

Forestry Institute for Teachers (*FIT*)

Summer 2018 Sessions

FIT provides K-12 teachers with knowledge, skills and tools to effectively teach students about forest ecology and forest resource management practices. The program brings together natural resource specialists and teachers from rural and urban settings for one week, working side by side to gain a deeper understanding of forest ecosystems and human use of natural resources.



University of California Forestry Camp

Meadow Valley, Plumas County
June 10-16, 2018

Sierra Outdoor School

Sonora, Tuolumne County
June 17-23, 2018

Camp McCumber

Shingletown, Shasta County
July 1-July 7, 2018

Humboldt State University

Arcata, Humboldt County
July 8-14, 2018

The environment becomes the integrating context for learning in subject areas, including English, math, environmental science, physical science, social science, biology, forestry, and history.

- ✚ Receive an introduction to forest science concepts through presentations by practicing natural resource professionals.
- ✚ Experience high-quality, interdisciplinary activities by grade bands that promote conceptual learning, critical thinking and decision-making skills at the heart of current forest and watershed issues – as well as Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.
- ✚ Gain an increased understanding and appreciation of California's forest ecosystems and the complex issues involved in managing the natural resources found in public and private forests while protecting wildlife, water and other benefits valued by society and providing wood fiber, in all its forms, for daily use.
- ✚ Field experiences to observe a variety of forest management tools, philosophies and the process of processing wood from forest to mill and/or biomass energy plant.
- ✚ Participate in discussions on the varying perspectives regarding forestry issues with forest resource specialists, environmentalists and members of local communities.
- ✚ Working with fellow teachers and FIT education specialists to develop your own curriculum project about forests or forestry for use in your classroom – and receiving \$200 for implementing it in the school year;
- ✚ Receive Project Learning Tree and Project WET curriculum guides and opportunities to receive 3 academic credits and a \$200 stipend upon completion of a curriculum project.



The Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) is a multi-day residence workshop held at 4 northern California locations. The goal of FIT is to provide K-12 teachers with knowledge, skills and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology and forest resource management practices. FIT endeavors to provide balanced, science-based education vital to the understanding of how decisions are made about management of forests and the natural resources upon which humans depend. Environmental education, integrated into student's entire education, can help them learn how to make choices and decisions about issues like forest health, ecosystem management, consumption and local economies.

Utilizing a balanced approach to explore the controversial issues surrounding California's forests, FIT participants examine how these ecosystems and their management impact the needs of both rural and urban citizens regarding water, watersheds, wildlife, recreation, biological diversity, habitat protection and consumer products derived from forests. The providers of FIT recognize the ambitious nature of these goals and the need to explore differing points of view. The program includes both educational and hands-on activities, with time for reflection and discussion. Be prepared to commit to an intense week of learning, hard work, fun and an enriching experience!



How do your students benefit?

Using a forest ecosystem theme, each FIT participant develops a classroom curriculum that integrates conceptual learning about forests and forest management practices from a balanced perspective. Teachers will be able to share their understanding of forest ecology and natural resource management principles and concepts with their students, helping to prepare the decision-makers of tomorrow.

What have participants said about FIT?

"What a wonderful program! FIT is by far the best professional development opportunity I have had so far. Very well organized, coordinated and orchestrated. Clearly a lot of time, energy, money and passion goes into pulling FIT together. Thank you so much for the opportunity to partake in such an AMAZING experience. Great job to the whole FIT staff and all of the contributing professionals and sponsors. You are an amazing group of people. We are all truly grateful for your time, dedication and expertise!"

Please visit <http://www.forestryinstitute.org> for more information or to register!

