

## ONE TIME PROPOSAL FOR RELAXING THE RULE TO REMAIN A CITIZEN FORESTER

Currently our rules are (are listed on the following pages):

“Each year after the initial year, to be considered an active Citizen Forester a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer time must be completed within the calendar year.

If a participant fails to complete any volunteer hours within a 2 year period they will no longer be considered a Citizen Forester and will need to retake the class to regain their status.”

For 2017, and for 2017 only, the “2 year” requirement has been waived and Citizen Forester status is granted to anyone who has completed the training at any time in the past. Rules for achieving Citizen Forester or Certified Citizen Forester will remain in effect going forward. Therefore if you want to remain a Citizen Forester or a Certified Citizen Forester in 2018 and beyond you will need to meet the normal requirements as set forth in the rules.

REQUIRED VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR  
CITIZEN FORESTERS AND CERTIFIED CITIZEN FORESTERS  
(Revised 11/18/2016)

CITIZEN FORESTERS

After attending a minimum of 5 of 6 classes and participating in the field activities, the students are given Citizen Forester badges and earn the title Citizen Forester.

Each year, to be considered an active Citizen Forester, a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer time must be completed within the calendar year. However, in the first year if you took the classes in the spring, you will need to complete the 10 hours by the end of that year. If you took the classes in the fall you will have the following year to complete them.

If a participant fails to achieve Citizen Forestry status within a 2 year period, they will need to retake the classes to regain their status as a Citizen Forester.

CERTIFIED CITIZEN FORESTERS

The following describes the requirements for becoming a Certified Citizen Forester:

1. The candidate must attend a minimum of 5 of the 6 Citizen Forester training classes and field activities during their initial year. Missed classes may be taken the following year if seating is available.
2. If the class was held during the spring, twenty five hours of volunteer time must be completed during that calendar year to achieve Certified Citizen Forester status. These 25 volunteer hours cannot include the field exercises during Citizen Forester training during that initial year. The volunteer can begin accumulating these 25 hours of service as soon as classes have begun.
3. No additional training will be required during this first year.
4. If the class is held during the fall, the requirements listed in 2. Above will be required during the following year.
5. For the years after the initial period, twenty hours of volunteer time and five hours of continuing education must be completed each year to achieve the status of Certified.

December and January will be “swing months”. You can count your December hours in the following year or you can count your January hours in the previous year, if you so choose.

If for some reason these hours cannot be earned and the volunteer has at least 10 hours, they go back to being a Citizen Forester. Therefore, volunteers are able to go back and forth between being a Citizen Forester and Certified Citizen Forester depending on how many hours they earn each year.

See the guidelines below to help determine what will count as acceptable volunteer time and continuing education time. If you have questions, submit them to your area coordinator. We primarily rely on the honor system for you to determine and report your time.

### VOLUNTEER TIME

1. Attending a Citizen Forester organized event in any Region that is not “Formally arranged Education” described below.
2. Volunteering to assess tree health, damage or livelihood in any public aspect of our CTUFC Area. Neighborhoods, city parks, schools, flood plains or other publically owned areas.
3. Volunteering in any fashion that leads to the education about trees, distributing of trees, planting of trees or maintaining of public trees.
4. Volunteering to promote the Citizen Forester program and assure its progressive status.
5. Volunteering to coordinate training events and the organization of such events.

All travel time to any of the above mentioned items counts.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUs)

1. Any Citizen Forester organized education activity, including quarterly meetings where the Citizen Forester volunteer is the recipient of information on trees
2. Any Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council organized education activity where the Citizen Forester volunteer is the recipient of information on trees
3. Any formally arranged event, small or large, where the participant is educated on some aspect of trees: how to use in a landscape, planting, pruning, tree health, use for water conservation, use for water run-off, use for shade, use for food, etc. If multiple topics are covered, only the tree portion of the time will count.
4. Any formal lessons presented on line that educate its participants on some aspect of trees.
5. Any audio training, books on tape, or the like will count.
6. The reading of any book or publication that educates its reader on some aspect of trees. A suggested reading list will be maintained and made available to the Citizen Foresters.
7. Teaching about trees also qualifies as CEU time as does the preparation of the lessons.

No travel time to any of the CEU events unless you are listening to audio tree education in your car.

### REPORTING YOUR HOURS

Please report all of your volunteer and CEU hours in Volgistics.

### CTUFC MEMBERSHIP

January is the month to join or renew your Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council Membership. As of January 2017, the dues are \$25/year for an individual, \$50/year for a family. Certified Citizen Foresters get a discount of \$10/year. Therefore, the dues for Certified Citizen Foresters is \$15/year. Dues can be paid through the CTUFC website, ctufc.org. Click Membership on the left. The amounts have not been changed as of 11/18/2016, but they will be soon. Citizen

Foresters are sponsored by the CTUFC and, while membership is not required to be a Citizen Forester, it is highly encouraged so that the organization has the funds necessary to support our activities.