

Cone Camp 2026



Join a growing community of land stewards working together to restore California's forests—one cone at a time!

Cone Camp is a hybrid training through which attendees learn how to identify and facilitate seed collections of California's native conifers to support reforestation efforts across the state. Comprised of a 2-3 hour virtual course ([Cone Hunting_101](#)) and 2.5 days of in-person hands-on field training.

Cone Camps are organized by American Forests in partnership with CAL FIRE Reforestation Services Program and USDA Forest Service Region 5 via the California Reforestation Pipeline Partnership with the goal of standardizing training for quality conifer cone collection.



2026 Cone Camp Locations & Dates

NorCal
**Shasta-
Trinity NF**
June 9-11

NoSierra
Eldorado NF
July 14-16

SoSierra
**Mountain
Home DSF**
June 23-25

Topics covered

- California seed needs
- Basic conifer identification
- Planning survey routes & scouting for seed
- Recording & reporting cone crops using Survey123
- Evaluating cone ripeness and seed quality
- How to setup a throwline, BigShot, and APTA for cone sampling
- Facilitating cone collections
- Contract administration

What you'll receive

- Space to tent camp at a reserved campground
- Guidance from expert cone coaches & networking with a diverse range of industry sectors
- Hands-on experience & practice with surveying and monitoring equipment and processes
- Printed copy of **The California Cone Hunter's Pocket Guide**

Cone Camp 2026

Registration is OPEN!

Cost: **\$20 for 1 Day, \$50 for 3 Days**

Stay up to date on Cone Camp information through the RPP newsletter (sign up [here](#)) and the RPP Slack Community (join [here](#))

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Who should attend?

Anyone interested in learning about conifer cone and seed collection! College students, professional and amateur arborists, foresters, field technicians, community scientists, and Corps or service members are all welcome. Cone Camp Day 1 provides a robust introduction to the skills, tools, and knowledge related to cone collection and forest seed gathering. If cone collection is or will become part of your role, we recommend staying for Days 2 & 3 for more in-depth guided practice.

Agenda

Pre-Camp (virtual): Cone Hunting 101

To maximize hands-on experience at Cone Camp, all participants are required complete a self-paced 2–3 hour online course before attending. Learn the basics of conifer tree ID, cone development, cone surveying, cone monitoring, cone collection, along with key online tools like Survey123, CAL FIRE Assessment of Needs, and Avenza.

Day 1 (in person) - Community & Pros

Review the basics and get your hands sappy with experience identifying species, rating cone crops, submitting surveys, setting up throwlines, & evaluating cone ripeness while getting oriented to your local surrounding and culture of seed collection!

- Introduction to CA Reforestation & Careers
- Local Orientation
- Collection Culture, Ethics, & Guidelines
- Conifer Identification Practice
- Cone Surveying & Monitoring Field Practice

Day 2 & 3 (in person) - Pros

Get comfortable with day-of collection operations and contract administration, and put the pedal to the metal by practicing & conducting official cone surveys guided by cone experts and support surveys for the local forest.

- Cone Collection & Ground Crew Demonstration
- Contract Administration
- Cone Surveying & