

How to Nominate a Big Tree

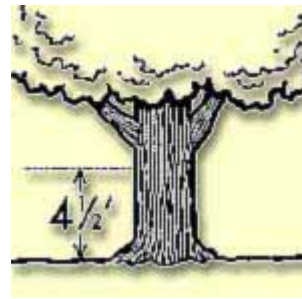
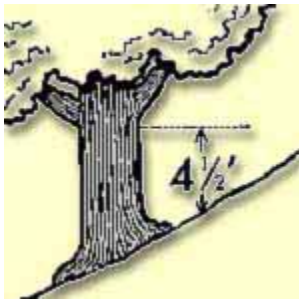
Locating a tree to nominate is the first task in the nomination process. The easiest way to do this is to keep your eyes open when outside! Keep in mind that not all champions are giants. Look for both naturalized and native species, as well as shrub species.

Searching for a specific tree species may be a good way to begin your big tree search. There are several books that can provide information to help with identification. Your local forester may also help. You will also need the current register to see how your tree measures up to the current champion. Keep in mind that current champs can be "dethroned" and that there are several species without a county champion. A [nomination form](#) must be filled out for each nominated tree. Information that is required includes:

- Circumference in inches at 4-1/2 feet above the ground
- Height in feet
- Crown spread in feet
- Common and scientific name
- Date measured and by whom
- Exact location (include map)
- Owner's name and address
- Nominator's name and address
- Any additional information
- Photograph, if possible.

Circumference

To measure the tree's circumference, measure around the tree at 4-1/2 feet above the ground on the tree's uphill side. If the tree forks below 4-1/2 feet it is considered two separate trees and is not eligible for measurement. For accurate measurement, use a diameter tape or regular tape measure.



Height

Measure the height from the ground level to the highest point. You can measure height with an instrument such as a clinometer, hypsometer or abney. It is also possible to compare the tree to something of known height, such as a 25-foot building.

American Forests also recommends the following method: Hold a straight stick at its base, vertically at arm's length. The stick's length above your hand should equal the distance from your hand to your eye. Walk back from the tree, staying level to the tree's base. Stop when the stick above your hand is the same length as the tree. Sight over your hand to the base of the tree, and sight over the stick to the top of the tree. Measure how far you've moved from the tree. That measurement, in feet, is the tree's height.

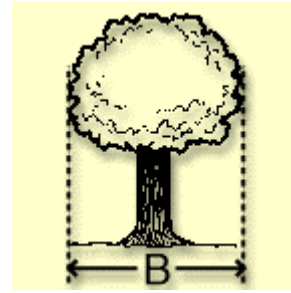
The Indiana Division of Forestry recommends another method of measuring tree height. First, temporarily mark a spot 4 feet from the base of the tree to serve as a sighting point. Back away from the tree, holding a yardstick vertically in front of you. It must be straight for an accurate measurement. Stop when the 4-foot section of the tree occupies exactly 1 inch of the yardstick. Sight to the base and the top of the tree, noting the number of inches the entire tree height occupies. Multiply that number by 4 feet to determine the total tree height.

Crown Spread

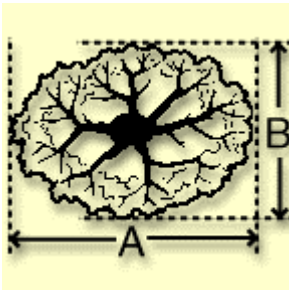
To find the tree's average crown spread, measure the widest point and the narrowest point of the crown. Add them together and divide by two to calculate the average crown spread.



Widest part of tree.



Narrowest part of tree.



Bottom view of tree. This view shows both the narrowest and widest part of the tree.

Formula for computing the tree's average crown spread:

$A + B = \text{Total Feet}$

$\text{Total Feet} / 2 = \text{Average Feet}$

The Big Trees of Crawford County uses American Forests' formula to determine whether a tree is a champion.

Trunk circumference in inches + Height in feet + (average feet crown spread / 4) = Total Points

When two trees are within 10 points of each other, they are co-champions.

Nominate a Big Tree Now!



**CRAWFORD COUNTY
BIG TREE NOMINATION APPLICATION**



21742 German Road
Meadville, PA 16335
(814) 763-2545 or (814) 763-5269

Common Name _____ Genus _____ Species _____

Tree # _____ County _____ Date _____

Nominator _____

Address _____

Phone, email, fax _____

Landowner _____

Address _____

Phone, email, fax _____

Location of tree _____

Longitude _____ Latitude _____

Measuring Crew _____

Date _____

CHAMPION TREE POINTS

(See measuring directions on back)

Circumference = _____ inches (each inch = 1 point) >>>> _____

Height = _____ feet (each foot = 1 point) >>>> _____

Spread = _____ feet and _____ feet /2 = _____ ft/4 = >>>> _____

Measure spread in two directions and take average. Divide avg. by 4.

Total Points _____

Comments: _____
