Adopt-A-Tree Album
Get ready ...

Trees are a very special part of our environment. They do a lot of good things for people and other living creatures. This project will help you get to know trees in a special way.

In the Adopt-A-Tree project you will pick one tree you would like to get to know. By visiting your tree often, you will get to know it very well. Like a good friend, you will help it when it is in trouble. You can even share secrets with it—a tree is a good listener and never tells!

Get set ...

In order to do this project, you will need to
• find a tree to adopt,
• fill out the adoption form, and
• complete at least four seasons of records in your Adopt-A-Tree Album.

In this album, you will write about the special things that happen in the life of your special tree.

Go!

Find a tree you would like to adopt. It may be any kind of tree, little or big, young or old. Be sure to pick a tree that you can get to easily because you’ll want to visit it often. To adopt your tree, fill in the blanks on the Application for Adoption and give it to your leader for approval.

*The Adopt-A-Tree concept was first proposed by The American Forest Institute as part of “Project Learning Tree.”
Application for Adoption

Name of person applying (adopter) ____________________________________________

Name of tree (adoptee) ____________________________________________________

nickname (common name of tree)

given name (scientific name of tree)

Date of adoption ____________________________

Age of tree at time of adoption (if known) ________________________________

If age is unknown, estimate ____________________________

Description: check proper boxes below.

Leaves

☐ broadleaf

☐ needleleaf

☐ evergreen

☐ deciduous

☐ simple

☐ compound, number of leaflets ______

Bark

☐ smooth

☐ ridged

☐ platey

☐ peely (exfoliating)

☐ knobby

☐ other ____________________________

Branches

☐ alternate

☐ opposite

Buds

☐ terminal

☐ not terminal

Diameter of trunk measured at 4½ feet above ground ______________

(Measure trunk with tape measure and divide by 3.14, or use a diameter tape. This measurement is

known as the dbh, or diameter at breast height.)

For identification purposes, we require a leaf print and bark print;
please attach one of each to your application.

Place of birth (if known) ________________________________________________

Country of origin ______________________________________________________

Is adoptee a parent to the best of your knowledge? ___________________________

If so, what evidence do you have to support this claim? ________________________

______________________________________________________________

Person to contact in case of emergency (owner or arborist) ____________________

______________________________________________________________
• Draw a picture or take a photograph of your tree to put in your album. Try to get some of the other plants and animals you find around your tree into the photo or drawing.
• Also draw a picture of what your tree looked like when it was a seed.

My tree on my first visit

Date __________________________

One the day of my first visit, the weather was

__________________________________

__________________________________

My tree as a seed
before it sprouted
• Pick two leaves from your tree. Measure them and record below how long and how wide they are.

Is your tree evergreen or deciduous? ________________________

If it is **evergreen**, it will keep its green leaves through the winter.
If it is **deciduous**, the leaves will lose their green color in autumn and fall off the tree before next year’s leaves begin to grow.

Here are two ways to make a print of one of your tree’s leaves:

1. Place a leaf bottom-side up on an ink stamp pad.
   Cover the leaf with a piece of paper and press down to cover it with ink.
   Remove the paper and put the leaf on the rectangle below labeled “First leaf print.”
   Put a clean sheet of paper on the leaf and press down.
   Remove the leaf and carefully throw it away. The ink print will be left on the page.

2. Lay the leaf bottom-side up on a hard surface, such as a table top.
   Cover it with a thin sheet of paper (typing paper will work).
   Rub gently over the paper with a crayon or soft pencil.
   Where there are ridges in the leaf, the color will be darker.
   Cut the print to fit in the rectangle labeled “First leaf print.” Tape or glue it neatly in place.

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**First leaf print**

Date ________________________

The leaves are _______ inches long
The leaves are _______ inches wide
The leaves are **(evergreen or deciduous)**
• Make a bark rubbing of your tree by holding a thin sheet of paper against the bark and gently rubbing the side of a crayon over the paper. If your tree has very rough bark, you will need to be careful not to tear the paper.

• Describe how the bark of your tree **looks** (texture, color, pattern) and **feels** (smooth, stringy, rough, etc.)

**Bark rubbing**

The bark looks ________________________________________________

It feels ________________________________________________

• Draw a picture of one of the **twigs** on your tree.

Is there a bud or leaf at the end (terminal) of each twig? ____________________________
The **leaves** and **buds** of a tree can be arranged on their stems in an opposite, alternate, or whorled pattern.

- If your tree has an **opposite** growing pattern, its leaves and buds will be directly across from each other on the stem.

- If your tree has an **alternate** growing pattern, the leaves and buds will grow out of the stem alternately—one on the right and then one on the left.

- If your tree has a **whorled** growing pattern, several leaves and buds will grow out of the stem at the same place.

Look carefully at your tree to see if its leaves and buds are opposite, alternate, or whorled.

Branches and leaves on my tree are arranged ________________________________

The branching habit of my tree is ________________________________

- Look carefully at a leaf from your tree.

**BROAD LEAVES**

**SIMPLE**

**PALMATELY COMPOUND**

**PINNATELY COMPOUND**

**NEEDLE LEAVES**

**NEEDLES IN BUNDLES**

**NEEDLES SEPARATELY ATTACHED**

**NEEDLES IN WHORLS**

**SCALE-LIKE NEEDLES**

Which kind of leaf grows on your tree? ____________________________________________

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• Make a list of all the things you can think of that trees do for you. Think about things made from wood, things that grow on or live in trees, and ways trees make life more fun or comfortable for you.

