No matter where you live, you depend upon forests. In the 4-H Forestry project, youth will learn the importance of forests as a natural resource that provides many essential materials for our daily lives. Youth will explore forest ecology and forest issues and understand the importance of forests as places of resource management, recreation, as well as for beauty and solitude. This project will provide youth with knowledge and skills so they can

- Learn how forests and forests products are managed.
- Understand the complex nature of environmental challenges.

### Starting Out
**Beginner**
- Learn about the structure and function of trees
- Explore the diversity of trees in your community
- Observe trees closely to monitor changes over time and study trees as habitats

### Learning More
**Intermediate**
- Read about how humans depend upon forests for a number of ecosystem services
- Learn how forests provide oxygen for clean air and provide for clean water
- Conduct field study surveys and tree measurements
- Invite an urban forester to talk on forest issues

### Exploring Depth
**Advanced**
- Learn how trees support a healthy balance in dynamic ecological communities
- Create a place based community health plan including new tree plantings
- Become aware of how individuals can make choices for positive change in their communities

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.
Healthy Living

- Recycle paper products
- Reduce excess use of paper products and buy products made from recycled materials

Field Days – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available, such as a field day.

Leadership

- Investigate the ecological significance of fires
- Learn how communities can become more fire safe
- Study invasive species that affect their local forests

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

Resources

- Project Learning Tree
  www.plt.org
- Guides: Walk in the Forest, Connecting Kids to Nature
  https://www.plt.org/family-activities-connect-kids-to-nature-forest
- Webinars: Climate Change, Schoolyard Trees
  https://www.plt.org/webinars
- California ReLeaf
  www.californiareleaf.org
- California Forest Foundation
  www.calforestfoundation.org
- Shasta Forests
  www.shastafound.org

Connections & Events

- Presentation Days – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.
- Field Days – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

Curriculum

- Project Learning Tree Focus on Forests curriculum
  www.plt.org/focus-on-forests
- California Oaks
  www.californiaoaks.org/

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Light Your Spark Flex Your Brain Reach Your Goals

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