



National 4-H Forestry Invitational

Willowbank Building, Room 322
420 Holmes Avenue
Bellefonte, PA 16823

April 8, 2010

To: State 4-H Leaders and State Extension Forestry Program Leaders

Subject: **Announcing the 2010 National 4-H Forestry Invitational**

Save the date! The 2010 National 4-H Forestry Invitational will be held on July 25-29 at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Conference Center in Weston, WV! We're inviting your state to send a 4-H forestry team to compete this summer at the Invitational. If your state has never competed in the Invitational, 2010 would be an excellent opportunity to get your state involved in this exciting event!

One way to find out more about the Invitational is to explore our new web site. Check it out! The Handbook and all of the training material necessary for a team to compete in the Invitational can be found on the Invitational's new web site. There are also slide shows and photographs from past competitions. You will find the "*Intent to Participate*" form online on our new web site under the *Registration* tab. Please bookmark this important site:

<http://4hforestryinvitational.org/>

You can also find us on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/National-4-H-Forestry-Invitational/238193525251?ref=search&sid=1128981017.2864473971..1>

It is suggested that team members and their coach(es) use this web site to prepare for the Invitational. It contains all the information they need to register and train for the Invitational events. Leaders, coaches, and team members can download the Invitational Handbook as well as training reference materials from the site.

This is the Invitational's 31st year. The competition is open to one team of three or four senior 4-H members. Individual 4-Hers representing a state are welcome to attend if a full team is not available. Participant selection is determined by your state. If your state does not have a selection method consider assembling a team from interested 4-Hers. Not having a state forestry contest should not deter young people from attending this exciting national 4-H event.

If your state is not familiar with the Invitational, the Committee encourages you to send an observer. Funds are available to help offset travel expenses and room and board is fully covered. This is a great way to find out more about the Invitational and experience the fun and excitement of this national competition. For more information on this opportunity please contact me directly.

There are eight distinct parts to the Invitational competition:

Tree Identification	Topographic Map Interpretation
Forest Evaluation	Forestry Bowl
Tree Measurement	Forest Health
Compass and Pacing	Forestry Written Examination

Educational events are also provided along with the competition. Participants learn about related natural resource topics, forestry careers, and interact with experienced forestry specialists from many states and professional backgrounds.

The per person cost for attending the Invitational in 2010 will be approximately \$126 for the week. This includes all meals and lodging from Sunday evening through Thursday morning. A modest travel stipend is also available to help defray the cost of travel to the Invitational at the rate of 25 cents/mile (see the *Mileage* tab under *Registration* for the amount your state is eligible to receive). Only one travel stipend will be awarded per state. Individual 4-H members representing a state unable to send a full team will qualify for a similar travel stipend. The Invitational Committee is hoping to be able to cover the cost of each state's team members lodging, meal expenses, and travel through sponsorships. However, at this point we are still waiting to hear.

The Invitational Committee encourages participation from all states and territories. If your state or territory does not have an active 4-H Forestry program please contact me for information on how the National 4-H Forestry Committee can work with you, your local 4-H leaders, and other volunteers in your state who may be interested in getting a 4-H forestry program started. A state 4-H forestry contest can be as complex or as simple as you desire. Some state forestry contests mimic the Invitational events, but that is not necessary. The important point is we would like to see your state represented at the Invitational and are prepared to help you get 4-H members from your state involved.

To pre-register your state team or your adult observer for the Invitational and be included on the mailing list for competition details, please complete the **"Intent to Participate"** form on our web site (<http://4hforestryinvitational.org/registration/intent-form>). The form is completed on your computer screen and is submitted directly to me via e-mail. Please indicate your intent to participate by May 30, 2010.

The 4-H'ers participating in past Invitationals have been enthusiastic young men and women. We hope to have the chance to meet your team or your state observer this summer!

Sincerely,



David R. Jackson
Invitational Chair
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Enclosure
cc: Invitational Committee