

M. ROBERT MARKS
1565 Obey Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15205



OFFICIAL DATE OF THE HORNADAY AWARD: February 8, 2010

COURT OF HONOR DATE: April 11, 2010
Flag Plaza, Pittsburgh, PA

PARENTS: Lucille M. Olszewski
Michael R. Marks

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WILLIAM T. HORNADAY AWARD – SILVER MEDAL:

The silver medal, the most distinguished in Scouting for exceptional conservation service, is awarded for clearly outstanding efforts in planning, leadership, execution of plans, involvement of others, and opportunities taken to help others learn about natural resource conservation and environmental improvement.

The Hornaday Awards are highly prized by those who have received them. There have been only 94 silver medals awarded since 1914 with only 3 silver medals being awarded last year. Including the bronze level award, approximately 1,100 total medals have been awarded over the past 96 years. This compares with an average of 52,000 Eagle Scouts every year. These awards represent a substantial commitment of time and energy by individuals who have learned the meaning of a conservation/environmental ethic. Any Venturer willing to devote the time and energy to work on a project based on sound scientific principles and guided by a conservation professional or a well-versed layperson can qualify for one of the Hornaday Awards. The awards often take years to complete.

The fundamental purpose of the Hornaday Awards 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 Venturers that have contributed significantly to natural resource conservation and environmental protection.

More info: www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/Awards/HornadayAwards.aspx

ADDITIONAL AWARD TO BE PRESENTED:

On April 11, 2010, Robert will also be receiving the Quartermaster Award which is the highest rank in Sea Scouting. Sea Scouts is a specialized segment of the Venturing, B.S.A. program, which was organized to address members' boating skills and promote knowledge of our maritime heritage.

More info: www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/Venturing/Awards/quarter.aspx

PROJECTS COMPLETED FOR THE HORNADAY AWARD:

In order to receive the Hornaday Award Silver Medal, a Venturer must complete research and training in ecology, conservation and plants & wildlife. He or she must plan, lead, and carry out at least four significant projects in natural resource conservation or environmental improvements, one each from four of eight project categories: energy conservation; soil & water conservation; fish & wildlife management; forestry & range management; air & water pollution control; resource recovery (recycling); hazardous material disposal & management and invasive species control.

Below are the categories chosen and a description of the projects which Robert completed:

Project 1 – Resource Recovery (recycling)

The first project was to collect and then recycle old electronics. Three events were held in Pittsburgh between January and February 2006 where a significant number of old computers, printers, cell phones, TVs and other electronics were collected.

During the project, Robert learned the recycling company originally chosen was not approved by the Allegheny County Health Department or the DEP. Their disposal methods ultimately turned into toxic waste in third world countries. He also learned there were only two recyclers in the area who were disposing of e-waste properly and one of them had gone out of business. The only reputable, approved recycler needed to charge for many of items. The unwillingness to pay for recycling and the news that Goodwill was accepting all eCycling without charge, led to the cancellation of future events.

Although the project did not go as planned, the electronics recycling effort was worthwhile with the following accomplishments:

- Tremendous learning experience.
- Donated a number of usable printers to local schools.
- Recovered some money by recycling of cell phones and print cartridges.
- Assured that a significant number of monitors were disposed of properly.

Project 2 – Invasive Species

The second project involved the removal of the invasive species Garlic Mustard from a section of the Wildflower Reserve at Raccoon Creek State Park. This project was held in the spring of 2008. In addition to educating hundreds of people on the harmful affects of invasive species, the project accomplishments were:

- Established a bi-annual garlic mustard removal project.
- Contributed 232 volunteer hours.
- Filled 32+ trash bags full of invasive species.
- Removed over 200 lbs of garlic mustard.

Project 3 – Soil & Water Conservation

The third project, completed in fall 2009, repaired three sections of trail at the Wildflower Reserve at Raccoon Creek State Park. The largest portion was the removal of an old stairway that was crumbling down the hillside. The other two sections involved repairing the underpinning of a foot bridge and creating a new section of trail where the old section had been washed away.

In order to maintain a strong element of training and education the Boy Scout Soil & Water Conservation merit badge was offered to all Scouts who participated and the trail work completed was used as immediate examples of good practices.

The volunteer work during the actual project was nearly all manual labor. The project accomplishments included:

- Included 73 helpers who also learned about soil & water conservation practices.
- Contributed 378 volunteer hours.
- Presented 49 merit badges to Boy Scouts.
- Created significantly safer trails at the Wildflower Reserve.
- Repaired a bridge, a trail and removed unsafe stairs – all built to withstand future water erosion.

