

# FORESTRY CHALLENGE

## Forestry Challenge Championship

Camp Sylvester, Pincrest, CA  
April 22 - 24, 2026



[www.forestrychallenge.org](http://www.forestrychallenge.org)



# **CHAMPIONSHIP FORESTRY CHALLENGE** **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

## **Wednesday, April 22**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 4:00 to 5:30  | Registration and Housing Assignments       |
| 5:30 to 6:30  | Dinner                                     |
| 6:45 to 8:00  | Welcome and Focus Topic Panel Presentation |
| 8:15 to 10:30 | Student Work Time / "Ask a Forester"       |
| 10:30         | Report to Cabins/Dorms                     |

## **Thursday, April 23**

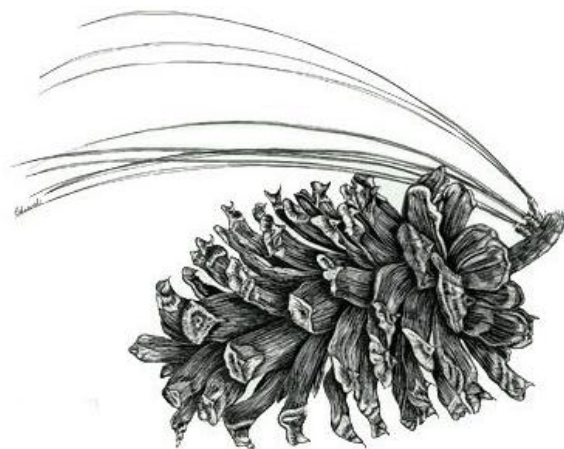
|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 7:30 to 8:30  | Breakfast                               |
| 8:45 to 5:00  | Field trip and testing, including lunch |
| 5:30 to 6:30  | Dinner                                  |
| 6:45 to 10:30 | Student Work Time / "Ask a Forester"    |
| 10:30         | Report to Cabins                        |

## **Friday, April 24**

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 7:45 to 8:45   | Breakfast                      |
| 8:00 to 9:00   | Teams pack up and clean cabins |
| 8:15 to 9:00   | Judges Orientation             |
| 9:15 to 11:15  | Teams Give Presentations       |
| 11:20 to 12:00 | Wrap up and Awards             |
| 12:00          | Lunch and Farewell             |

## Championship Participants:

| <b>School</b>               | <b>County</b> | <b>Advisor</b>          | <b>Teams</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Benicia                     | Solano        | Emily Hudson            | 1            |
| Benjamin Franklin           | Los Angeles   | Abigail Coy             | 2            |
| Bret Harte                  | Calaveras     | Matt Castro             | 3            |
| Charter Oak                 | Los Angeles   | Brian Sneed             | 4            |
| Foothill                    | Shasta        | Brett Hodge             | 5            |
| Foresthill                  | Placer        | Katie Gengler           | 6            |
| Golden Sierra               | El Dorado     | Amara Smallwood         | 7            |
| Granada Hills Charter       | Los Angeles   | Wendy Hagan             | 8, 9, 10, 11 |
| Half Moon Bay               | San Mateo     | Kate Walerga            | 12           |
| John F Kennedy GL&EAM       | Los Angeles   | Jennifer Richard-Gantka | 13           |
| Middletown                  | Lake County   | Karen Jones             | 14           |
| Mira Loma                   | Sacramento    | Colleen Kelly           | 15           |
| Mountainside Middle College | El Dorado     | Jeanine Kobza           | 16           |
| Nevada Union                | Nevada        | Katie Alling            | 17           |
| Oak Ridge                   | El Dorado     | Ryan Madsen             | 18, 19       |
| Palisades Charter           | Los Angeles   | Steve Engelmann         | 20, 21, 22   |
| Piedmont                    | Alameda       | Andy Willats            | 23           |
| Woodside                    | San Mateo     | Ann Akey                | 24           |



*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](http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov).*

*Funding for this project provided by The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Business and Workforce Development Grants.*

*This program made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service.*

*In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)*

*To file a complaint of discrimination: write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Housing Assignments - Camp Sylvester

