



LEAF-Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Enriching Students. Sustaining Forests.

The Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Education Program

FORESTER ACTIVITY GUIDE

LEAF is a partnership program between
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources—Division of Forestry
and
Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point





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LEAF: Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program

LEAF was created to help promote forestry education in Wisconsin schools. In 2001, Wisconsin K-12 forestry education stakeholders evaluated the current status of and the needs for Wisconsin-based K-12 forestry education. A variety of programs existed, but voids were identified in delivery and dissemination of educational materials and services. To offer a more unified effort, stakeholders supported the development of a comprehensive program that would enhance existing efforts.

During the spring of 2001, legislation was written to establish the LEAF program as a partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry and the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education at the College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Funding for the program is provided through a surcharge on the sale of seedlings from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry nurseries.

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LEAF

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE)

College of Natural Resources (CNR)

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Forester Activities

2022

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources—Division of Forestry LEAF
LEAF Program—Wisconsin Center for Environment Education



Rationale

- This resource will help you prepare an age-appropriate, interactive, outdoor (modifiable to indoor) program/activity for youth in grades Kindergarten through twelve. Each program/activity enriches existing lessons from *LEAF's Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Lesson Guides*.

Forester Activity Guide Includes:

- TEMPLATES to use when contacting educators (initial, confirmation, follow-up)
- TIPS for working indoors or outdoors in rural or urban settings with various grade-levels
- INTRODUCTION, Theme 1: What Does a Forester Do? Allows you a chance to introduce yourself and share the role of a forester.
- LESSON THEMES (2 through 5) include activities that support the most-requested topics for Forester Presentations
 - 2: Caring for the Forest
 - 3: Forest Products / Benefits
 - 4: Tree Planting & Restoration
 - 5: Fire
- PRINTABLE Lessons in PDF format that are easily accessible
- LINKS to Wisconsin's Environmental and Sustainable Literacy Standards
- RESOURCES that can be shared with educators that connect to the Forester Activity

Best Practices for all Programs / Activities

To make the most of your experience we suggest that you:

- Use the email templates to communicate with the teacher in advance of your program
- Review the activity you have selected
- Consider modifications you may need to make to the activity
- Print the Forester Guide for all activities that will be used during your program
- Print any student materials that will be needed for your program
- Collect materials needed for each activity well in advance of your program



Division of Forestry Key Target Messages

Developed for use by professional foresters, this guide helps insure that a consistent message is given in classrooms throughout the state. Each program communicates one or more of the DNR Division of Forestry's target messages which include:

1. *Wisconsin has a plan to sustain the healthy, working forests vital to Wisconsin's well-being.*
2. *Forests and forest products have a key role in supporting climate resilience.*
3. *Diversity in both the forest resource and the forestry workforce is vital.*
4. *Forests are important to both rural and urban prosperity.*
5. *Forests support local economies with revenue from forest recreation as well as forest products and jobs.*
6. *Forests are a renewable resource providing products, aesthetics and recreational opportunities important to our everyday lives.*
7. *Forests support other vital natural resources in Wisconsin, including clean air, water, and wildlife habitat.*
8. *Everyone can help sustain Wisconsin forests (by being careful with fire, not spreading invasive species, using wood products rather than alternatives, planting and caring for a native tree, enjoying the outdoors responsibly and more).*

Updated by Natural Resources Staff Specialist, Kirsten Held
Approved by Chief State Forester Heather Berklund, February 2022.



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www.leafprogram.org

Letter Template

Initial Request Letter

Dear *Insert Teacher Name*,

Thank you for your interest in having me visit your class. In order to provide the best experience for your students, it would be helpful if you could answer the following questions for me:

What is the ideal date and time for my visit? What other dates/times would work for you?

How long would you like the activity / presentation to be?

Where will the presentation take place? Indoors, outdoors, if outdoors please describe the area/space we are able to use.

About how many students will I be working with?

Have your students already been learning about forests and/or Forestry? If so, what topics have they already learned about?

All of my presentations begin with an introduction that explores the theme *What does a Forester do?* After that, I have materials and activities that I can present related to the following themes:

- *Caring for the Forest*
- *Forest Products / Benefits*
- *Tree Planting & Restoration*
- *Fire*

Please let me know which of these themes would best meet the needs of your students. If none of these themes are an excellent fit, please share other ideas you might have for my visit. I may be reached at *insert email and phone number/extension*.

Sincerely,



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Letter Template

Confirmation Letter

Theme One: What does a Forester do?

Theme Two: Caring for the Forest

Dear *Insert Teacher Name*,

This letter confirms that I am scheduled to present “What does a Forester do?” and “Caring for the Forest” in your classroom on *insert program date and time* to your *insert grade level* grade students.

During my program students will

- Examine the job of a forester
- Understand how to become a forester and the skills needed to be a forester
- Explore forestry-related careers
- Examine the need for sustainable forest management and the forester’s role in it
- Explain why trees are cut down in forests

Please review the information I have provided above and contact me if anything is incorrect.

If you would like to prepare students in advance feel free to have them write questions for me on a notecard or sticky-note.

