



Introduction

Revised 2025

History

Welcome to the Idaho State Forestry Contest! The inaugural contest was held in 1983 at Delay Farms near Careywood, Idaho. Based on its initial success, there was no question that the contest would become an annual event. The contest was jointly sponsored by the Idaho Department of Lands, the Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District, and Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development. In 2022 the contest moved to Farragut State Park in Athol and in 2023, the contest celebrated its 40th anniversary. The contest has proven to be a unique and memorable event. Many past contestants have pursued rewarding careers in forestry or resource management and come back to volunteer and help carry the legacy forward. We encourage students from around the state to be a part of this Idaho tradition!

Contest Objectives

The primary objective of the contest is to introduce young people to basic forestry concepts and skills. By gaining this knowledge, participants develop a higher degree of understanding and appreciation of the natural environment and Idaho's vast forest resource.

A secondary objective is to provide students the opportunity to interact with foresters and other resource management professionals. Combined with the contest, this interaction gives students a chance to explore the variety of career opportunities in the field of forestry and natural resource management.

Purpose of this Manual

This manual provides instruction in ten forestry subject areas. Students can master each of the subjects by developing skills using common forestry tools and by applying associated knowledge. The skills and knowledge they develop are then tested at the contest, with prizes awarded to the top competitors.

Many of these subjects are likely new to both adults and students. Students and the adults that coach them are encouraged to spend "hands-on" time practicing under the guidance of a professional forester. Practice kits with all the necessary forestry tools are available on loan.

Contact your local Idaho Department of Lands office to arrange for coaching assistance and practice kits.

How the Contest Works

The contest is open to 5th through 12th grade students. Students compete in three divisions based on grade level: Rookie (5th and 6th), Junior (7th and 8th), and Senior (9th through 12th).

The Rookie Division is tested on five manual subjects:

- 1) Log Scaling
- 2) Timber Cruising
- 3) Tree and Plant Identification
- 4) Map Reading
- 5) Compass and Pacing

Rookies are also introduced to Silviculture, but are not tested on this subject.

The Junior and Senior Divisions are tested on all ten manual subjects:

- 1) Log Scaling
- 2) Timber Cruising
- 3) Tree and Plant Identification
- 4) Map Reading
- 5) Compass and Pacing
- 6) Tool Identification
- 7) Soils and Water Quality
- 8) Tree Health
- 9) Silviculture
- 10) Noxious Weeds

Each contestant competes for an individual score. Contestants can also choose to compete as part of a team. Teams consist of four people within the same division. The individual scores are combined into the team score. Prizes are awarded to top individuals and teams in all divisions.

This is a competitive event, and all contestants are required to complete the contest on their own. Cheating in any form will result in disqualification.

Students must be age 19 or under on contest day. Contestants may choose to “move up” and compete in a higher division. Students are not allowed to compete in a lower division.

The contest is not limited to school-sponsored teams. Home school groups, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, FFA and other youth organizations are encouraged to participate.

Tie Breaker Rules

If two teams or individuals have identical scores, a tie-breaking system has been established. The team (or individual) with the highest Plant Identification score will be declared the winner. In the event they are also tied, move on to Log Scaling, then Timber Cruising, Map Reading, Compass and Pacing, Tool Identification, Soils and Water Quality, Tree Health, and Silviculture, in that order.

The Contest Steering Committee hopes you all study hard and enjoy the upcoming:

Idaho State Forestry Contest!!