



SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

*Diana Award*

## **SCI DIANA AWARD GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATES**

This guidance, in the form of FAQs, has been prepared by the Diana Award Selection Committee to brief potential candidates on the criteria for the award. Named for the huntress of Roman mythology, it recognizes the women of SCI who have excelled in international big game hunting. Consideration is given to the variety and difficulty of species hunted. Nominees will have shown exemplary ethics in the field, remained committed to the mission statement of SCI, and have personally given of their time and energies to enhance wildlife conservation and education.

### **1. Does a candidate have to have a minimum number of species to win the award?**

There is no fixed minimum number of species required for the award. We expect a candidate to have hunted a wide variety of animals and to have hunted a significant number of animals over a number of years, to demonstrate dedication to hunting. We do not set a minimum number as we do not want to encourage candidates to accumulate a list of “easy” animals with the award in mind, rather than taking more interesting or difficult hunts, perhaps for one difficult animal. In assessing the quality of a candidate’s hunting “portfolio”, we consider the number of species but the variety and difficulty is also important. Game birds do not count towards the number of species or continents a candidate has hunted, but candidates may include bird species under the “other hunting/conservation accomplishments” section of the application form.

### **2. How much international hunting is required to win?**

Ideally candidates should have taken a significant number of international hunts, and to have hunted on all or most continents. However, we recognise that your home continent (particularly North America) may provide significant difficult hunting adventures that make a valuable contribution to your “portfolio”.

### **3. Are certain species required e.g. the Big 5, argali sheep?**

There is no requirement for particular species, although past winners have tended to have taken at least some of the Big 5 and some mountain game. We recognise that you can demonstrate your skill and determination on an ibex hunt just as much as on a more expensive Marco Polo sheep hunt. Free range species are given more weight than animals taken in a fenced environment.

### **4. What non-hunting contributions impress the committee?**

We look for the expenditure of personal time and energy. You must be able to tell us how YOU contributed your time, skill and dedication as an individual. Involvement with SCI is mandatory, but involvement in organizations or projects in keeping with SCI’s mission is also considered.

There are many ways that you can get involved - here are just a few examples of activities that would qualify: the SCI blue bag program, volunteering with an SCI chapter, volunteering with the Education Sables (either at national or chapter level), active fundraising for hunter advocacy or conservation initiatives (at national or local level), lobbying, public speaking or writing articles in support of hunter advocacy or conservation, conservation projects on your own land, or involvement in local community conservation projects.

**5. Is there a minimum age for candidates?**

Yes, women must be 23 years old or more.

**6. Is the award presented each year?**

The first Diana Award was presented in 1995, and has been presented each year since except for 2016. If the committee feels that there are no suitable candidates in any given year, the award is not presented that year.

**7. How is the winner chosen?**

The winner is chosen on a vote by all the previous award winners. In June each year, we review the SCI record book to find SCI women members who have submitted over 50 record book or photo entries. We invite those women to consider completing and submitting the detailed application form (by 1 September). At that stage, they may not be a front runner but if we see their application it gives us an opportunity to offer feedback for further development. We use the SCI record book and photo system as a means of verifying a candidate's hunting experience, and cannot give credit for animals which have not been entered in this way. Get your trophies submitted early - at least 75% of those which you list in your application must have been submitted by 1 July so there is time for the record book committee to verify them. Any SCI member can enter trophies in the record book under an identification number, rather than their names, if they prefer. The applications received are emailed to all of the committee members, who will vote on a winner on a telephone call in late September, after a detailed discussion comparing the applications. Do not send letters of recommendation, as while conduct is important, letters of recommendation are not taken into account and won't be forwarded to the committee for consideration. The award is presented on Saturday evening at convention the following February.

SCI Diana Award Sub-Committee  
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