



El Dorado Forestry Challenge
October 22 to October 25, 2025
Leoni Meadows Camp

2025 EL DORADO FORESTRY CHALLENGE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday

4:00 to 5:30	Registration and Housing Assignments
5:30 to 6:30	Dinner
6:45 to 8:15	Welcome and Focus Topic Question presented / Q&A
8:30 to 9:45	Evening Activities
10:00	Report to Dorms/Campground

Thursday

8:00 to 8:45	Breakfast
8:45 to 9:00	Instructions for Field Training
9:15 to 11:55	Field Training
12:00 to 1:00	Lunch
1:00 to 1:45	Gather and Travel to Plot Demo and to Grizzly Flats Fuel Break
1:45 to 4:30	Data Collection
4:30 to 5:00	Return to camp
5:30 to 6:30	Dinner
7:00 to 10:30	Teams Prepare Presentations / Ask a Forester Appointments
10:30	Report to Dorms/Campground

Friday

8:00 to 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 to 9:15	Field Testing Instructions
9:30 to 12:00	Field Testing or Logging Sports Demo, etc.
12:00 to 1:00	Lunch
1:00 to 1:15	Travel to Afternoon Activities
1:30 to 4:00	Field Testing or Logging Sports Demo, etc.
4:15 to 5:15	Field Test Review, Group Photo
5:30 to 6:30	Dinner
6:30 to 9:30	Teams Finish Preparing Presentations
9:30 to 10:30	Evening Activities
10:30	Report to Dorms/Campground

Saturday

8:00 to 9:00	Breakfast
8:30 to 9:15	Judges Orientation
9:20 to 11:20	Teams Give Presentations
11:20 to 11:45	Judging Panel Feedback to Students
11:45 to noon	Awards
Noon	Lunch and Farewell

2025 El Dorado Forestry Challenge Participants

School	County	Advisor(s)	Team #'s
Bret Harte	Calaveras	Matt Castro	1, 2
Calaveras	Calaveras	Kevin Hesser	12
Confluence West	Placer	Morgan Zerwas	16
El Dorado	El Dorado	Krista Potter	3, 4
Folsom	Sacramento	Zachary Kamine	5, 6
Foresthill	Placer	Katie Gengler	7, 8
Golden Sierra	El Dorado	Amara Smallwood	9, 10, 11
Granada Hills Charter	Los Angeles	Wendy Hagan	13, 14, 15
Mira Loma	Sacramento	Colleen Kelly	17, 18, 19
Oak Ridge	El Dorado	Ryan Madsen	20, 21, 22
Sequoia	Tulare	Sofia Pacheco	23, 24
Sequoia Grove Charter	El Dorado	Jessica Campbell	25, 26, 27
South Tahoe	El Dorado	Richard Kinnett	28, 29
Venture Academy	San Joaquin	Joann Tavaziva	30

All schools except El Dorado, Golden Sierra, Mira Loma (males), Oak Ridge (males), and South Tahoe (camping) will be housed in the dormitories on the lowest level of Leoni Lodge. Boys will be on the west side (left from the dorm lobby). Girls will be on the east side (right from the dorm lobby).

Daytime: Staff in Meadow Lodge Third Floor Lobby

Nighttime: Staff: Room 215 or call 530-417-1960

First Aid: Dan in the Campground



It is our responsibility to keep the dormitory bathrooms clean and in good working order. Therefore, we are asking you to check the bathrooms and clean as needed according to the following schedule:

Day and Time	Schools
Wednesday PM	Sequoia
Thursday AM	Foresthill, Calaveras
Thursday PM	Confluence West, Venture Academy
Friday AM	Folsom, Sequoia Grove Charter
Friday PM	Mira Loma, Bret Harte
Saturday AM	Granada Hills Charter, Oak Ridge

