

# Adopt a Tree

Choose a tree in your area to “adopt.” Fill out this recording sheet to keep a record of your tree, and then check on your tree at least once each season. Complete a new record sheet and make note of any changes each time you check on your tree.

## Species

What kind of tree have you adopted? How did you determine the species (leaves, bark, etc.)? (What books or guides did you use?)

Species of Tree: \_\_\_\_\_

Is it native or non-native? \_\_\_\_\_

Sources used to determine species:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Location & Habitat

Describe the area where your tree is living and what its living conditions are like.

General (city street/sidewalk, city park, suburban park, woodlot, yard, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Soil (dry and sandy, moist and rich, muddy, hard pavement, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

## The Size of My Tree

Measure your tree’s circumference—the distance around your tree—by wrapping a string or rope around the tree and measuring the length needed to go all the way around the tree. Take your measurement at about 4.5 feet above the ground.

**Circumference** = \_\_\_\_\_

How tall is your tree? Stand with your back to the tree and lean forward until you can look between your legs and see the tree behind you. Move forward until you can just see the top of the tree when you look between your legs. Measure the distance between the tree and where you ended up. This is approximately equal to the height of the tree.

**Height** = \_\_\_\_\_

How far out to the sides do your tree’s branches reach? In other words, what is the diameter of its crown? Stand under the tip of the branch that reaches the farthest from the tree’s trunk. Have a friend stand opposite you and under the tip of the branches above, with the tree’s trunk between you. Measure the distance between you and your friend.

**Crown** = \_\_\_\_\_

For more ways to measure trees, go to:

[www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/measure.php](http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/measure.php)

## Wildlife

Many different kinds of wildlife use trees for food and shelter. What kinds of animals can you find evidence of? Do you see any live animals?

Signs of Wildlife I Noticed:

- Squirrel nests
- Bird nests
- Insect nests, cocoons, holes, signs of feeding
- Other (list)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Wildlife I Saw (the real thing!):

- Squirrels
- Birds
- Insects
- Other (list)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Bark**

In the space provided here, make a rubbing of the bark of your tree. Hold your page against the tree and gently rub the SIDE of a crayon down the paper. Start at the top and stroke downward, repeating until the image shows through. (Do not go up and down or you will have a solid color which does not show the bark pattern.)

### **My Tree, Through the Seasons**

Keep an eye on your tree year-round. In the space provided here, make a sketch or tape in a photo of your tree in each season.

**SPRING**

**SUMMER**

**FALL**

**WINTER**

### **Leaf or Twig and Bud**

In the space provided here, draw or make a rubbing of a leaf from your tree. If the leaves have not yet opened, draw the twig and bud instead. If you see flowers or seeds, draw them, too.