How to Hire an Arborist

The job market in tree work is wide open for anyone in good physical condition and who loves the outdoors. There are two ways to enter the field. One is by beginning as a ground crew member or tree climber with an established company. Many offer excellent training and opportunities for advancement. The other way is to obtain a college education in arboriculture, urban horticulture, or urban forestry. To see a list of colleges and universities that offer degree programs in these fields, visit the website of the International Society of Arboriculture at isa-arbor.com and click on Careers in Arboriculture.

Arborists work not only in trees but in the ground beneath trees. Here a campus arborist at the University of Idaho volunteers his time to work with tree-board members in his community. The group is drilling holes with a soil auger in an attempt to save street trees suffering from heavily compacted soil.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

There are many opportunities for practicing arborists to improve their knowledge and skills, or for others to begin preparing for work with trees. Most professional organizations hold annual conferences or workshops. A few of these are listed at arborday.org/bulletins or use a search engine to check on other organizations in the green industry. You may also contact Member Services at 888-448-7337 for more suggestions.

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The Tree City USA Program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. To achieve the national recognition of being named as a Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards:

1. A Tree Board or Department
2. A Tree Care Ordinance
3. A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at Least $2 Per Capita
4. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Each recognized community receives a Tree City USA flag, plaque, and community entrance signs. Towns and cities of every size can qualify. Tree City USA application forms are available from your state forester, the Arbor Day Foundation at arborday.org/treecity or contact your state forestry agency.

A round the home or along the avenue, trees are one of our most valuable assets. They are also a long-term investment.

Like any investment our trees require careful decisions and the occasional advice and service of a professional. In the world of trees, arborists form the cadre of specialists who can safeguard your trees and save you from the long-term consequences of their neglect or the wrong decision. In this issue, learn how you can judge when to call an arborist and how to select the right one.