2025 Forestry Challenge Rules

I. Participant Eligibility

1. Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to participate. Community college and middle school students may participate if the facility can accommodate them, at the discretion of the Forestry Challenge (FC) Coordinator.
2. Teams will consist of two to five students from the same school, homeschool, or scouting group, tribe, club, or affiliated organization (subsequently referred to as "school"). More than one team may enter from each school as space permits. There may be a need to restrict the number of students per school, depending on the facility's capacity.
3. An adult chaperone must accompany each school. The chaperone can be a teacher, staff member, or approved parent from that school. One chaperone can supervise more than one team from the same school, as housing arrangements permit. All chaperones must be fingerprinted and approved to chaperone by their local school district.
4. For schools bringing only one adult, an additional adult of the opposite gender must be available on standby to ensure proper overnight supervision. Schools will be notified the day after the registration deadline if additional adults are required to ensure correct ratios.
5. Each participant must arrive with all applicable Liability, Medical, and Media Release Forms fully signed in order to participate. These forms must be turned in at registration or received prior to the event.
6. Only registered participants with signed forms will be allowed on site.
7. Chaperones and students will check in together unless prior arrangements are made with the FC Coordinator.
8. At least one school chaperone must be on site with their students at all times to ensure that team members display proper conduct during the event and at the host facility.

II. Participant Behavior

1. Participants will report any illness or personal emergency to the Coordinator or designated staff.
2. If participants break or damage the property of the FC or the host site, they are responsible for reporting the damage and paying for its repair.
3. All students must attend and fully participate in all scheduled activities, in the designated locations for those activities.
4. Although chaperones must attend all activities to properly supervise students, they are not allowed to actively participate in field testing or focus topic presentation preparation.
5. Students must report to and stay in their assigned cabins or dormitories at the designated time at the end of each day. Facility housing will be described in advance, and if it does not meet the needs of one or more students, the advisor must ask for alternate arrangements in advance of the start of the event. If acceptable accommodations are available, there may be a charge for these alternative arrangements.
6. No students or chaperones are allowed to leave the host site without approval.
7. Tobacco, drugs, vaping, and alcohol are prohibited for all parties during the entirety of the event.
8. Participants are expected to behave in a professional manner, consistent with behavior appropriate to the workplace. Harassment, bullying, and any form of

discrimination is NOT appropriate workplace behavior. Any observance or reporting of such actions will be thoroughly investigated and disciplined. Disciplinary actions can include disqualification and/or dismissal from the event.

III. Registration Fees and Deadlines

1. A completed online registration form and deposits must be submitted 12 days before the start of the event.
Registration form due dates are as follows:
 - Shasta FC registration is due September 13
 - Santa Cruz FC registration is due September 27
 - El Dorado FC registration is due October 11
 - San Bernardino FC Session 1 registration is due October 25
 - San Bernardino FC Session 2 registration is due November 1
2. There is no registration fee for the 2024 event season. Instead, a \$250 per School refundable deposit will be required.
3. The deposit is due 12 days before the start of the event, either as a check postmarked as of that date or as a PayPal deposit. Checks should be made payable to *Forestry Educators Incorporated* and mailed to P.O Box 271, Shingle Springs, CA 95682. PayPal deposits are preferred and can be made to the holding account linked here.
 - Include the school name in the memo line.
 - Please make only one payment per school.
 - Contact FC Coordinator if parents are making deposits for individual students.
4. An online invoice generator is available here to teachers to assist with the payment process.
5. Deposits will be forfeited in full if the attending school brings fewer teams than registered, OR brings less than 75% of the students registered, at the Director's discretion. A breakdown chart is available at the bottom of the page.
6. In the event a registered student drops out after the deadline, a new student can be substituted to maintain attendance. If the substitution happens 5 days or more prior to the event, there is no restriction as to who can be swapped. If less than 5 days prior, the student substituted must be of the same gender to maintain housing arrangements.

