

Thomas Alva Edison Supernova Award Requirements

- 1. Earn the Dr. Bernard Harris Supernova Award.
- 2. Complete ONE additional Scouts BSA Nova award for a total of four. (Note: This may be done at any time after becoming a member of Scouts BSA.)
- 3. Earn FOUR additional Supernova-approved merit badges from the list below, other than the four earned while working on the Harris Supernova Award for a total of eight. (Note: These may be earned at any time after becoming a Scout.) Use merit badges that were not previously used for Nova awards.

Animal Science	Environmental Science	Oceanography
Archaeology	Farm Mechanics	Plant Science
Architecture	Fish and Wildlife Management	Programming
Astronomy	Forestry	Pulp and Paper
Automotive Maintenance	Game Design	Radio
Aviation	Gardening	Reptile and Amphibian Study
Bird Study	Geocaching	Robotics
Chemistry	Geology	Scuba Diving
Composite Materials	Health Care Professions	Signs, Signals, and Codes
Dentistry	Insect Study	Soil and Water Conservation
Digital Technology	Inventing	Space Exploration
Drafting	Mammal Study	Surveying
Electricity	Medicine	Sustainability
Electronics	Mining in Society	Veterinary Medicine
Energy	Nature	Weather
Engineering	Nuclear Science	Welding

- 4. Complete TWO additional Supernova activity topics, one each in the two STEM areas NOT completed for the Harris Supernova Award. (Note: The intent is that upon completion of the Edison Supernova Award the Scout will have completed one Supernova activity topic in each of the four STEM areas.)
- 5. Participate in a local, state, or national science fair or mathematics competition OR any other equally challenging STEM-oriented competition or workshop approved by your mentor. An example of this would be an X-Prize type competition. (Note: The intent is that upon completion of the Edison Supernova Award, the Scout will have participated in two such events.)

- 6. Working with your mentor, organize and present a Nova award or other STEM-related program to a Cub Scout den or pack meeting. Be sure to receive approval from the appropriate unit leader. If a Cub Scout den or pack is not available, your presentation may be given to another youth group, such as your troop or at your place of worship. (Note: The intent is that upon completion of the Edison Supernova Award the Scout will have completed two such presentations.)
- 7. Research a scientific, technical, engineering, or mathematical breakthrough or invention of the past 100 years that has affected our society in a meaningful way and present your hypothesis on how it might further affect our society during your lifetime. Present either a 30-minute oral report or a 1,500-word written report to your mentor.
- 8. Submit your Supernova Award application to the district or council Nova or advancement committee for approval.

GSLAC Revised 6/1/2025