Jobs in the Forest: Forester

Forestry – the study of caring and managing for forests, which includes lots of different things such as geology, hydrology, botany, and ecology. A Forester is trained in caring for the forest. A Forester needs to know what can harm or kill the forest such as diseases, pests (bugs), or abiotic factors like drought, and then how to fix the problem – almost like a doctor.

Become a Forest Doctor

Many of the diseases, insects, or abiotic factors are hidden inside of the tree so Foresters need to investigate and look for signs and symptoms to prescribe the best treatment.

**Signs – Evidence of a disease or insect**
- Mushrooms
- Insect galleries or tunnels in tree
- Frass – insect poop that looks like sawdust on the bark of a tree

**Symptoms – physical feature that indicates a problem**
- Dead leaves (necrosis)
- Resin or sap flows from holes
- Swelling on branches
- Cankers

Forester Activities
1. As you hike around, look for signs and symptoms. Keep a tally of everything you find and where you found it.

2. Research Sudden Oak Death (link). As you explore JDSF, see if you can spot where Sudden Oak Death is on the Forest. Don’t take anything from the forest but memories - learn how to not spread the disease!

Tag us in your photo on social media to show us your forestry skills

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