IV. Competition Components and Expectations

1. The FC scoring has two parts: a Field Test and a Presentation. These two parts will be scored separately. The Field Test will be worth 60% and the Presentation will be worth 40% of the total score. The point ratio for Championships will be 60% Presentation and 40% Test.
2. The Field Test is completed as a team and is comprehensive, with many questions using props and tools such as tree specimens and forestry equipment. Copies of the test key will be posted after all testing is complete for viewing only. Photography of the test key is prohibited. The FC Coordinator or designee will be available to answer questions.
3. Test questions will be developed using the FC Learning Objectives and reference materials linked to the Objectives as a guide but are not necessarily limited to those items. Knowledge of basic ecological concepts and information presented during the event may be tested as well.
4. The use of personal electronic devices such as cell phones is not allowed during field testing, presentation prep time (besides for transferring pictures), and the final morning

while in the waiting area. Devices will be confiscated if deemed necessary by authorized staff and volunteers.

5. Students will not be allowed to use their reference materials, including cellular devices, during the Field Test. All materials needed during the Field Test, including identification keys, reference materials, calculators, and equipment, will be provided at the testing stations.
6. Any written and electronic materials teams bring to the event and gather while at the event may be used during presentation prep time. Laptop computers will be used, and there will be equal access to wireless internet when available. Hotspot devices will be allowed as determined by the FC Coordinator.
7. Students will not be allowed to review presentation materials outside of designated presentation work times.
8. At the beginning of the presentation schedule, students and chaperones will be gathered in one area to wait until their presentation time begins. Chaperones will be allowed to attend presentations by their school.
9. Each team's Field Test and Presentation scores will be totaled, and overall place awards will be given accordingly. All participants will receive a certificate of participation.

V. Other

1. Transportation to, from, and during an event will be the responsibility of each participating team unless transportation is provided during an event.
2. Students may attend more than one regular event during the fall season. If a team with one or more repeating students places in the top 5, that team will not displace a team that is competing for the first time that season.
3. Students and chaperones will be asked to complete an evaluation form at the conclusion of the event.
4. Grievances must be submitted in writing to the FC Coordinator by the end of the review period immediately following the Field Test or the Presentation portion of the event. Grievances will be reviewed by the Coordinator and discussed with involved judges and/or volunteers. The Coordinator's decisions are final.
5. FC rules are subject to change by the Coordinator. Any changes will be explained in advance to all teams and chaperones.
6. Host site/facility rules will be enforced in addition to FC Rules.
7. Any infraction of any of the FC Rules may result in disqualification and/or dismissal from the event and the host site.



The Forestry Challenge is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov.



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For the past several years, Redwood Empire and the Los Angeles Hardwood Lumberman's Club have awarded scholarships to Forestry Challenge alumni to assist with expenses in the pursuit of a college degree in Forestry. Here are the 2025 recipients, each one earning scholarships from both donors:

Drew Zacha
Oregon State University



Kelly Cantrell
University of Montana



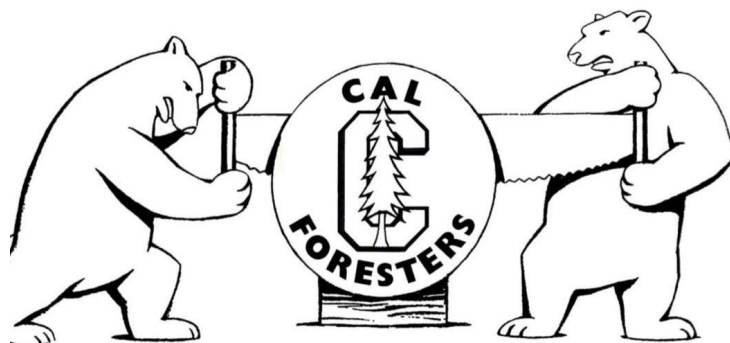
Rowan Galliano
Cal Poly Humboldt



Sloan Farinha
UC Berkeley



The University of California "Bucking Bears" Logging Sports Team will join us on Friday for a demonstration during non-testing time and will give Forestry Challenge participants a chance to test their skills on some of the events.



