

2022 Florida 4-H Forest Ecology Contest



The **Florida 4-H Forest Ecology Contest** is held every year at the [Austin Cary Forest's Roland T. Stern Learning Center](#) in Gainesville, Florida. This is a competitive event that encourages youth to identify forest trees, plants, wildlife, and forest health stresses, and to demonstrate their knowledge of forest ecology and management, map and compass, tree measurement, forest management, and natural history. Youth at all three 4-H age levels can compete individually or in teams.

The 2022 contest will be held Saturday, April 9, 2022 at Austin Cary Forest.

In addition, to help youth prepare for the contest, a clinic is held in the fall to provide an opportunity for youth to learn from experts and practice and apply their knowledge and skills.

The 2022 clinic will be held Saturday, October 2, 2021 at Austin Cary Forest.

2022 CONTEST STATIONS

- ❖ **Tree Identification:** Identifying trees from their leaves and fruits
 - Juniors identify 15 of 20 species
 - Intermediates identify 20 of 28 species
 - Seniors identify 30 of 50 species
- ❖ **Forest Health:** Identifying insects, diseases, and stresses that affect forest health
 - Juniors identify 15 insects, diseases, or stresses
 - Intermediates identify 20 insects, diseases, or stresses
 - Seniors identify 30 insects, diseases, or stresses
- ❖ **Map and Compass:** Identifying topographic symbols and using a compass to navigate a course
 - Juniors answer 10 multiple-choice questions on identifying map symbols
 - Intermediates answer 10 multiple-choice questions on identifying map symbols and provide a compass baring to reach a given point and pace out the distance between two points
 - Seniors answer 10 multiple-choice questions on identifying map symbols and complete a compass trail by providing the bearings and distances between three points
- ❖ **Forest Ecosystems:** Completing a multiple choice and true/false quiz on two forest ecosystems (Juniors and Intermediates)
 - Juniors read an ecosystem story to prepare
 - Intermediates read an ecosystem overview to prepare
 - The 2022 ecosystems are Bottomland Hardwoods and Sandhills
- ❖ **Wildlife on a Forest Hike:** Identifying forest animals and ecosystem components on a hike
 - Juniors and Intermediates identify 20 a species
- ❖ **Senior Tree Measurement & Forest Management:** to prepare seniors for the national contest, seniors will measure 4 standing trees and complete a multiple choice quiz on forest management
- ❖ **Quiz Bowl:** Senior teams will compete in a quiz bowl

SCHEDULE: DAY OF THE CONTEST

- Check-in will be from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM; the contest will get underway at 9:00 AM.
- Groups will move through each of stations from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.
- Tree Identification Assistance, Nature Walk, or other outdoor activities will be conducted from 12:00 to 1:00 PM or until the scoring has concluded.
- Youth can eat their lunches between 12:00 and 1:00 PM.
- An Awards Ceremony will be held between 1:00 and 2:00 PM (the ceremony will begin whenever the judging is completed).
 - All youth receive a certificate of participation.
 - Winning teams and individuals receive ribbons (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place).
 - The 1st place Senior Team is eligible to compete at the National Forestry Invitational.
 - The 1st place Senior individual is eligible for a scholarship to the UF School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences, if he or she chooses to attend, renewable annually.
- Volunteers are welcome to help chaperone groups, score quiz sheets, and assist individuals who require reading or writing assistance.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Complete registration forms on the 4-H events website and send in \$5.00 per competing youth. Adults must also register but will not be charged a fee.

WHAT TO BRING

Clipboard, pencil, lunch, water bottle, shoes/socks, insect repellent, sunscreen, and forest ecology skills.

For more information about the contest, please go our NEW web site:

<https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-4-h-forest-ecology/>.

Questions? Please contact Jessica Ireland at jjtireland@ufl.edu.