



## Cadette Trees Badge

**Pillar:** Outdoors

**Outcomes:** Learns to identify and solve problems in her community

### Cadettes will earn their badge by:

1. Try Some Tree Fun
  - a. You have a couple options for this step, or you can do both. First, enjoy the bounty trees can provide by visiting an apple or peach orchard (depending on the time of year) or even a sugar maple grove. Pick some fruit or learn how maple trees are tapped.
  - b. Next, make a dish using a product from trees such as walnuts or lemons. If you picked apples or peaches, use these in a dish. If you're working with other girls, add another element of fun by hosting a tree bounty bake-off and invite some judges to taste-test your creations.

This great resource from the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library will support you with Steps 2 & 3:

<https://tscpl.org/readapalooza/readapalooza-2-wangaris-trees-of-peace>

2. Dig into the Amazing Science of Trees
  - a. Do you know how to identify trees? There are several features used to determine tree species- bark, flowers, leaves, needles and more.
    - [Test Your Leaf Skills by Taking this Leaf Identification Quiz](#)
    - [Tree Trivia and Quiz Game from Pro-Prefessors.com](#)
    - [What Tree is that? Identification and Field Guide Arborday.org](#)
  - b. Take a walk through your neighborhood or a park and try to identify at least five different types of trees.
  - c. Take photos or record the trees and locations in a field journal. There are several tree-identification apps available for download, as well as tree identification books.
 

Contribute to the observations of Biodiversity with the iNaturalist App (in Apple or Google iNaturalist is an app where you can record and collect observations. What are observations? An observation records an encounter with an individual organism at a time and location. This includes encounters with signs of organisms like tracks, nests, or things that just died. When you make an observation, you'll record:

    - i. Who you are?
    - ii. What you saw?
    - iii. Where you saw it?
    - iv. When you saw it and provide the evidence for it?
  - d. Or you can use the Missouri Department of Conservation's or Kansas Forest Service tree field guide, available at the links below. Discuss how those trees got in those locations—did they grow there naturally or were they planted? Are the species you identified native to Missouri or Kansas?
    - [Missouri Botanical Gardens Website](#)
    - [Missouri Department of Conservation – Trees and Plants Website](#)
    - [Missouri Department of Conservation – How to Tell Trees Apart Website](#)
    - [Trees Guide to Kansas Plants – Kansas Native Plants Website](#)
    - [Kansas Forest Service – Conservation Tree Planting Program](#)
    - [Kansas Forest Service – Forest Health Website](#)



3. Make a Creative Project Starring Trees



- a. Turn your growing tree knowledge into art. There are so many options: pinecone bird feeders, pressed leaves, leaf sun prints or bark jewelry.

Here's a simple project you can try: DIY Pine Cone Bird Feeders

**Materials:**

String or Twine – A piece 8 to 10 inches long is best, but it can be longer if necessary, for hanging. Yarn or ribbon is another good option and can add a burst of color to the feeding area.

Peanut Butter – Any brand or type of peanut butter can be used, either crunchy or smooth, and it can be past its best by date without any trouble. If peanut butter is not available, suet, lard, or vegetable shortening is also suitable. You can also use other nut butters, such as almond or hazelnut, but avoid sugar-free varieties that don't offer birds good energy.

Birdseed: A mixed birdseed is perfect for these feeders, or straight black oil sunflower seed is also a great option. Choose the seed that will best appeal to your specific backyard birds. Pieces of nuts or small bits of fruit can also be used and will help attract more species of birds to the feeder.

**Directions:**

1. Shake, tap, or brush the pinecone lightly to remove any dirt or debris. Trim off any loose scales that may break as the feeder is assembled.
  2. Tie the string or twine around the feeder, placing it two to three rows of scales below the wider end of the cone with the scales overlapping the string to hold it securely in place.
  3. Use the knife or spreader to coat the cone with a layer of peanut butter, as thick or thin as desired.
  4. Roll the Pinecone in a shallow dish of bird seed, you may need to pole some through the crevices.
4. Explore the Connection between people and trees
    - a. Discuss ways in which trees help people (providing food, oxygen, medicine, shelter, fuel, paper and jobs). Sometimes the ways we use trees aren't so simple. Select a tree issue and have a healthy debate among your family or troop.

Issues you could tackle include logging, clearcutting and deforestation. To have a fruitful debate, do some research before your meeting. Next, explore careers related to trees.

Select a tree-related career like those listed below and present it to the group:

Landscape Architect	Tree Farmer
Park Planner	Nature Writer
Lumber Harvester	Forest Ranger
Soil Scientist	Tree Biologist
Woodworker	Nursery Owner

5. Help Trees Thrive
  - a. Due to the extent and nature of forest destruction, efforts to stop deforestation and preserve them are best achieved at government and organization levels. This means that laws, rules, and regulations from countries can help to enforce the preservation of forests. Laws on farming, timber, and wood, as well as land use must be encouraged and enforced.

Here are a few things you can also do to help.

- i. **Make a conscious effort to share information with others** (friends at school and family members) on deforestation and its' effects.
- ii. **Join organizations**, forest-preservation societies, and pressure groups that aim to help preserve the rest of our natural resources. When more people work together, the impact is greater.
- iii. **Reduce the use of artificial items, recycle more and re-use items.** Wood, paper, plastics and many other things we use every day at home can be linked to natural resources being destroyed. This means that if we all recycle more, there will be less dependence on the environment (and trees). It also means that companies and governments will import fewer raw materials from the forest regions of the world.



- iv. **Learn about ways you can help a forest**, sometimes it's just more than planting a tree! Sometimes it's about removing invasive species, or picking up garbage, telling others not to use trees for tire swings or as posts for signs.
- v. **Plant Tree** in a place where there isn't a lot of them!

There is a fun way to remember the most important points in forest preservation... called TREES which means:

**T**each others about the importance of the environment and how they can help save rainforests.

**R**estore damaged ecosystems by planting trees on land where forests have been cut down.

**E**ncourage people to live in a way that does not hurt the environment.

**E**stablish parks to protect rainforests and wildlife.

**S**upport companies that operate in ways that minimize damage to the environment.

**Share your work** on the GSKSMO Virtual Art Show - [https://www.gsksmo.org/en/events/virtual\\_art\\_show.html](https://www.gsksmo.org/en/events/virtual_art_show.html) - if applicable

**When you're finished:** Congratulations, you have earned your badge! You can purchase by emailing [shopdept@gsksmo.org](mailto:shopdept@gsksmo.org) or at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/CADETTE-TREES-BADGE>

No shipping charges apply at this time.

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