



Into the Woods

Cub Scouts · Elective · Arrow of Light rank

Name

Started

Completed

Into the Woods turns you into a tree expert. You'll count trees in a wooded area, pick one to study, and learn how it survives and helps wildlife. You'll never look at a forest the same way.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/into-the-woods/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

- ☐ **1** Visit a place with trees and plants and take a tree inventory; pick one tree to use for the rest of the requirements

Tip: Walk a small wooded area with an adult and list the trees you see. Pick one favorite to study.

Example: Mark off an area about the size of a basketball court with your patrol. Count and list every tree by kind: "12 oaks, 8 maples, 3 pines, 1 we couldn't name." Then pick one tree to study.

- ☐ **2** Figure out whether your tree is deciduous or evergreen

Tip: Check if your tree keeps its leaves or needles all year or loses them in fall.

- ☐ **3** Figure out whether your tree is native to your area or was introduced

Tip: Use a tree guide or app to find out if your tree started here or came from somewhere else.

Example: Native trees grew here before European settlers arrived, like many oaks and sugar maples. Introduced trees came from other places, like the Norway maple. Check a tree guide or your state forestry website.

☐ **4** Find out how your tree copes with wildfire

Tip: Look for thick bark or other features, and research how your tree handles fire.

Example: Some trees have thick bark that protects them from fire, like many pines. Some cones open after a fire's heat, and some trees sprout again from their roots. Find out which kind your tree is.

☐ **5** Learn how wildlife uses your tree

Tip: Look for nests, holes, nuts, or tracks around your tree and find out which animals use it.

Example: Look for clues: holes from woodpeckers, nests in branches, chewed nuts underneath, or caterpillars on leaves. Then research which animals eat your tree's seeds or live in it.