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# The Trees for Tomorrow

## Four Seasons Environmental Center



## The Trees For Tomorrow Experience

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**A**S high school juniors, we had interests in pursuing an outdoor related career. However, not until attending the "Trees For Tomorrow Workshop on Forestry and Related Natural Resources" did we decide on going into the forestry profession. The week long workshop served to dispense the stereotyped "Forest Ranger" image often held by many people. Forestry was shown to be involved with many aspects of the outdoors, encompassing all phases of multiple use.

"Trees For Tomorrow environmental Center" is the site of the annual Forestry Workshop held in conjunction with Iowa State University, University of Illinois, and the University of Wisconsin. The center is located in the heart of the northwoods in Eagle River, Wisconsin. Sixty high school juniors, twenty from each state, are chosen by the participating universities to attend

during the summer. Students selected must be in the upper 25% of their junior class, and be seriously considering a career in natural resources.

Some of the topics which we were exposed to in the limited time we were there included; forest ecology, forest soils, wildlife, forest insects, and diseases, and products. Our learning experiences came in the form of field trips to paper and lumber operations, a Christmas tree farm, a nursery, and a Forest Service research facility. Also included were outdoor field labs on tree identification, soil identification, compass traverse, forest measurements, and interpretive ecological hikes. Classroom instruction was another important part of the total learning experience.

Although most of our time was filled with educational experiences, we still had plenty of time to engage in social activities with our peers. Volleyball, football, canoeing, and other leisure activities offered oppor-

tunities to get better acquainted. The culminating highlight of the week was the lumberjack contest where we got a chance to prove our forestry skills in log chopping, log rolling, two person bucking, and bolt throwing.

For many it was their first time in the northwoods and their first exposure to forestry. The workshop also gave us a first time opportunity to talk to university professors and get an idea of where to attend college.

How many actually go on to pursue a natural resource career? We are not sure of the actual statistics, but for some, the workshop is the deciding point leading to their careers.

After attending the forestry workshop, we feel we have gained an invaluable learning experience and hope that others will get a chance to attend in the future. "Trees For Tomorrow" is one of a kind workshop, and gave us, as high school students, a chance to plan our careers through better understanding of natural resource fields. ■