

# SCOUTS CANADA

## EnvironMentality Series



**TREES**

[Canadianpath.ca](http://Canadianpath.ca)



Trees love to toss and sway; they  
make such happy noises.

—Emily Carr

**TAG IT!**



@Scoutscanada



#ecoscouts

#scoutsdostuff



#NatureForAll

Adventures on the Path:  
[Scoutinglife.ca/adventures/](https://scoutinglife.ca/adventures/)



# Contents

- 4 Introduction to EnvironMentality
- 5 Forests
- 6 Parts of a Tree
- 7 Tree Identification
- 8 Tree Planting
- 9 Scoutrees
- 10 Adopt a Park
- 11 Adopt a Park—Audit
- 12 Materials that Come From Forests
- 13 Trail Cards



# Scouts Canada and the Environment

The environment is central to Scouting and is a key element in the development of engaged citizens. Through Scouting, we never miss out on the opportunity to experience and build a relationship with nature.

Environmental exploration has played a prominent role in the Scout Movement since it was founded. Today, Scouts Canada offers environmental programming for all of its age groups, from Beaver Scouts to Rover Scouts. Our programming is diverse; Scouts of all ages are involved in adventures that help them learn about nature and contribute to environmental service projects. Our youth-led program fosters a passion for the environment and a sense of responsibility that our members maintain for the rest of their lives.

## What is EnvironMentality?

Scouting has always been about "learning by doing". We go beyond just planting trees; we help our youth to understand **why** they are planting the trees. Actually make a site audit, understand what trees may thrive in the area and make sure those trees will be contributing positively in this ecosystem.

That's why we are combining **Environment** and **Mentality** to help foster a more conscious passion to helping our dear old planet earth. Trees are a powerful symbol of nature, and the theme for the first resource in Scouts Canada's EnvironMentality series.



Many of us have taken a pine cone or rock, veered off the trail to dodge mud puddles, gotten too close to wildlife or tossed an apple core into the woods. These actions seem harmless, but they have a collective impact. Cavalier practices pose a critical risk to the natural environment. They also put our continued access to wild places at risk, as land management agencies sometimes take restrictive action to protect plants and wildlife. By following best practices, we can all learn to leave no trace.

For more information, visit [LeaveNoTrace.ca](http://LeaveNoTrace.ca).



## Principles of Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors





## Forests

Trees are one of Canada's most important natural resources. Wood provides many vital products for everyday life. Though some natural resources are not replaceable, forests can be a renewable resource if they are carefully managed.

Trees cover nearly half of Canada. The variety is great, ranging from Douglas fir, Sitka spruce and Garry oak in Pacific regions to white ash, black ash and sugar maples in central and eastern Canada. Other species (such as black spruce, white spruce and white birch) are found right across the country. One hundred and seventy different kinds of trees grow in Canada. Twenty-three softwoods or conifer species (cone-bearing), and 32 hardwood or deciduous (broad-leaved) species are commercially useful.



**170**

different kinds  
of trees grow  
in Canada.

Trees cover nearly  
half of Canada.