EXPANDED SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, October

4:00 to 5:30 Registration – Meeting Hall

5:30 to 6:30 Dinner – Dining Hall

6:45 to 7:00 Welcome – Caldor Auditorium

❖ Please gather by 6:40

❖ Bring Focus Topic Question, Paper, and Pencil

7:00 to 8:15 Focus Topic Question presented / Q&A

8:30 to 10:00 Night Hike and Go Karts

10:00 Report to Dorms/Campground

10:30 Lights Out

Thank You to the 2025 El Dorado Forestry Challenge Volunteers

Without volunteers, the Forestry Challenge simply wouldn't happen. Here are the individuals who gave their time and expertise to this event:

Adam Alvarez	David Esquivel	Paulina Gruzdev
Alison Stanton	Elisha Duong-Paul	Pedro Rios
Ashton Oilar	Erica Bigio	Rachel Murray
Beth Wright	Evan Carlos	Reanna Suela
Bob Little	Gary Wajda	Rebecca Anderson
Bobbi Jo Burr	Hunter Hartman	ReneeHargrove
Bryan Jephson	Jack Little	Ricky Shurtz
Bryan Looney	Jaskiran Bakshi	Rob Scharf
Carolyn McLaughlin	John Nicoles	Ryan Wimmer
Chloe Burr	Joyce Everett	Sara Taddo Jones
Christian Noack	Justin Barker	Steve Brink
Christopher Dow	Kaylee Burr	Susan Durham
Cole Locher	Kevin Conway	Tanya Franklin
Connor Alexander Graham	Marc Young	Tim Treichelt
Dan Cullinane	Marisa Collura	Tom Francis
Dana Walsh	Mark Stewart	Warren Dill
David Zelinsky	Mary Dial	Zoe Bailey
	Monica Cantoran	

EXPANDED SCHEDULE FOR THURSDAY

8:00 to 8:45	Breakfast
8:45 to 9:00	Field Training Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Gather in front of Meeting Hall❖ Training Worksheets will be distributed here
9:15 to 11:55	Field Training
12:00 to 1:00	Lunch
1:00 to 1:45	Gather for Data Collection in Parking Lot, Plot Demo <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Bring Focus Topic Question, Camera, Paper, Clipboards, and Water Bottle (and tools if your school brought them)❖ Wear long sleeves, jeans, and boots
1:45 to 4:30	Data Collection
4:30 to 5:00	Travel back to Leoni Meadows
5:30 to 6:30	Dinner
7:00 to 10:30	Students Prepare Presentations in Leoni Lodge Dining Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Each team should have their own table❖ Laptops should be used❖ Students should not leave without permission (except for Ask a Forester appointments)
7:15	“Ask a Forester” introductions in Leoni Lodge Dining Hall
7:20 to 9:30	“Ask a Forester” appointments in Caldor Auditorium
10:30	Turn in Computers and Report to Dorms/Campground
11:00	Lights out

THURSDAY A.M. FIELD TRAINING NOTES

We will have two training tracks, A & B, that your team will divide between. Try to split each team as evenly as possible between the two training tracks. Track A needs the angle gauges and compass, and Track B will keep the cruiser vest. The tracks are as follows:

Training Track A	9:15 - 9:55	9:55 - 10:35	10:35 – 11:15	11:15 – 11:55
Tree ID Species Comp Survey	Teams 1 - 8	Teams 25 - 30	Teams 17 - 24	Teams 9 - 16
Angle Gauge, Limiting Distance Table	Teams 9 - 16	Teams 1 - 8	Teams 25 - 30	Teams 17 - 24
Volume Tables, Market Values	Teams 17 - 24	Teams 9 - 16	Teams 1 - 8	Teams 25 - 30
Maps & Compass	Teams 25 - 30	Teams 17 - 24	Teams 9 - 16	Teams 1 - 8