| Female Cabins     | Schools in cabin                               | # People |
|-------------------|--|----------|
| <b>Ash</b>        | John F Kennedy, Benjamin Franklin              | 8        |
| <b>Aspen</b>      | Mira Loma, Oak Ridge, Foothill                 | 7        |
| <b>Birch</b>      | Foresthill, Golden Sierra                      | 11       |
| <b>Cedar</b>      | Piedmont, Nevada Union                         | 7        |
| <b>Poplar</b>     | Charter Oak, Benicia                           | 7        |
| <b>Ponderosa</b>  | Palisades Charter, Mountainside, Half Moon Bay | 13       |
| <b>Sierra</b>     | Woodside                                       | 6        |
| <b>Spruce</b>     | Middletown, Bret Harte                         | 7        |
| <b>Sugar Pine</b> | Granada Hills                                  | 12       |
| <b>Redwood</b>    | LAUSD Teachers                                 | 2        |
| Male Cabins       | Schools in cabin                               | # People |
| <b>Hemlock</b>    | Mira Loma, Granada Hills                       | 13       |
| <b>Juniper</b>    | Bret Harte, Oak Ridge, Foothill                | 13       |
| <b>Lodgepole</b>  | Mountainside, Piedmont                         | 4        |
| <b>Oak</b>        | Charter Oak, Nevada Union                      | 7        |
| <b>Sequoia</b>    | Palisades Charter, Middletown                  | 11       |
| <b>Willow</b>     | John F Kennedy, Benjamin Franklin              | 2        |
| <b>Dogwood</b>    | LAUSD Teacher                                  | 1        |

**First Aid Available in Thiemann Lodge  
Provided by Billy Adams**

**Staff will be housed at Pinecone cabin next to Dining Hall and  
Thiemann Lodge**

**Forestry Challenge Office will be in Gibson Hall  
Diane's phone: (530) 417-1960 (service is sporadic)**

# **EXPANDED SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY**

## **Wednesday, April 22**

- 4:00 to 5:30      Registration – Deboer Hall, just inside entrance on the left
- 5:30 to 6:30      Dinner – Dining Hall
- 6:45 to 8:00      Welcome and Focus Topic Panel – Dining Hall
- 8:15 to 10:30     Student work time – Dining Hall
- 8:30 to 10:00     “Ask a Forester” – Deboer Hall
- 10:30              Report to Cabins

## **Important Information about Field Testing:**

- \* The test will be separated into 12 stops along a loop route.
- \* Teams will start at the location assigned to them and will move through the stations in numerical order to complete the circuit.
- \* Teams will have 12 minutes at each test station, which includes the time to rotate between stations. A timekeeper with an air horn will signal the beginning and end of each time period.
- \* The questions for each station will be placed at that station, and the teams will not have access to those questions until they arrive at that station. Test questions will be left at the stations before rotating. Teams will have one answer sheet for all stations that will be turned in at the end of testing.
- \* Teachers can walk the testing circuit but may not interact with team members at any time during the testing periods. Copies of the test will be available.
- \* Teams cannot use notes, written materials, or forestry tools except those given to them at the stations.
- \* Clip boards, pencils, and calculators will be provided.
- \* No cell phones allowed.
- \* The test key will be posted at 5:10 p.m. for review, and will be taken down shortly after. Students will have time to ask questions during dinner. No pictures are allowed.

# EXPANDED SCHEDULE FOR THURSDAY

**Thursday, April 23**

| Time                     | Teams 1 – 12                              | Teams 13 - 24                   |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 7:30 to 8:30             | Breakfast                                 |                                 |
| 8:30 to 8:45             | Group Photo                               |                                 |
| 8:45 to 9:30             | Assemble and Travel to Field Trip Stop #1 | Assemble and Set Up for Testing |
| 9:30 to 12:00            | Field Trip until 12:30                    | Field Test                      |
| 12 or 12:30 to 1 or 1:30 | Lunch (12:30 to 1:30)                     | Lunch (12 to 1)                 |
| 1:30 to 5:00             | Field Test (2 to 4:24)                    | Field Trip                      |
| 5:30 to 6:30             | Dinner                                    |                                 |
| 6:45 to 10:30            | Student Work Time – Dining Hall           |                                 |
| 7:00 to 9:00             | Ask a Forester                            |                                 |
| 10:30                    | Report to Cabins                          |                                 |

## **Field Trip Itinerary**

| Teams 1 to 12  | Activity                 | Teams 13 to 24 |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 9:00           | Leave Camp Sylvester     | 1:30           |
| 9:00 to 9:15   | Travel to Stop #1        | 1:30 to 1:45   |
| 9:15 to 9:45   | Stop #1                  | 1:45 to 2:15   |
| 9:45 to 9:55   | Travel to Stop #2        | 2:15 to 2:25   |
| 9:55 to 10:25  | Stop #2                  | 2:25 to 2:55   |
| 10:25 to 10:30 | Travel to Bathroom       | 2:55 to 3:00   |
| 10:30 to 10:45 | Bathroom Stop            | 3:00 to 3:15   |
| 10:45 to 11:05 | Travel to Stop #4        | 3:15 to 3:35   |
| 11:05 to 11:40 | Stop #4                  | 3:35 to 4:10   |
| 11:40 to 11:45 | Travel to Stop #5        | 4:10 to 4:15   |
| 11:45 to 12:20 | Stop #5                  | 4:15 to 4:50   |
| 12:20 to 12:30 | Travel to Camp Sylvester | 4:50 to 5:00   |

**A map with written directions will be handed to the driver of each car on the way out of camp. Additionally, a Google Map file with embedded waypoints will be available for download. Lastly, each team will be given a tablet with the Variable Density Thinning Study units on it and a paper map with color-coded treatment types.**

