



10th Annual International Junior Foresters' Competition

Sponsored by the Russian Federal Forest Agency
Mid-September, Moscow and Khanti-Mansyisk, Russia
Competition Requirements and Procedure

Competition Objectives

The Junior Foresters' Competition is an annual event hosted by the Russian Federal Forestry Agency, which is open to students from around the world. The specific objectives of the competition are:

- to support student initiatives in protection, conservation and regeneration of world forest resources at local and global levels;
- to encourage student interests in research in forest stock record and monitoring, sustainable forest management, evaluation of anthropogenic impacts on forest resource conditions and forest input in sustainable development of the planet's biosphere, biological diversity conservation, and efficient use of wood resources on the basis of updated scientific methodology;
- to involve young people in activities related to the exchange of ideas about sustainable forest use involving various public sectors;
- to identify and encourage young students who have special expertise and skills in forestry and environmental science.

Competition Requirements

- Up to two representatives from each country will be invited to participate in the competition. In the past, as many as 32 countries have taken part in this annual competition.
- All contestants must be between 16 and 20 years old.

Potential project topics include, but are not limited to, the following list of current research trends:

- ***Forestry and Silviculture:*** wood identification; forest regeneration and succession; impacts of recreation, thinning, wildfires, and other disturbances on forests; forest regeneration after logging; effectiveness of artificial forest regeneration efforts, forest plantations, etc.
- ***Wildlife ecology:*** fauna, ecology and behavior of birds, insects and other forest species, including pests; study of the effectiveness of biological controls (e.g. attracting predators to control pests), etc.



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- ***Ecology of forest plants:*** floristic and geobotanical studies of forest plant communities, studies of ecological and biological characteristics of forest plants, establishment of interpretive trails in forests, etc.

Competition Procedure

- Students interested in representing the United States in the competition may submit an application and detailed project description to the USFS International Programs Office by July 15th, 2013. A panel of USFS experts will review the applications and select **one project** (up to two team members allowed). The USFS International Programs office will submit the chosen project to the Russian competition organizers, who will make the final decision of acceptance to the competition.
- During the Competition in Russia (mid-September, exact dates to be determined), contest participants will present their projects to an International Panel of Judges. Contestants will respond to the Judges' questions and give responses using necessary visual aids (photos, slides, tables, figures, posters, etc.).
- Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria: relevancy, scientific value, practical importance, validity of research goals and objectives, quality and clearness of presented results, command of the material and proper presentation abilities.
- Prizes will be awarded in the following manner:
 - The winner of the International Junior Forester Prize will be presented with a Grand Prize.
 - The second and third places will be presented with special prizes.
 - The winners from the fourth to tenth place will be awarded incentive prizes.
 - All finalists will receive competition diplomas and medals.

The official details of the competition (dates, exact location and schedule, etc.) will be announced by the Russian Federal Forestry Agency in June or July. If you are planning to apply, please contact Jennifer Smith (see below) to learn those details and find out if there have been any changes to the application process.

Please submit completed applications, resumes, and project descriptions to Jennifer Smith at the USFS International Programs office. You may also contact Jennifer with any questions or concerns. Email: (jennifer.smith@fs.fed.us). Phone: 202-677-2085.