Training Track B	9:15 - 9:55	9:55 - 10:35	10:35 – 11:15	11:15 – 11:55
Dichotomous Plant Keys	Teams 1 - 8	Teams 25 - 30	Teams 17 - 24	Teams 9 - 16
Diameter Tape, Clinometer, Biltmore Stick, Pacing	Teams 9 - 16	Teams 1 - 8	Teams 25 - 30	Teams 17 - 24
Densitometer, Increment Borer	Teams 17 - 24	Teams 9 - 16	Teams 1 - 8	Teams 25 - 30
Technology	Teams 25 - 30	Teams 17 - 24	Teams 9 - 16	Teams 1 - 8

- ❖ Teams should assemble in front of the Leoni Lodge no later than 8:45
- ❖ Training worksheets will be handed out just prior to training.
- ❖ Wear long pants and close-toed shoes.
- ❖ Bring your clipboard, calculator, and forestry tools.
- ❖ You may bring study materials and paper with you to take notes.

Map to Data Collection Site



Directions: Head out of Leoni Meadows Camp and turn right onto the main road. The data collection unit starts about 3 miles from that turn and extends for about 2 miles along the road on either side. We will stop before the data collection area for a demonstration plot at the location marked on the map, which is about 2 miles from the turn onto the main road.

A Note About Our Sponsors:



In addition to the sponsors on the front cover of this booklet, we would like to thank Anderson Logging for sponsoring us and providing company t-shirts and sweatshirts.

“ASK A FORESTER” NOTES AND GUIDELINES

- Ask a Forester schedules will be available Thursday evening before appointments begin.
- Arrive a few minutes before your scheduled appointment time.
- Appointments are 20 minutes in length.
- Bring any materials with you that will help make your appointment productive.
- Any number of team members may go to the appointment.
- Advisors may not go to the appointments.

EXPANDED SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY

Time	Teams 1-16	Teams 17-30
8:00 to 9:00	Breakfast	
9:00 to 9:15	Gather for Field Testing Instructions (All Teams)	
9:30 to 12:00	Field Testing	Logging Sports, Pacing Contest, & School Photos
12:00 to 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 to 1:15	Travel to Afternoon Activities	Gather for Field Testing and Travel to Testing Stations
1:30 to 4:00	Logging Sports, Pacing Contest, & School Photos	Field Testing
4:15 to 4:45	Test Review	
4:45 to 5:15	Group Photo	
5:30 to 6:30	Dinner	
6:30 to 9:30	Teams Finish Preparing Presentations – Ponderosa Lodge At 9:30 all teams must turn in their laptops and presentations	
9:30 to 10:30	Evening Social Activities	
10:30	Report to Dorms/Campground	

FRIDAY FIELD TESTING SCHEDULE

Time Station	9:30 to 10:02	10:10 to 10:42	10:50 to 11:22	11:30 to 12:02
Upper Loop	Teams 1 - 4	Teams 13 - 16	Teams 9-12	Teams 5 - 8
Burned Stump	Teams 5 - 8	Teams 1 - 4	Teams 13 - 16	Teams 9-12
Apple Tree	Teams 9 - 12	Teams 5 - 8	Teams 1 - 4	Teams 13 - 16
Gravel Flat	Teams 13 - 16	Teams 9 - 12	Teams 5 - 8	Teams 1 - 4

Time Station	1:30 to 2:05	2:10 to 2:45	2:50 to 3:25	3:30 to 4:05
Upper Loop	Teams 17 - 19	Teams 25, 26, 27, 31	Teams 23, 24, 29, 30	Teams 20 – 22, 28
Burned Stump	Teams 20 – 22, 28	Teams 17 - 19	Teams 25, 26, 27, 31	Teams 23, 24, 29, 30
Apple Tree	Teams 23, 24, 29, 30	Teams 20 - 22, 28	Teams 17 - 19	Teams 25, 26, 27, 31
Gravel Flat	Teams 25, 26, 27, 31	Teams 23, 24, 29, 30	Teams 20 – 22, 28	Teams 17 - 19

Important Information about Field Testing:

- * Testing stations will be 32 minutes each with 8-minute rotations in between.
- * Teachers will travel in the same rotation with their team but may not interact with team members at any time during the testing periods. They may, however, look at a blank copy of the test provided by the person in charge of the test station.
- * Teachers need to be aware of the route to the next station and will be responsible for getting their group of students there on time.
- * Teams cannot use notes, written materials, or forestry tools except those given to them at the stations.
- * Teams are responsible for bringing their own clipboard.
- * Students will return all tools before moving to the next testing station.
- * At the end of the afternoon test session, Test Keys will be posted for teams for review and students will have an opportunity to revisit the stations if there are any questions.