## **EXPANDED SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY**

### **Friday, April 24**

- 7:45 to 8:45 Breakfast – Dining Hall
- 8:00 to 9:00 Teams pack up and clean cabins
- 8:15 to 9:00 Judges Orientation – Deboer Hall  
❖ For Judges and Timekeepers only
- 9:00 to 11:15 Students report to Dining Hall except when presenting
- 9:15 to 11:15 Teams Give Presentations
- 11:20 to 12:00 Wrap Up and Awards – Amphitheater or Dining Hall
- 12:00 Lunch and Farewell – Dining Hall

#### Notes:

- \* Presentation times and locations will be announced by Thursday at 10:15 p.m.
- \* Teachers and parents may listen to their own team's presentation(s) but may not listen to other teams.
- \* Each presentation location will have four judges, plus a 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. Teams will have 20 minutes to make their presentation.
- \* The timekeeper will time the 5 minute question and answer period, with a 1 minute warning.
- \* Teams may keep their presentation materials. We encourage them to give their presentation at school and in the community.

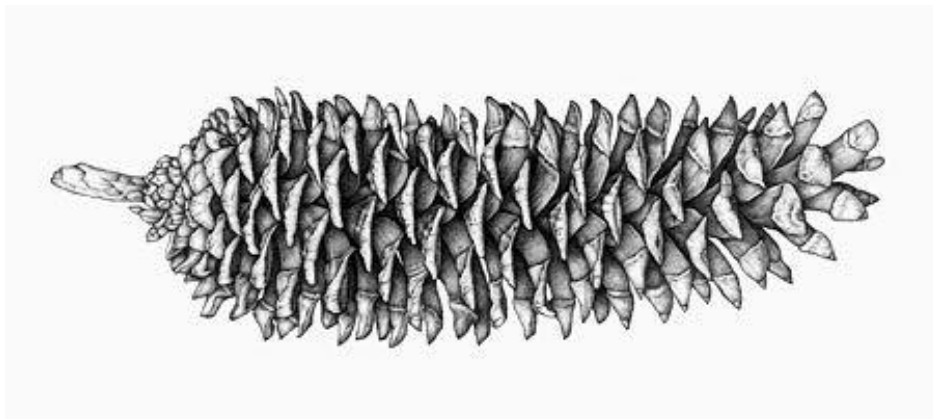
## Thank You to the Championship Forestry Challenge Volunteers

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

Billy Adams  
Adam Alvarez  
Zoe Bailey  
Jacob Baker  
Brooke Bowers  
Gregory Brown  
Bobbie-Jo Burr  
Chloe Burr  
Kaylee Burr  
Karen Caldwell  
Erin Capuchino  
Jon Cartwright  
Ricardo Coronado  
Eric Daniel  
Sara Daniel  
Rose Day  
Mike De Lasaux  
Warren Dill

Chris Dow  
Brady Dubois  
Tom Francis  
Caitlin Henry  
Corinne Hume  
Jerry Jensen  
Michael Jow  
John LeBlanc  
Dean Lofthus  
Alison Mandell  
Keith Martin  
Greg Mayer  
Steve McAdams  
Ty McCarthy  
Brian McCrory  
Carolyn McLaughlin  
Cameron Miller  
Eugenie Moore  
Rita Mustatia

John Nicoles  
Ashton Oilar  
Jim Phelan  
Kevin Price  
David Reinhart  
Rob Scharf  
John Schmechel  
Dennis Serpa  
Noah Van Atta  
Rich Wade  
Gary Wajda  
Wes Whited  
Steve Whitehorn  
Aaron Whittle  
Ralph Wilson  
Ryan Wimmer  
Jami Wolf  
Beth Wright



# **2026 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 report of such actions will be thoroughly investigated and disciplined. Disciplinary actions can include disqualification and/or dismissal from the event.

### III. Reimbursement Information

1. *Reimbursement checks, registration checks, and other checks from Forestry Educators Incorporated must be cashed within 60 days of the postmark date or FEI Reserves the right to void the check.*

### 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. *Use of Generative artificial intelligence (AI) technology for the completion of presentations is prohibited in the Forestry Challenge. Students are expected to rely on their own knowledge, experiences, and interpretation of program content in completing Forestry Challenge-related tasks. This policy is in place to uphold academic integrity and ensure that each student's work is a genuine reflection of their own efforts and understanding.*
8. Students will not be allowed to review presentation materials outside of designated presentation work times.
9. 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.
10. Each team's Field Test and Presentation scores will be totaled, and overall place awards will be given accordingly.

#### 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.



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 ROCK  
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 DODGE RIDGE  
 WINTERSPORTS  
 2.0 Miles  
 ASPEN MEADOWS  
 HORSE PACK STATION  
 5.0 Miles

North fork Tuolumne River