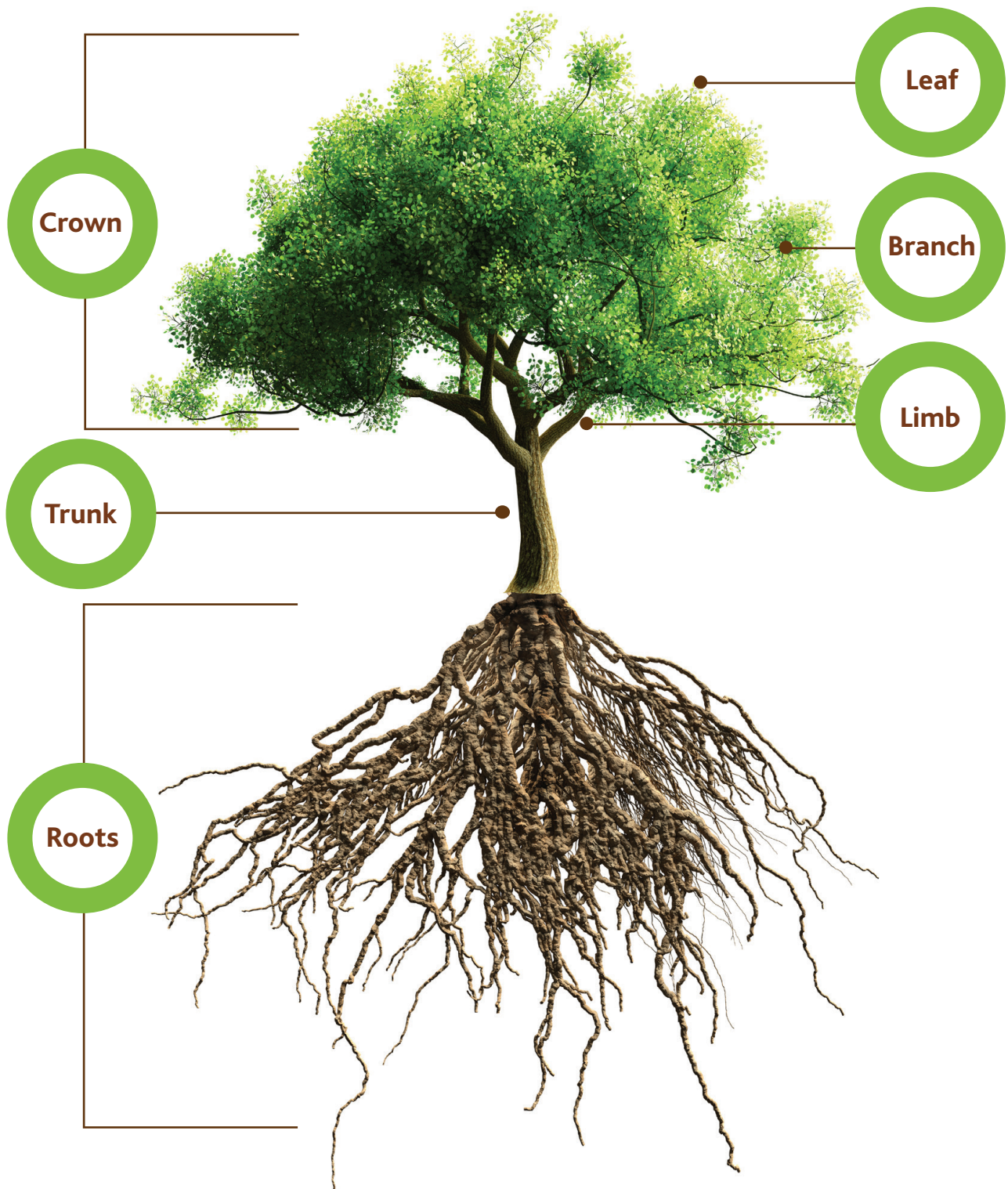
Canadians plant  
over **55 million**  
trees annually.

Trees grow from seeds, and tree seeds come in many shapes and sizes, such as nuts (like acorns), berries and pods. Trees are a source of food for all kinds of animals, including insects, birds and many mammals—including people. Often the seeds are hidden, enclosed inside hard shells as in the walnut and beech trees, or between the scales of cones.

Each year, trees produce billions of seeds. Millions of these are gathered, planted, grown into tree seedlings and then transplanted to reforestation areas. Canadians plant over 55 million trees annually. Spring is the best time for planting trees. In the past, most planting was done by hand; today, machines have a role to play.



# Parts of a Tree





# Tree Identification

Trees provide a canopy and habitat for wildlife. Sycamore and oak are among the many urban species that provide excellent homes for birds, bees and squirrels.

## Deciduous (Hardwood) Trees

**Leaves:** Broad; turn colour and fall in autumn (except for the arbutus tree, which is the only native broadleaf evergreen tree in Canada)

**Buds:** Can be readily seen in winter along the branches when the trees are without leaves.

**Wood:** Not gummy. Usually hard and difficult to work.

**Fruit:** Various forms: nuts (such as acorns), berries (such as those found on the American mountain-ash) or with wings (such as maple keys); tree fruit can appear singly or in clusters

**Alternate or Opposite?** Hardwood leaves may be alternate (as on a birch), or they may grow opposite each other (as on maple).

**Simple or Compound?** Naturalists refer to hardwood leaves as "simple" when only one leaf appears on each stem (as on birch), or as "compound" when several leaflets make up the entire leaf (as on ash).

**Examples:** Maple, Birch, Poplar



## Coniferous (Softwood) Trees

**Leaves:** Needle-like; remain on the tree for years (except tamarack, which drops its needles each fall).

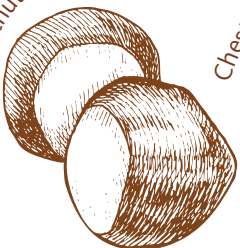
**Buds:** Partly or completely surrounded by needles (except tamarack) and cannot be readily seen, even in winter.

**Wood:** Gummy and composed of short fibres. Usually soft and easily worked, although some softwoods may be rather hard and difficult to work.

**Examples:** Fir, Spruce, Pine, Cedar



Chestnut



Chestnut



Oak



Oak



Maple samara



Pine cone







# Tree Planting Adventures

## Adventure

Trees benefit communities in important ways. They can serve as landmarks, provide neighbourhoods with personality and encourage civic pride. As a Section, identify an area in your community where trees can be planted to benefit everyone!