Project 4 – Energy Conservation

The fourth project was a Green Energy Fair held in December 2009. The Fair was part of a larger Green Energy Week at Edinboro University; a series of events that served to educate and motivate students, faculty and the general public by providing as much information as possible on renewable energy, living green and saving energy to allow them to take action.

Thirty-five exhibitors were in attendance including retail stores like Home Depot and community partners like Northwest REC, PNC Bank and National Fuel. Sprinkled into the mix were vendors who sell and install wind turbines and solar panels as well as consultants who can perform an energy audit on homes or show how biomass heating works. Non profit environmental organizations like Asbury Woods Nature Center and the Lake Erie Region Conservancy were also on hand to promote their activities and facilities.

Four workshops were held in conjunction with the fair including classes on biofuels, solar energy, wind power and home energy improvement ideas.

Some key accomplishments for this project include:

- Established an annual event to raise awareness of energy conservation issues.
- Started an e-cycling effort with the campus and community.
- Raised over \$9,000 in sponsors, donations and advertisers.
- Educated thousands of people through the event and the associated website.
- Enabled business-to-business and business-to-university networking to occur along with a collaboration of colleges in the area.

Project 5 – Soil & Water Conservation

This fifth project had been completed in June 2005 and was Robert's Eagle Scout Leadership Service project. One complete Adirondack Shelter in the Pioneer Camping area of Raccoon Creek State Park was built and repair work was started on two Adirondacks that had been built improperly. Robert also rebuilt a portion of the access trails that had been destroyed by Hurricane Ivan.

Some of the results of this project included:

- Raised just under \$1,000 selling hamburgers and hot dogs at Sam's Club to buy the materials for the project.
- Developed project management and leadership skills that would be used throughout all the future projects.
- Significant elements of soil and water conservation were included in the project.

Project 6 – Resource Recovery (recycling)

The sixth Hornaday project was part of the larger Green Energy Week at Edinboro University in December 2009. As the last Hornaday project, it strengthened Robert's first project effort on recycling and added a deeper dimension of learning and insight into how our actions affect the planet.

In order to emphasize the practical aspects of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," Robert brought noted "green" activist Colin Beavan to Edinboro University. Colin is the author of the book and director of the documentary No Impact Man. His year long project to reduce his environmental footprint and live sustainably served as an inspiration to make changes in our own lives.

A few of the accomplishments of this project include:

- Delivered sustainable living message (reusing, recycling and reducing) to 500+ people.
- Secured Mr. Beavans' speaker fees at no charge to the University.
- Enabled one of the professors to show the No Impact Man movie and launch a "No Impact Challenge".

ABOUT M. ROBERT MARKS:

M. Robert Marks has been involved in Scouting for over 12 years. In addition to the Quartermaster Award, he has earned a several other awards including Eagle Scout, the Venturing Silver Award; William D. Boyce Award, the Venturing Leadership Award and the Venturing Ranger Award. He also earned the James M. Stewart Good Citizenship Award, The Freedom Trail Award and the US Heritage Award.

Outside of Boy Scouts, Robert earned The Congressional Award–Gold Medal, two (2) President's Volunteer Service Awards–Gold, the Presidential Champions Award–Gold and the OLSH Helping Hands Award–Platinum Level.

Through various Scouting programs, Rob has travelled the United States. He built portage trails in the boundary waters of Minnesota, built new hiking trails in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico, cleaned-up Big Munson Island and worked on the coral reef in the Florida Keys, built trails in three national forests: Bridger-Teton (Wyoming), Shasta Trinity (California) and Washington-Jefferson (Virginia). He also biked the C&O Canal, hiked portions of the Appalachian Trail, sailed the Chesapeake Bay, backpacked and camped in the Grand Canyon, rafted the Colorado River, climbed the Red Rocks National Park, swam in Lake Mead, hiked The Narrows and Zion National Park and ran the rapids of the New River Gorge.

In the fall of 2009, Robert was a short term staff member at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland which enabled him to travel throughout Europe for four months. He is scheduled for a similar staff assignment at the Suncheon Asia-Pacific Scout Centre in South Korea this fall.

Robert is in his first year at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania studying engineering. He completed his EMT certification last fall as well as his Adventure Diver PADI certification last summer. Mr. Marks continues to volunteer as an adult on Scout training staffs, is a member of the BSA Speakers' Bureau and an Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 358, Coraopolis, PA.

PICTURES & MORE INFORMATION: MRMarks@verizon.net (412) 956-7117