

FORESTER -- OUTDOOR GROUP

The Forester Activity Badge is part of the Outdoor group. The Webelos Scouts will learn how to identify the trees around them, how trees grow, and how to prevent forest fires.

At one time, both the east and west coasts of the United States formed a continuous changing, forest of trees ranging from pines to palm. Then, in a period of 350 years these forests came down and in their place rose eroded hillsides, flooded plains, and dead animals. The small areas, of forested land left are in danger of being destroyed by the advent of asphalt, pollution and people. The purpose of the Forester badge is to teach the boys to respect one of the few things that serve people while they live and after they die...trees.

Unless you are an avid gardener or outdoorsman, you may need a little more information to prepare you for this badge. There are some excellent free resources out there. Here's just a few:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division, will send you a publication called "A Guide to Your National Forests", showing all the national forests and national grasslands and other lands administered by the U. S. Forest Service. The back of the map is chock full of information about the forest service.

Write to them at the address below and request publication FS-418, "A Guide To Your National Forests":

U.S.D.A.-Forest Service
201 14th St., SW
P. O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

The U. S. Forest also will send you these publications if you write to the address below and request them: "Keeping Trees Healthy" (no. A7800430), "Trees Are Valuable" (no. 7800429) and "Planting A Tree" (no. 7800428). Write to:

Forest Service, USDA
P. O. Box 2417
Washington, DC 20013

GLOBAL RELEAF is a program of the U.S.A.'s oldest nonprofit conservation organization, American Forests. Write and request their comprehensive information package:

GLOBAL RELEAF, P. O. Box 2000,
Washington, DC 20013-2000

The NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION offers several publications and will send them to you if you write to them at this address:

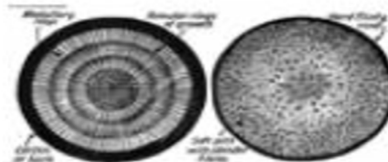
The National Arbor Day Foundation
100 Arbor Avenue
Nebraska City, NE 68410

Objectives:

- ✓ To make boys more observant and appreciative of trees.
- ✓ To instill the idea of conservation in WEBELOS Scouts.
- ✓ To teach boys the value and uses of trees.
- ✓ To make WEBELOS Scouts aware of devastation due to wildlife.

Pack and Den Ideas

- ✓ Visit a lumber yard, a sawmill, or a tree farm.
- ✓ Spend a den meeting teaching WEBELOS Scouts how to measure tree heights (see Official Boy Scout Handbook).
- ✓ Contact a local tree service and see if you arrange to have the den watch a crew "in action".
- ✓ Plant saplings in the spring as a conservation project.
- ✓ Make a tree exhibit "from roots to fruit: for a pack meeting.
- ✓ Make a tree identification kit for your den from strips of bark, leaves or needles and cones or seeds.
- ✓ Plant a tree.
- ✓ Find a tree stump or log section and count the annular rings. As you study them, can you tell what years were poor ones for growth, perhaps because of drought?



Ceremonies

Suggested Props: Leaf (real or made from paper, cardboard or cloth).

Presentation: Present boy with leaf award at the beginning of the meeting.

Skits

The Trees

- ✓ All the boys except one lined up in a row facing the audience, spaced at least three feet apart.
- ✓ The remaining boy is the narrator.
- ✓ An adult "volunteer" is selected; usually this is the Cubmaster.
- ✓ He/ She is instructed to stand off to the side until he hears the word spring. That is his cue to start running between the trees for a few minutes.