

Forester Activity Badge

Learning Objectives	<p>As a result of this training experience, participants should be able to teach the following activities for the Forester activity badge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify six forest trees common to their geographic area.• Identify six forest plants (other than trees) that are useful to wildlife.• Properly plant a seedling tree.• Make a poster showing how a tree's growth rings tell its life history.
Trainer Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study the training outline.• Review the information on the Forester activity badge in the <i>Webelos Handbook</i> and the <i>Webelos Leader Guide</i>.• Gather displays such as those suggested below.• Determine the route of a short hike to identify forest plants that are useful to wildlife.• Practice and time your presentation in advance to help you stay within the time limit.
Materials	<p>33452, <i>Webelos Handbook</i>, Forester activity badge</p> <p>33853A, <i>Webelos Leader Guide</i>, Forester activity badge</p> <p>Several "tree cookies" (slices of a limb showing tree rings) from different-sized trees</p> <p>Seedling tree, shovel, bucket of water</p> <p>Posters from USDA Forest Service or state forestry department showing leaves, types of trees, useful products from wood, etc.</p> <p>Small handbook for tree and leaf identification</p> <p>Materials for activity during the hike (crayons and paper if making leaf or bark rubbings)</p>
Handout	"Leaf Quiz" (see appendix)
Display Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leaf specimens, leaf prints, types of bark, types of wood• Boy-made poster showing life history of a tree• Material from the National Arbor Day Foundation (check the Web for more information)
Before You Begin	<p>The four activity badge sessions—Naturalist, Geologist, Forester, and Outdoorsman—can be presented as a round-robin for up to four training dens by setting them up as stations in close proximity to each other. The dens could then rotate from station to station every 20 minutes for a small-group learning experience. For five dens, Health and Safety can be added as a station. Up to 10 training dens can be accommodated by having pairs of dens travel together.</p>
Time	20 minutes. Start on time. End on time.

Activity Badge Requirements	Review the requirements for the Forester activity badge.
Resources for Ideas	<p>Show the items on display. Tell where to find the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service division, for posters or other items.</p> <p>List the resources available in your area. These could include nature centers; sawmills; lumberyards; and city, county, or state forestry divisions. Some of these places might be good for den field trips also.</p>
Nature Hike Ideas	Take the training den on a short hike to identify trees in the area. Use a tree identification book that shows different trees and leaves. Use the "Leaf Quiz" to help identify trees. During the hike, have the den identify other forest plants that are useful to wildlife. Examples might include bird or squirrel nests, leaves with chewed edges (food for small "critters"), holes in leaves, webs of spiders and insects.
Bark Rubbing	During the hike, have each participant make a bark rubbing or leaf rubbing. Bark rubbings would also make a great display at the monthly pack meeting.
Tree Cookies	<p>If you have used a saw to cut wood for a fire, have the participants examine the clean ends of the branch, or a slice of a branch or tree called a "tree cookie."</p> <p>What can the rings tell you? The number of rings will tell the age of the tree (or the limb). The width of the rings helps indicate the type of weather during that year. Usually, narrow rings indicate little moisture, low temperatures, and/or little growth, while wide rings indicate a good growing season with plenty of moisture.</p>
Planting a Seedling	If you are able to obtain seedling trees, demonstrate how to plant a tree. If you have several trees available, participants might help start a mini-forest. Also consider getting involved in National Arbor Day, which is observed on different dates in different parts of the country to coincide with the best tree-planting weather.
Additional Activities	<p>The <i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i> and the <i>Webelos Leader Guide</i> have many other suggestions for activities for the Forester activity badge. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaf Identification Contest • Tree Identification Board • Measuring a Tree • A Tree Survey • Various games
Summary	<p>Show and discuss any other displays you may have.</p> <p>Ask participants if they have other suggestions for places to visit or other activities for the Forester activity badge.</p>