Council Conservation Committee Chair (or designee), and two to five additional members.**
 - **Members may come from the Council Conservation Committee, other Council Scouters, the Unit, or others as determined by Council policies and procedures**
 - **One or more members of the Board of Review should have completed the Scouting U courses to be nationally trained Advisers.**





Distinguished Conservation Service Award Process

- **Visit Three** *(continued)*
 - The Board of Review is conducted according to Council policies and procedures.
 - The Board of Review may be in-person – or via a virtual meeting platform.
 - The virtual option may be especially useful if geographic distances would cause significant travel, or other factors such as adverse weather.
 - **Board of Review Process**
 - **Segment One:**
 - Duration is +/- 45 minutes
 - The Scout/Venturer/Sea Scout presents to the Committee their two projects (in a manner proscribed by the Council)
 - The Committee Members asks questions of the Candidate (suggested questions are provided in the Evaluation Guides).





Distinguished Conservation Service Award Process

- **Board of Review Process**
 - **The Board takes a recess for discussion (*Segment Two*)**
 - **The Candidate is excused from the discussion**
 - **The Board reviews their evaluation of the Workbook and the presentation by the Candidate**
 - **The Board of Review reconvenes with the Scout/Venturer/Sea Scout (*Segment Three*)**
 - **Distinguished Conservation Service Award Approved**
 - **Board Chair advises the Candidate on “next steps.”**
 - **These include forwarding to the Council Executive for approval, coordination with National BSA, and Council award procedures.**
 - **Distinguished Conservation Service Award Denied**
 - **The Board Chair advises the Candidate on the reasons why, providing specific courses of action to meet or exceed the stated criteria to the Candidate.**
 - **A follow-up meeting may be required with the Candidate, their Award Adviser, and their Conservation Adviser.**
 - **A plan and schedule is developed and agreed to – for the proposal resubmission**





Distinguished Conservation Service Award Process

Council Award Coordinator will work with Council Staff to gain Award approval by:

- Council Executive
- Submittal to BSA national Headquarters (Knot and Certificate)

Council Award Coordinator will make arrangement for presentation of the Award

- A Council Event
 - Council Eagle Award Court of Honor
 - Council Annual Dinner

An event of significance to the Candidate with presentation by the Council Conservation Committee Chair or designee

- District Award Presentation venue
- Unit Award venue (Court of Honor)

- The Council, Award Coordinator will work with the Council marketing team to publish the Candidate's accomplishment:
 - Council Website/Social Media
 - Council newsletters or other publications
 - National BSA publications such as *Bryan on Scouting*, *Scout Life*, etc.
 - Local media (newspaper, radio stations, and TV stations)
- The Council Conservation Committee Award Coordinator will maintain the Award within Council records as prescribed by the Council Distinguished Conservation Service Award policies and procedures.





Questions?

**Contact Your Council Conservation Committee Chair
or
Council Designated Lead for the Distinguished Conservation
Service Award**