El Dorado Forestry Challenge Champions

2003 – Nevada Union High School
2004 – Rio Vista High School
2005 – Elk Grove High School
2006 – Foresthill High School
2007 – Napa New Technology H.S.
2008 – Ponderosa High School FFA
2009 – Ponderosa High School FFA
2010 – Franklin High School
2011 – Ponderosa High School APES
2012 – Ponderosa High School FFA

2013 – Franklin High School
2014 – Amador High School
2015 – Bella Vista High School
2016 – Vista Del Lago High School
2017 – Sac New Tech High School
2018 – Foresthill High School
2019 – Foresthill High School
2021 – El Dorado High School
2022 – El Dorado High School
2023 – Mira Loma High School
2024 – Foresthill High School

Pacing Contest:

The goal of this contest is to pace a 66-foot distance without the use of any measuring device. To practice for this contest, we will mark a 66-foot distance on the sidewalk in front of the Meeting Hall. Stand with your heels on one line and walk with a comfortable step until your toes touch the other line. Once you know how many steps (or paces) you walk, try it without the lines. Then, measure your distance to see how close you are. Note: you will need to know how to do this anyway in order to measure trees using only a Biltmore stick.

Each school will mark the beginning and end of their chain. Each school gets one entry. The school that can pace a distance closest to 66 feet wins the contest and takes possession of the coveted “board foot” trophy.

Santa Cruz Forestry Challenge Pacing Contest Winners

2004 – Amador High School
2005 – Nevada Union High School
2006 – Grant High School
2007 – Napa New Technology H.S.
2008 – Vista del Lago High School
2009 – Foresthill High School
2010 – Franklin High School
2011 – Ponderosa High School APES
2012 – Franklin High School
2013 – Santa Maria High School

2014 – Marysville High School
2015 – Marysville High School
2016 – Sac New Tech High School
2017 – Golden Sierra High School
2018 – Mira Loma High School
2019 – Independence High School
2021 – Calaveras High School
2022 – Placer High School
2023 – Northern Summit Academy
2024 – Piedmont High School

EXPANDED SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY

Saturday

8:00 to 9:00	Breakfast
8:15 to 9:00	Judges Orientation – Meadow View Inn Lobby ❖ For Judges and Timekeepers only
9:15 to 11:15	ALL TEAMS - Report to Dorm Lobby before first round of presentations ❖ Presentation room assignments distributed Friday evening ❖ All teams must complete thank you notes and evaluation forms before leaving holding area
11:20 to 11:45	Judging Panel Feedback to Students – Campfire Bowl
11:45 to noon	Awards – Campfire Bowl
Noon	Lunch and Farewell

Presentation Notes:

- * If your presentation time is not suitable, you can arrange to trade into an earlier slot. Those arrangements must be made before 9 p.m. on Friday evening.
- * Teachers and parents may listen to their own team's presentation(s) but may not listen to other teams.
- * Each presentation location will have three judges, one of whom will serve as timekeeper.
- * The timekeeper will start timing when the presentation begins and show a 5 and a 1 minute warning card. The timekeeper will stop the presentation when time is up, even if the team is not finished.
- * The timekeeper will time the 5 minute question and answer period, with a 1 minute warning.
- * Teams will be able to keep their presentation materials. We encourage teams to give their presentations at school and in the community.
- * All teams will attend a review session from 11:20 to 11:45, where the judges will provide feedback to the teams, after which the awards will be presented.