I will check in at the office when I arrive. I plan to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before the program is scheduled to begin to set up for the activities. I look forward to working with you soon!

Sincerely,



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Letter Templates

Follow-up Letter

Theme One: What does a Forester do?

Theme Two: Caring for the Forest

Dear *Insert Teacher Name*,

Thank you for inviting me into your classroom to help students understand the role of a forester and how people care for forests. I hope you and your students enjoyed the program.

If you would like to extend student learning and engagement related to forestry and caring for the forests following my visit, please consider these LEAF activities which can be found in the **LEAF Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Lesson Guides** at the following link: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/leaf/Pages/K-12-Forestry-Lesson-Guides.aspx> .

THEME 1: WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?

- LEAF 2-3 Field Enhancement 1: I Can Be a Forester
- LEAF 5-6 Lesson 6: What is Management?
- LEAF 7-8 Lesson 3: How Forests are Managed

THEME 2: CARING FOR THE FOREST

- LEAF 2-3 Lesson 5: Decisions, Decisions
- LEAF 4 Lesson 7: Sustaining Our Forests
- LEAF 5-6 Lesson 6: What is Management?
- LEAF 7-8 Lessons 3 & 4: How Forests are Managed and Forest Management Issues
- LEAF 9-12 Field Exploration 4: Timber Cruise

I also recommend the lessons from the **LEAF Urban Forest Lesson Guide** which can be accessed at the following link: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/leaf/Pages/Urban-Forest-Lesson-Guide.aspx>.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



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Letter Templates

Confirmation Letter

Theme One: What does a Forester do?

Theme Three: Forest Products / Benefits

Dear *Insert Teacher Name*,

This letter confirms that I am scheduled to present “What does a Forester do?” and “Forest Products / Benefits” to your class on *insert program date and time* to your *insert grade level* grade students.

During my program students will

- Examine the job of a forester
- Understand how to become a forester and the skills needed to be a forester
- Explore forestry-related careers
- Investigate the products that come from the forest
- Explore the many uses of the forest

Please review the information I have provided above and contact me if anything is incorrect.

If you would like to prepare students in advance feel free to have them write questions for me on a notecard or sticky-note.

I will check in at the office when I arrive. I plan to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before the program is scheduled to begin to set up for the activities. I look forward to working with you soon!

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Letter Templates

Follow-up Letter

Theme One: What does a Forester do?

Theme Three: Forest Products / Benefits

Dear *Insert Teacher Name*,

Thank you for inviting me into your classroom to help students understand the role of a forester and forest products and benefits. I hope you and your students enjoyed the program.

If you would like to extend student learning and engagement related to forestry and caring for the forests following my visit, please consider these LEAF activities which can be found in the **LEAF Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Lesson Guides** at the following link: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/leaf/Pages/K-12-Forestry-Lesson-Guides.aspx> .

THEME 1: WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?

- LEAF 2-3 Field Enhancement 1: I Can Be a Forester
- LEAF 5-6 Lesson 6: What is Management?
- LEAF 7-8 Lesson 3: How Forests are Managed

THEME 3: FOREST PRODUCTS / BENEFITS

- LEAF Urban Forest Guide K-4 Unit; Lesson 2: Urban Forest Benefits
- LEAF Urban Forest Guide 5-8 Unit; Lesson 2: Urban Forest Benefits
- LEAF Urban Forest Guide 9-12 Unit; Lesson 1: What's it Worth?
- LEAF K-1 Guide, Lesson 3: My Favorite Forest Use
- LEAF 2-3 Guide, Lesson 4: Forests are Important to Me!
- LEAF 4 Guide, Lesson 6: Forests are Important to You and Me
- LEAF 5-6 Guide, Lesson 5: We All Need Trees
- LEAF 7-8 Guide, Lesson 5 Many Forests, Many Values, Many Reasons
- LEAF 9-12 Guide, Marketplace Matters: Understanding the Economic Value of WI Forests
- LEAF 9-12 Guide, Lesson 4: The Forest Marketplace
- LEAF 9-12 Guide, Field Experience 4: Timber Cruise

I also recommend the lessons from the **LEAF Urban Forest Lesson Guide** which can be accessed at the following link:<https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/leaf/Pages/Urban-Forest-Lesson-Guide.aspx>.

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Letter Templates

Confirmation Letter

Theme One: What does a Forester do?
Theme Four: Tree Planting and Restoration

Dear *Insert Teacher Name*,

This letter confirms that I am scheduled to present “What does a Forester do?” and “Tree Planting and Restoration” in your classroom on *insert program date and time* to your *insert grade level* grade students.

During my program students will

- Examine the job of a forester
- Understand how to become a forester and the skills needed to be a forester
- Explore forestry-related careers
- Explore what trees need to grow
- Learn where trees should be planted
- Learn how to care for planted trees
- Understand what their tree might grow up to be used for
- (OPTIONAL) Examine threats to the health of the planted trees

Please review the information I have provided above and contact me if anything is incorrect.

If you would like to prepare students in advance feel free to have them write questions for me on a notecard or sticky-note.

