

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S CHAMPION TREE PROGRAM

What is the Champion Tree Program? Since 1970, the AFC has sponsored a program to locate and recognize the champion (largest) trees of each species.

What species are eligible? A species must be recognized as native or naturalized in Alabama. To determine eligibility, the AFC adheres to a list of native and naturalized tree species developed by Lisa Samuelson, Professor, School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University.

What is the definition of a tree? Trees are woody plants having one erect perennial stem or trunk at least 9.5 inches in circumference (3 inches in diameter) at 4.5 feet above the ground, a definitely formed crown of foliage and a height of at least 13 feet.

When can a tree be nominated?

- Trees may be nominated any time of the year. However, to be eligible for the current year a tree must be nominated by June 1st.
- New state champions will be announced and added to the on-line Champion Tree publication no later than July 31st each year.
- Alabama champions are submitted for competition in the National Big Tree Program. New national champion trees will be announced and added to the on-line Champion Tree publication no later than October 31st each year.

How do I nominate a tree?

- Nomination forms are available [on-line](#) and in county AFC offices.
- The nomination form is one two-part page: a nomination portion and a condition portion.
- The nomination form may be completed on-line or sent via fax or mail.
- Unlike the Famous and Historic Tree Program, an AFC forester or forestry specialist must complete the condition portion.

What are the criteria for selection?

The American Forestry Association formula for determining Champion Trees:
Circumference in inches at four 1/2 feet plus height in feet plus 1/4 crown spread in feet.
A nominee will replace a champion if it has more points. When two trees have scores that fall within five points of each other, they are listed as co-champions.

What happens once a tree is approved?

The owner and nominator receive certificates. A tree marker is provided to the owner of the tree for placement during a public ceremony. The AFC is not responsible for the ceremony.