## Help to plant your trees

Always stay tuned for funding opportunities to help you complete your tree-planting project.

## Tree-planting Tips

### The Dig

Make sure your hole is deep enough for the whole root ball. You should also loosen the earth around the hole, giving the roots some softer soil into which they can grow. Make sure the hole is the right size by placing your tree in the hole. Trees planted too deep can die within a few years, or develop problems as many as 15 years later.



### The Thirst for Water

When soil is dry, watering the tree as soon as possible after planting is critical for its survival. You should also use water to help settle the soil after planting. If additional settling occurs, add more soil, but don't stomp on the wet soil around the tree.

### Mulch

Mulch the surface of the soil around newly planted trees. The mulch will help the soil to retain moisture, and it will gradually release nutrients. In nature, deciduous trees mulch themselves every fall. By keeping weeds away, retaining water and moderating the soil temperature, mulch improves the chances of survival for your tree. You should not let mulch pile up against the trunk. After mulching the planting pit, brush back the mulch that is in contact with the trunk.



**TD Friends of the  
Environment  
Foundation**

## Trees help prevent soil erosion

On hillsides or stream slopes, trees slow runoff and hold soil in place.

# Scoutrees

Each spring since 1972, thousands of Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts have planted trees through the Scoutrees program. Scoutrees gives all members the opportunity to demonstrate, through action, their concern for the environment. By planting trees, youth learn about the important role trees have in our lives, the critical need for conservation, the huge impact of climate change and how we can do our part to create a better world.

Scouting members plant trees in conservation areas, provincial parks and at Scout camps. Trees are also planted as windbreaks to help reduce soil erosion from wind and rain, they provide wildlife habitat for birds and other animals, and they beautify our parks and provide shade during warm summer days.

## SCOUTREES

### Help your community GROW



- Trees' root systems help prevent soil erosion, which prevents water pollution.
- Trees capture carbon and become 'carbon sinks' which reduce the Greenhouse Effect.
- By planting trees and shrubs, you can reduce noise pollution.

citation: treecanada.ca/en/resources/benefits-trees/

## SCOUTREES ARBRESOULTS

### 2019



WHITE SPRUCE • MANITOBA  
ÉPINETTE BLANCHE • MANITOBA

To find out more, visit [Scouts.ca/scoutrees](https://Scouts.ca/scoutrees).

One small tree was planted by Scouts in 1972. Look at our forest now: we've planted over **80 million** trees across the country! Few non-government agencies can boast this kind of record.



## Trees heal

Studies have shown that patients with views of trees out their windows heal faster and with fewer complications.


# Adopt a Park

## Make a difference

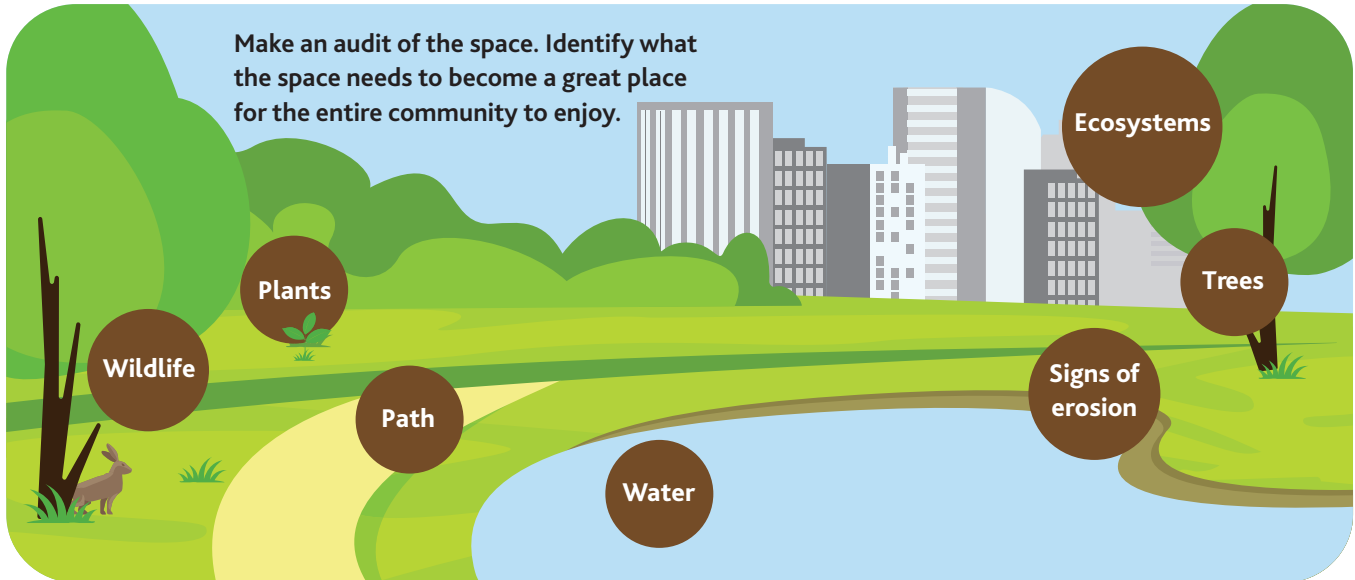
We all have that park in our community that may need some Scouting help to get it to flourish and be a great space for your whole community.

