

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 25, 2023

TO: All County 4-H Agents, 4-H Program Assistants, and Volunteer Leaders

FROM: Renee Strnad, Environmental Educator, Extension Forestry

RE: 2023 4-H Forestry Invitational

It is time to begin registering teams for the North Carolina 4-H Forestry Invitational! The invitational will be held on **Saturday, September 30, 2023**, at Schenck Memorial Forest in Raleigh from 10am – 5pm. The first-place senior team will have the opportunity to represent North Carolina at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational held at Jackson's Mill 4-H Center in Weston, West Virginia, in July 2024.

The state contest will consist of:

- Tree Identification – 25 species (~60 minutes)
- Tree Measurement – 15 trees (60 minutes)
- Forest Insect & Disease Identification; 10 of each (30 minutes)
- Compass Traverse (~60 minutes)

Following is the registration form for this year's Forestry Invitational. Please return the completed registration form by **Friday, September 13, 2023**. Make additional copies of the attached registration form as needed. Please note that I am trying to gauge beforehand 4-Hers that will need the assistance of a Proctor. Proctors can be used to help 4-Hers with reading or writing. If you have 4-Hers that need assistance with any reading (minimum in forestry) or writing answers on the scoresheets, please note the need on the revamped registration form. Teams requesting proctors are encourage to bring additional adults to help proctor other counties if needed. As always, parents/guardians can assist Cloverbuds anytime during the contest. All registered teams will receive a confirmation and any needed additional information by September 18. Note the ages for each level, based on the 4-Hers age as January 1 of this year: Senior Level 14-18 YO, Junior 8-13 YO, Cloverbuds >8 YO.

All events will be individual events, with individual member scores combined for the team score. Team members do not work together on events. Teams consist of 3-4 members. The team score is the combination of the top three individual scores in each event, and therefore, it is advantageous to put forth a four-member team. Counties may bring more than one Junior and Senior team, each consisting of three to four members, as well as any individual competitors. Neighboring counties (no more than two) may combine 4-Hers to create a team. Support resources can be found on the newly created Google Site, go.ncsu.edu/extfor_4Hcontests.

A small working group of coaches and 4-H Agents came together to discuss ways to make the contest more approachable and successful for 4-Hers of all learning levels. One of these changes was introducing the request for Proctors on the registration form. Another change for the 2023 program will be the scoring for Tree ID, Insect ID, and Disease ID. For the Junior Level, points will not be deducted for spelling errors, allowing younger learners to sound out and spell the names of trees, insects, and diseases without worry of having points deducted for spelling. Senior level competitors are still required to have all words listed exactly as provided in the forestry event manual. Senior level competitors may request a Proctor, but accommodations may be very limited or unavailable at the national contest.

A few additional reminders:

- Teams must provide their own clipboards, pencils, Biltmore sticks, and calculators for each team member. We will provide hardhats and mirrored compasses.
- Water coolers will be available on-site, and teams are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles.
- Teams will need to bring their own lunch, and plan to pack out any trash.
- Anyone can wear a mask to protect themselves or their family members from COVID or other viruses. The decision of anyone to mask at any time during the event will be respected by the program coordinator and all 4-H youth, coaches, and families in attendance. If you are not feeling well, or have had a possible exposure to someone who is being tested for COVID/has tested positive for COVID, please stay home.

Lastly, as you begin making plans (but don't have your teams hammered out yet), here are some web sites that might be useful.

- The 2023 State Contest will be based on the National 4-H Forestry Invitational Handbook for North Carolina (2016) (<http://forestry.ces.ncsu.edu/4h> or go.ncsu.edu/extfor_4Hcontests).
- **NCSU Schenck Memorial Forest** <https://schenckforest.ncsu.edu/>
- **Area Hotels/Motels** There are a number of popular hotel chains in the area
- **National Forestry Invitational Page** <https://4hforestryinvitational.org/>
- **NC Forestry Invitational Information** <http://forestry.ces.ncsu.edu/4h> or go.ncsu.edu/extfor_4Hcontests
- Need Biltmore Sticks? Reach out to Renee! We currently have them in stock. They are \$4.55 each, minimum order of 10.
- We encourage teams to work with their NC Forest Service county rangers (http://ncforestservice.gov/contacts/contacts_main.htm), a local environmental education center (<https://www.eenorthcarolina.org/visit>), or a consulting forester in your area (http://ncforestservice.gov/managing_your_forest/consulting_foresters.htm).

Good luck and I look forward to seeing you and your 4-Hers at Schenck this fall!



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Environmental Educator
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2023 REGISTRATION FORM

Forestry Invitational

September 30, 2023 Schenck Memorial Forest, Raleigh

County _____ Date _____

Make copies of this form as needed. *If requesting proctor, please note if help is needed with reading or writing and consider bringing extra adults to help proctor for other counties.* Please see registration memo for more information. **Registration deadline is September 13, 2023.**

Names of Senior Team Members/Individuals	Age	Proctor Needed (Yes/No)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Names of Junior Team Members/Individuals	Age	Proctor Needed (Yes/No)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Names of Cloverbuds	Age
_____	_____
_____	_____

Names and contact information of team coaches attending contest

_____	_____
(phone) _____	(phone) _____
(Email) _____	(Email) _____

County 4-H Agent Approval (Or County Director if no 4-H Agent)

I verify that the team coach(es) has been properly vetted and background checked at the county level, and that all team members listed are valid 4-H club members who meet the official eligibility requirements.

_____	_____
(Name)	(Signature)

RETURN FORM TO:

4-H Forestry
Extension Forestry
North Carolina State University
Campus Box 8008
Raleigh, NC 27695-8008

OR FAX TO:
919-515-6883

OR EMAIL TO:
renee_strnad@ncsu.edu