

Read the General Rules in the manuals and on www.soinc.org as they apply to every event.

1. **DESCRIPTION:** This event will test student knowledge of North American trees that are on the Official National Tree List.

A TEAM OF UP TO: 2

APPROXIMATE TIME: 50 minutes

2. **EVENT PARAMETERS:**

Each team may bring only one 8.5" x 11" two-sided page of notes that contain information in any form from any source, up to 2 commercially published field guides, and one copy of the Official National Tree List (teams may tab {limit 3 words} the guides and write on any of these).



3. **THE COMPETITION:**

- a. All questions will be restricted to specimens on the Official National Tree List.
 - b. This event may be held either indoors or in a wood lot or both. Specimens (or pictures/slides if necessary) will be lettered or numbered at stations. Each team will be given one answer sheet to record the Genus and species name and the answers to the correlated questions.
 - c. Leaf specimens may be live or preserved depending on availability and may be accompanied by twigs, cones, seeds, or other parts of the tree. Identification will be based on an examination of living or preserved leaf specimens (compound leaves should be intact). For each specimen, students will be asked a correlated question that pertains to the tree's structure, ecology, or economic characteristics. Structural characteristics may include leaf types, leaf shapes, leaf margins, leaf venation, leaf arrangement on the stem, twigs, bark, flowers, cones, fruits, seeds, and tree shapes.
 - d. Ecological characteristics may include habitats, adaptations to the environment, biomes, succession, and relationships (e.g., symbiosis and competition) with animals or other plants. Economic characteristics may include beneficial or detrimental aspects of trees such as sources of food, medicine, building materials, chemicals, fuel, fiber, and trees as nuisance species.
 - e. It is recommended that state and regional contests be limited to local or regional trees (e.g., trees east or west of the Rockies). State and regional directors should prepare a list, which includes the trees students are expected to master. State directors should send the state tree lists to competing teams as soon as possible so teams may gather specimens. The Official National Tree List will include specimens from the National Audubon Society Field Guide(s) to Trees (Eastern and Western regions).
4. **SCORING:** The teams with the highest number of correct answers will be the winners. Selected questions may be used as tiebreakers.

Recommended Resources: All specimens listed on the Official Science Olympiad **National Tree List** are represented in the **National Audubon Society Field Guide(s) to Trees** (Eastern and Western regions), which is available on the Official Science Olympiad Store/Website at <http://www.soinc.org> as are all reference and training resources.

power pt - tiebreaker
 questions related to trees

stations - real samples + pictures / collect before tiebreaker