• If your tree has strong limbs, you may want to climb it to see what the world looks like from its point of view. Draw a picture as if you were looking down from a branch or looking up into the tree from the ground. If your tree is small, don’t try to climb it. A broken tree limb heals much more slowly than a broken arm and can allow infections to kill or weaken your tree.

What trees do for me

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• Find out what trees need for strong and healthy growth. If your tree is growing in soil without many nutrients (such as soil under sidewalks) or in soil that is very dry, you might need to give it fertilizer and water. Trees like slow, deep watering, so you may want to let a hose trickle at the bottom of the tree for several hours. Watering during dry spells and fertilizing in late fall or early spring will keep your tree strong and help it resist diseases and insect attacks.

• Does your tree need first aid for broken branches, injured bark, or illness? Talk to its owner and help arrange for first aid. Keep a record of treatments and watch the injuries heal.

**What I can do for my tree**

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• Visit your tree at least twice a week in spring and fall and once a week in summer and winter. Draw a picture or take a photograph at each season and record the changes you see in your album.
• At least once each season, spend an hour or more visiting your tree. Watch for and write down what other animals (besides you) visit your tree.
• Do other plants live in or near your tree? Write about them in your album.

**Fall visits**

Date of first color change ________________
Date of last green leaf ________________
Date the first leaf fell ________________
Date the last leaf fell ________________

Twig with next year’s buds

What birds and other animals have you seen on or near your tree?

____________________________________ Date _____________
____________________________________ Date _____________
____________________________________ Date _____________
____________________________________ Date _____________
____________________________________ Date _____________
____________________________________ Date _____________
____________________________________ Date _____________
____________________________________ Date _____________
____________________________________ Date _____________
____________________________________ Date _____________
____________________________________ Date _____________

Other plants noticed ________________________________________
**Winter visits**

Date of first snowfall ____________

What kind of tracks have you seen around your tree?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What animals have you seen on or around your tree?

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

What animals have you seen on or around your tree?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Are seeds of your tree still visible and available to wildlife in winter? ____________

What animals, if any, have you seen eating or storing seeds from your tree?

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

Temperature in shade of tree ____________ Date ____________

Temperature in sun ____________ Date ____________

Other plants noticed

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

10
**Spring visits**  

Date of first bud opening __________

Do the first buds to open contain flowers, leaves, or both? __________

Date your tree is in full flower __________

Date of first robin seen in or near your tree __________

Date first nest building activity is observed __________

Date your tree has leaves on every branch __________

Date of first picnic or book read under tree __________

Length of a leaf when first seen __________ Date __________

Length of the same leaf on next visit __________ Date __________

Length of the leaf in last week of school __________ Date __________

Length of a bud on first day of spring __________ Date __________

Length of the twig one week later __________ Date __________

Length of the twig in last week of school __________ Date __________

Date leaves are all dark green __________

What animals have you seen on or under your tree?

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

What insects have you seen on your tree?

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

Other plants noticed

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________ Date __________
Summer visits

Temperature in shade of tree _______ Date _______ Temperature in sun _______ Date _______

What did you do during your first long visit to your tree after school was out?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What animals visited your tree during your visit?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Does your tree show signs of being “thirsty?” _________________________________

What signs does it show? _________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What did you do about it? _________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Look closely at several leaves. What signs of insects, if any, do you see?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Find out what insects are eating your tree and list them.
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Fruits or seeds in summer

What sounds do you hear when you lie under your tree? _________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Is it nicer to read a book in the shade or sunlight? _________________________________

Why? _________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
# 4-H Activities Report

This report will help you keep a better record of your club activities. Fill it in as you complete each assignment. Refer to this record when you are entering county, state, and national programs. Ask your local leader to explain these programs to you.

## My 4-H Activities Report for the 20___ Club Year

### Projects taken

- [ ]

### Offices held

- Club
- County

### “Show-and-tells” given to

- Family
- Friends
- Local club
- County
- Region
- State

### News articles

- [ ]

### Radio

- [ ]

### TV

- [ ]

### Things done to improve my health

- [ ]

### Community service or citizenship work done

- By myself
- With club

### Number of meetings my club(s) held this year

- [ ]

### Number I attended

- [ ]

### Number of new members I encouraged to join 4-H

- [ ]

### Number of boys and girls I helped with projects

- [ ]

### In what way?

- [ ]

### Check those attended and tell how you helped

- [ ] 3- or 4-day camp
- [ ] 1-day camp
- [ ] Club or county tours
- [ ] Club picnic
- [ ] Countywide picnic
- [ ] 4-H Sunday
- [ ] County fair
- [ ] Achievement programs
- [ ] Roundup
- [ ] Teen Leader Retreat
- [ ] State 4-H Capital Days
- [ ] Camp Leadership Training
- [ ] Penn State 4-H Achievement Days
- [ ] Pennsylvania Farm Show
- [ ] National 4-H Week
- [ ] State Ambassador Conference
- [ ] Judging training
- [ ] Dairy Bowl training
- [ ] Others

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*Note: This template is designed to be filled out with specific details for each activity. The placeholders are meant to guide the creation of a comprehensive record of your 4-H participation.*
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Club</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leader’s Name</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Project</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>4-H Club Motto</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“To make the best better”</td>
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<tr>
<th>4-H Club Pledge</th>
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<tr>
<td>I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.</td>
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<tr>
<th>4-H Club Colors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Green and White</td>
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Prepared by Nancy Pywell, former forest resources specialist.
Designed and illustrated by Rae D. Chambers.

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Visit Penn State Extension on the web: extension.psu.edu

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