

REQUIRED VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR CITIZEN FORESTERS AND CERTIFIED CITIZEN FORESTERS

TRAINING

There are currently two Citizen Forester training programs being offered.

Traditional Path: A total of 6 five-hour class days scheduled over a 5-month period. A total of 30 hours of instruction and field exercises are included in this training. Although perfect attendance is highly preferred, if after attending a minimum of 5 of the 6 classes and participating in the field activities, the students are given Citizen Forester badges and earn the title Citizen Forester.

They can earn the status of Certified Citizen Forester as outline below.

Alternative Path: A total of 10 six-hour class days scheduled over a ten-month period. A total of 60 hours of instruction and field exercises are included in this training. Although perfect attendance is highly preferred, if after attending 9 of the 10 classes and participating in the field exercises, students will graduate as Certified Citizen Foresters. If at least 6 of the training days are completed, students will graduate as Citizen Foresters and will be eligible to earn Certified status in the following year by meeting the requirements as outlined below.

CITIZEN FORESTERS

Each year, to be considered an active Citizen Forester, a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer time must be completed within the calendar year. December and January will be “swing months”. You can count your December hours in the following year or you can count your January hours in the previous year, if you so choose.

If a participant fails to achieve at least Citizen Forestry status within a 2-year period, they will need to retake the classes to regain their status as a Citizen Forester.

CERTIFIED CITIZEN FORESTERS

The following describes the requirements for becoming, and maintain status as a Certified Citizen Forester:

1. If you took the Traditional Training and it was held during the spring, twenty-five hours of supervised volunteer time must be completed during that calendar year to achieve Certified Citizen Forester status. These 25 volunteer hours cannot include the field exercises during Citizen Forester training during that initial year. The volunteer can begin accumulating these 25 hours of service as soon as classes have begun.
2. No additional classroom training will be required during this first year.
3. If the class is held during the fall, the requirements listed above will be required during the following year.

4. For those completing the Alternative Path, no additional activities are required in the first year to achieve Certified status. You will graduate as a Certified Citizen Forester if you have properly completed the requirements outlined above.
5. For the years after the initial period, at least twenty hours of volunteer time and five hours of continuing education must be completed each year to achieve the status of Certified.
6. December and January will be “swing months”. You can count your December hours in the following year or you can count your January hours in the previous year, if you so choose.
7. If for some reason these hours cannot be earned, and the volunteer has at least 10 volunteer hours, they go back to Citizen Forester status. Therefore, volunteers are able to go back and forth between being a Citizen Forester and Certified Citizen Forester depending on how many hours they earn each year.

See the guidelines below to help determine what will count as acceptable volunteer time and continuing education time. If you have questions, submit them to your area coordinator. We primarily rely on the honor system for you to determine and report your time.

VOLUNTEER TIME

1. Participating in a Citizen Forester organized event in any Region that is not “Formally arranged Education” described below.
2. Volunteering to assess tree health, damage or livelihood in any public aspect of our CTUFC Area: Neighborhoods, city parks, schools, flood plains or other publically owned areas.
3. Volunteering in any fashion that leads to the education about trees, distributing of trees, planting of trees or maintaining public trees.
4. Volunteering to promote the Citizen Forester program and assure its progressive status.
5. Volunteering to coordinate training events and the organization of such events.
6. All travel time to any of the above-mentioned items count as volunteer time.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUs)

1. Any Citizen Forester organized education activity, including quarterly meetings where the Citizen Forester volunteer is the recipient of information on trees
2. Any Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council organized education activity where the Citizen Forester volunteer is the recipient of information on trees

3. Any formally arranged event, small or large, where the participant is educated on some aspect of trees: how to use in a landscape, planting, pruning, tree health, use for water conservation, use for water run-off, use for shade, use for food, etc. If multiple topics are covered, only the tree portion of the time will count.
4. Any formal lessons presented on line that educate its participants on some aspect of trees.
5. Any audio training, books on tape, or the like will count.
6. The reading of any book or publication that educates its reader on some aspect of trees. A suggested reading list will be maintained and made available to the Citizen Foresters.
7. Teaching about trees also qualifies as CEU time as does the preparation of the lessons.
8. Travel time to any of the CEU events unless you are listening to audio tree education in your car does not count.

You are expected to utilize our volunteer on-line software (currently VicNet, a Volgistics feature) to sign up to participate in events and to record your time. This is a necessary aspect to participating in the program.

CTUFC MEMBERSHIP

January is the month to join or renew your Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council Membership. As of January 2017, the dues are \$25/year for an individual, \$50/year for a family. Certified Citizen Foresters get a discount of \$10/year. Therefore, the dues for Certified Citizen Foresters is \$15/year. Dues can be paid through the CTUFC website, ctufo.org. Click Membership on the left. The amounts may be modified by the Board of the Cross Timber Urban Forestry Council. Citizen Foresters are sponsored by the CTUFC and, while membership is not required to be a Citizen Forester, it is highly encouraged so that the organization has the funds necessary to support our activities. For those students participating in the Alternative Path training, you will receive a CTUFC membership as a part of your training fee.