

## **CADETTE: TREES**

Hey Girl Scout! Enjoy learning more information about trees. Discover the science, the legends and all the characteristics that make trees unique. When you have earned this badge, you'll have gone to the root of what trees are all about - and branched out as a naturalist.

### **Step 1: Try some tree fun.**

1. We are going to start off by going outside and enjoy the trees. While sitting outside, start designing a treehouse. Check out the basics of architectural drawing and draft the plans for your dream treehouse. Then present your plans to your family and see if they'd like living there.
2. Have your other troop members or your family, make treehouse plans. Then vote for the favorite, the most creative, or the most complex design.

Supplies:

1. Paper
2. Pencil
3. Crayons
4. Computer

### **Step 2: Dig into the amazing science of trees.**

1. Now it is time to look at how trees grow. Find out how trees serve the earth, and the plants and animals in their ecosystems.
2. Take a walk through your neighborhood and identify at least five different types of trees. Then make a "tree map" with each kind of tree and where it is located. Think about these questions. How did those trees get there? Were they natural or planted? Native or imported?
3. Then choose your favorite tree that you found and make an annotated sketch that shows layers and levels. from the top to bottom roods. Also take note on how three kinds of plants or animals use your tree.

Supplies:

1. Paper
2. Pencils
3. Computer

### **Step 3: Make a creative project starring trees.**

1. Trees have always inspired people to create. Now it is time for you to turn your knowledge into art.
2. Get tree crafty by trying leaf or bark jewelry. Try a sculpture with acorns, pinecones, or recycled wood. Make leaf coasters or a decorated walking stick. Or try your hand at painting, drawing, sketching or sculpting a tree, leaf, tree flower, or tree landscape.

Supplies:

1. Tree parts
2. Paper
3. Pencils

**Step 4: Explore the connection between people and trees.**

1. Trees benefit us by food, inspiration, and oxygen, However, they also provide fuel, medicine, and shelter. Naturalists know all the moving parts surrounding their subjects.
2. Debate logging, clear-cutting, and deforestation. People cut down trees for a variety of reasons - lumber, paper and grazing land. There are pros and cons for both trees and humans. Research each side so you understand the issues and then try to argue both sides.

**Supplies:**

1. Computer
2. Paper
3. Pencils

**Step 5: Help trees thrive.**

1. Now it is time to use your tree knowledge to get involved in the tree action in your community. Plant a tree in your yard, at your school, or in the park. Choose a kind of tree that matches the need. Then take care of the tree for at least one month. Keep notes on how often it needs water and if the new bark needs protection from animals or weather.
2. If you can not plant a tree, find one that needs your help. Take care of that tree for at least of a month. You might need to rake leaves, help prevent insect damage, or trim branches.