

Local Forestry Organizations in Kentucky: Project Ideas

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Local Forestry Organizations (LFO) are grass root organizations formed to address forestry issues in their area. Regardless of the activities your LFO chooses to pursue, make sure they are supported by the group. The important thing is to remain active and to address forestry issues important in your area. Committees can be used to provide leadership on activities. The following list is in no particular order and is not conclusive; however, it can serve as a starting point to get your LFO more active. LFO members may also have additional ideas.

1. **Conduct a local LFO Leadership Workshop for all Officers and Board Members.** Ask your county extension office for assistance in developing the workshop.
2. **Develop and distribute a forestry newsletter to members during the year.** The newsletter can keep members informed about important issues and also be a great way to let the community know about the activities the LFO is working on.
3. **Develop a Local Forestry Organization informational/membership brochure.** Make brochures available at prominent places in the community and have some available at LFO events for newcomers.
4. **Sponsor a legislative/elected official event to meet with representatives, senators, local leaders (possibly in cooperation with Farm Bureau, Cattlemen' Association, etc.) to highlight the importance of forestry and natural resources in your county.** This event can be a productive way to educate leaders on the importance of forestry in your area; it is also an excellent way to build relationships with other organizations in your community.
5. **Sponsor an Estate Planning Workshop focusing on woodland owners.** This effort can help ensure that forests remain forests and can have significant financial benefits to participants. Ask your county extension office for assistance in developing the workshop.
6. **Sponsor forestry programs available through the University of Kentucky Extension Service and Kentucky Division of Forestry.** Work with your local representatives of these organizations to plan and conduct forestry educational programs that are important to your area.
7. **Work with local agencies to establish a forestry demonstration area that can be used for educational programs.** Forestry demonstration areas can be a valuable educational platform to help people address forestry issues on their property.
8. **Present forestry related programs, videos, etc. in Vocational Agriculture Classes.** This is a good way to promote forestry to the next generation.
9. **Sponsor a Project Learning Tree Workshop for teachers.** Project Learning Tree is a program full of forestry related educational activities that actively engages students.
10. **Design and install a forestry promotional sign on a major highway in county (Example: "Forestry #1 Industry in county name).** Work with local officials on this effort and try to include the LFO name on the sign.
11. **Sponsor a Youth Forestry Club.** Open membership to all youth and help plan activities.
12. **Sponsor a 4-H Forestry and/or Envirothon Team.** Help teach tree identification and measurements or other skills needed for their competitions. Prepare the team for district or state contests.
13. **Sponsor a scholarship to a college student, perhaps majoring in forestry, from your county.** This is a positive way to give back to the community and can make a meaningful difference in a young person's life.
14. **Participate with local schools in "job-shadowing" for students interested in forestry or the wood industry.** This is a great way for students to learn about forestry and wood industry career opportunities.

15. **Partner with your local Chamber of Commerce or other entities to tour a wood and a lumber processing plant or tour a logging operation and follow the wood to the mill.** This is a good way to let community members know how important forestry is to your community.
16. **Sponsor a Tree Planting Week (or Arbor Day) activity.** This could take place at a local park or other public area.
17. **Sponsor a forestry activity during National Wood Products Week in October.** Consider working with the local school system and local wood industries to develop poster and essay contests with awards such as savings bonds.
18. **Sponsor a forestry publication insert in the local newspaper.** This may include writing articles, obtaining pictures, and securing ads.
19. **Prepare an exhibit that can be set up at events in the county/city such as fairs.** Have handouts appropriate for the event. Always have LFO membership forms available.
20. **Sponsor a Wall of Fame or plaque for forestry leaders in the county.** Place it in a county building such as the Extension Office, court house, etc. This will not only recognize significant forestry contributions in your area but may also inspire others.
21. **Sponsor a Woman's Day in the Forest.** This event could be a field day or hike in the woods. Men are not the only ones faced with making sometimes difficult decisions regarding their property.
22. **Hold a Youth Forestry Day.** Work with local schools, agencies, and youth organizations (ex. 4-H) to organize and conduct the event.
23. **Tree Identification Signs on a Trail.** Many communities have a local park or other green space that is frequented by local citizens. A tree identification trail is a good tool to engage people in learning more about trees and forestry.
24. **Sponsor a Logger Appreciation Dinner.** Loggers play a critical role in getting wood to market and this dinner will show the LFO's appreciation of their efforts. A local mill may be willing to assist with dinner costs.
25. **Assist Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts with merit badges and awards.** Contact local troop leaders to coordinate assistance.
26. **Conduct a bumper sticker contest on forestry with students in local schools.** Be sure to have the winner's sticker printed. This is best done after a talk, video or forestry activity conducted in the classroom.
27. **Recognize Tree Farmers for significant milestones, ex. 10, 25 or 30 years in the Tree Farm System.** This could take place at a regular meeting or an awards dinner.
28. **Use the local newspaper to spark ideas amongst your LFO.** Recently reported forestry news or events can generate discussion leading to action for your LFO.
29. **Watch other successful, locally-driven groups and use them as a potential model.** Local groups may be able to provide insight on successful projects and could be prospective partners for future activities.

This fact sheet offers potential projects and activities for local forestry organizations (LFO) consideration. Additional information on LFOs can be found in companion fact sheets FORFS 07-01 Local Forestry Organizations in Kentucky: A Growing Idea and FORFS 07-02 Local Forestry Organizations in Kentucky: Formation and Organization.

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