I will check in at the office when I arrive. I plan to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before the program is scheduled to begin to set up for the activities. I look forward to working with you soon!

Sincerely,



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Letter Templates

Follow-up Letter

Theme One: What does a Forester do?
Theme Four: Tree Planting and Restoration

Dear *Insert Teacher Name*,

Thank you for inviting me into your classroom to help students understand the role of a forester and how we can plant trees and restore our forests. I hope you and your students enjoyed the program.

If you would like to extend student learning and engagement related to forestry and caring for the forests following my visit, please consider these LEAF activities which can be found in the **LEAF Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Lesson Guides** at the following link: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/leaf/Pages/K-12-Forestry-Lesson-Guides.aspx> .

THEME 1: WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?

- LEAF 2-3 Field Enhancement 1: I Can Be a Forester
- LEAF 5-6 Lesson 6: What is Management?
- LEAF 7-8 Lesson 3: How Forests are Managed

THEME 4: TREE PLANTING & NATURAL RESTORATION

- LEAF Urban Forest Lesson Guide 5-8; Lesson 3: Management Decisions and Biodiversity
 - <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/leaf/SiteAssets/Pages/Urban-Forest-5-8-Unit/UF58L3.pdf>

I also recommend looking over other lessons from the **LEAF Urban Forest Lesson Guide** which can be accessed at the following link: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/leaf/Pages/Urban-Forest-Lesson-Guide.aspx>.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

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Letter Templates

Confirmation Letter

Theme One: What does a Forester do?

Theme Five: Fire

Dear *Insert Teacher Name*,

This letter confirms that I am scheduled to present “What does a Forester do?” and “Fire” in your classroom on *insert program date and time* to your *insert grade level* grade students.

During my program students will

- Examine the job of a forester
- Understand how to become a forester and the skills needed to be a forester
- Explore forestry-related careers
- Examine the role of fire in forests
- Differentiate between “good” fire and “bad” fire
- Understand how to prevent unplanned forest fires
- Explore careers related to fire in the forests

Please review the information I have provided above and contact me if anything is incorrect.

If you would like to prepare students in advance feel free to have them write questions for me on a notecard or sticky-note.

I will check in at the office when I arrive. I plan to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before the program is scheduled to begin to set up for the activities. I look forward to working with you soon!

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Letter Templates

Follow-Up Letter

Theme One: What does a Forester do?

Theme Five: Fire

Dear *Insert Teacher Name*,

Thank you for inviting me into your classroom to help students understand the role of a forester and the role of fire in our forests. I hope you and your students enjoyed the program.

If you would like to extend student learning and engagement related to forestry and caring for the forests following my visit, please consider these LEAF activities which can be found in the **LEAF Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Lesson Guides** at the following link: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/leaf/Pages/K-12-Forestry-Lesson-Guides.aspx> .

THEME 1: WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?

- LEAF 2-3 Field Enhancement 1: I Can Be a Forester
- LEAF 5-6 Lesson 6: What is Management?
- LEAF 7-8 Lesson 3: How Forests are Managed

THEME 5: FIRE

- LEAF K-12 Wildland Fire Guide
 - <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/leaf/Pages/LEAF-K-12-Wildland-Fire-Guide-2.aspx>
- Hot Topics: Wildfires & You (link in lesson slideshow)
- Learning from the Ojibwe... (link in lesson slideshow)

I also recommend several WIDNR videos, articles, and website resources that are linked in the lesson slideshow.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

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Tips for Various Audiences

- **Connect to your audience!** Engage them! This is the most important aspect of your presentation!
- **Connect your audience to the forest!** Remind them WHY forests matter!
- **Connect your audience to place!** If possible, get your audience outdoors!

Kindergarten through 4th Grade

- **Patience...**give clear expectations and directions.
- Be aware of their distractibility.
- **Before they'll care about your topic, they need to know you care for them (and are interested in them as well).**
- Share your personal stories, anecdotes and experiences. YOU are a lot cooler than a "concept."
- Don't be afraid to have fun with them... let your guard down.
- Answer, or attempt to answer, their questions, whether they are on topic or not, then move on.
- Smile! Enjoy the diversions, but redirect and give clear boundaries.
- In Kindergarten and first grade, children can understand your instructions, but cannot read well.

5th Grade through High School

- Be positive. If you are, chances are they will be too.
- Listen! More than ever before students are in need to know adults and their peers care.
- Your energy and enthusiasm can be significant in getting disinterested students engaged in learning.
- Be patient.
- Avoid embarrassing the students or singling them out.
- Expect some students will have short attention spans and an inability to concentrate.
- Be a good role model.
- "Walk a mile in their shoes" and try to remember what you were like at their age and treat students as you would like to be treated.



Presentation Kit Items

LEAF recommends putting together a tote or box that you can take along when you travel to engagements. While you will want to pack items specific to each engagement, it is recommended that you bring the following items to all engagements:

Recommended Kit Items

- Vest
- Helmet
- Compass
- Maps
- Radio
- Calculator
- Biltmore Sticks / Cruising Sticks
- Diameter Tapes
- Deep Woods Off
- Chaps for Briars
- Fire Equipment / Tools