Your Section or Group can receive between **\$200-\$800 of grant funding** to help your adopt a park initiative.

Questions? Email [adoptapark@scouts.ca](mailto:adoptapark@scouts.ca).



Find a space in your community that requires some Scouting care.



Make an audit of the space. Identify what the space needs to become a great place for the entire community to enjoy.

Ecosystems

Trees

Signs of erosion

Water

Path

Plants

Wildlife



# Your Adventure

## Adventure

Find a green space in your community that could stand some improvement. Have your Section walk through the space and audit the needs of your park. Use the checklist below to help with your audit. Make this park a space that you would love to visit even more!

## Things to consider for your adventure

**Identify what the park needs:** Milkweed for butterflies, pruning of trees, removal of sick trees, add bird feeders or remove invasive species

**Seasonal care:** Fall wraps for winter, leaf collection, plant new bulbs, spring clean-up, setting new mulch or trail maintenance.



## Adopt a Park—Audit

### Things to consider for your park audit

#### Nature

- ☐ Are there plenty of trees?
  - ☐ Wooded area (e.g., thick woods or dense trees)?
  - ☐ Trees throughout the park?
- ☐ Are there any invasive species?
- ☐ Is there a need to remove any fallen trees?
- ☐ Is there wildlife in the park?
- ☐ Water feature (e.g. lake, stream, pond)
- ☐ Meadow (e.g. natural, tall grassy area)

#### Trail

- ☐ Signs and distance markers?
- ☐ Benches along trails?
- ☐ What is the trail surface?
- ☐ Are there trash cans in the park? Y or N
  - If yes...
    - ☐ Do they have room for more trash?
    - ☐ Are they near activity areas?
    - ☐ Are recycling containers provided?

#### What opportunities are there to improve the park?

What concerns can your Section address on its own, and what concerns will you share with your local parks service?

- ☐ Poor lighting
- ☐ Graffiti
- ☐ Vandalism
- ☐ Litter
- ☐ **Needs repair:**
  - ☐ bench
  - ☐ picnic table
  - ☐ gazebo
  - ☐ monument
  - ☐ sign
  - ☐ play structure
- ☐ **Safety concerns:**
  - ☐ broken glass
  - ☐ sharp metal
  - ☐ used needles
  - ☐ hazardous plants (poison ivy, stinging nettle, giant hogweed, etc.)
  - ☐ stinging insects
- ☐ **Out of service:**
  - ☐ water fountain
  - ☐ drinking fountain
  - ☐ washroom

# Materials that Come From Forests

Our forests aren't just home to awesome animals; they also provide us with the resources we need to make products that we use every day.



## COOL STUFF

- Maple Syrup
- Toys

## PACKAGING

- Orange Juice Containers
- Cereal Boxes
- Pizza Boxes
- Ice Cream Cartons
- Restaurant Takeout Boxes

## PAPER

- Books
- Writing Paper
- Notebooks
- Magazines
- Cards
- Envelopes
- Construction Paper
- Paper Plates and Cups
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Tissue

## WOOD

- Houses
- Floors
- Stairs
- Tables
- Beds
- Dressers
- Bookcases

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LEARN MORE: contact SFI Inc. at [sfiprogram.org](http://sfiprogram.org) or (202) 596-3450





Check out the Trail Cards on our EnvironMentality page:  
[Scouts.ca/program/canadianpath/about/environmentality/](https://scouts.ca/program/canadianpath/about/environmentality/)

## Trail Cards

### Trails Cards for Beaver Scouts

Apple of Your Eye  
 Bean Greenhouse  
 Use Your Five Senses: Find Your Tree  
 Habitat Hike  
 How Sweet It Is!  
 Leave No Trace Nature Collage

### Trails Cards for Cub Scouts

From Seed to Sky  
 Prevent a Wildfire  
 Tree Scavenger Hunt

### Trails Cards for Scouts

Adopt a Firefighter  
 Adopt a Tree  
 Waxing Leaves

### Trails Cards for Venturer Scouts

Close Crop  
 Scoutrees  
 Shoreline Rehabilitation  
 Tag-a-Tree  
 Tree Journal  
 Wild Tree Edibles

### Trails Cards for Rover Scouts

Forest Bathing  
 Plant Trees Abroad







[Canadianpath.ca](http://Canadianpath.ca)