"FORESTERS" PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
GRADES 3-7

STATION 1: INVASIVE SPECIES

At the end of this activity, students will be able to:
- Recognize the diversity of organisms that make up the forest community.
- Relate that organisms are found not only in the trees, but also on the ground and in the soil.
- Know that every different kind of living thing is given a species name.
- Describe special characteristics or adaptations that helps a species to survive.
- Define native species, and describe how they function to keep a habitat in balance.
- Explain that an invasive species may also be known as an alien species or exotic species, and why they were originally introduced to an area.
- Describe how an invasive species like Chinese privet affects a forest ecosystem.

STATION 2: EVERY TREE FOR ITSELF/TREE COOKIES

At the end of this activity, students will be able to:
- List and describe the factors that plants need to grow. (Students will engage in an activity to explore the concept of competition among trees with a game, Every Tree for Itself").
- Explain that a tree cookie is a record of how a tree grew and the conditions they endured during their lifetimes**.**
- Count the rings on a tree cookie to determine approximately how old the tree is.
- Write a story about the life of their tree based on observations of their own tree cookie.

STATION 3: LIFE ON THE EDGE

At the end of this activity, students will be able to:
- Know that a habitat is made up of both living (biotic), and nonliving (abiotic) factors.
- Recognize that within a forest there are a variety of habitats that support diverse populations of organisms.
- Distinguish between a species and a population.
- Generate a scenario that would result in an animal species to become endangered.
- Recall that habitat loss can occur when an invasive species (plant or animal), can out-compete the native species in a habitat.
- Name recent examples of habitat loss.

- Summarize the concept of habitat loss, from knowledge gained through participation in the activity, "Habitat Scramble."