

Greater Dakotah Chapter Hunter/Conservation Award

Character and Sportsmanship

This category, comprising (25%) of the total award judging value, is concerned with the hunter's character, integrity in the field, and lifelong commitment to hunting. Some examples of factors considered might include:

1. Records of compliance (or non-compliance) with local, national and international laws, regulations and treaties regarding the taking of game animals;
2. Reputation and evidence of dedication to the principles of fair chase and ethical hunting
3. Leadership in establishing/promoting anti-poaching, hunter ethics and other programs designed to enhance the image of ethical hunters
4. Record of assistance/membership to organizations established to promote and protect the rights of ethical hunters.

Conservation and Education

This category, representing (50%) of the total judging value, is intended to give consideration to each Nominee's contributions to wildlife conservation and education demonstrating the positive role hunting plays in conserving the world's wildlife.

Although every hunter who is under consideration for the GDC-SCI Award has already contributed greatly to wildlife conservation efforts through purchases of licenses and tags, trophy fees, taxes on equipment, etc., this category recognizes only direct contributions to specific conservation programs. Examples might include:

1. Contributions (financial or otherwise) toward specific conservation projects, such as wildlife habitat conservation or restoration, working for the conservation, propagation, and/or reintroduction of endangered game or non-game wildlife species
2. Participation in trapping/relocation programs for the improvement of genetic diversity within a specific wildlife population
3. Serving on boards or in various capacities within existing conservation organizations, and/or individual projects undertaken by the nominee.

This category also recognizes the importance of education and involving young people in the positive role of hunting, in wildlife conservation programs, and as a healthy outdoor recreation pursuit. Examples might include establishing

1. Funding or assisting shooting/hunting education programs in schools, scouting groups, 4-H, etc.
2. Working to establish special hunts or hunting areas for young hunters (Youth Hunting Adventures); or contributions of hunts to young people, disabled hunters (veterans, youth, adults).
3. SCI American Wilderness Leadership School.
4. Female hunter involvement such as Becoming and Outdoor Woman (BOW)

Hunting Accomplishments

This category (25%) of the total judging value, relates directly to the hunter's accomplishments in the field as represented by the trophies actually collected. Factors to be considered include:

1. Number and variety of species of game animals taken
 2. Quality of trophies, number, geographical distribution, and difficulty of hunts represented by trophies taken.
 3. "Do it Yourself Hunts" on Public or Private Lands
- Represents the ultimate embodiment of the hunter-conservationist philosophy.
 - Exhibits extensive hunting experience.
 - Demonstrates a lifetime of commitment to wildlife conservation and education through volunteer service and philanthropy.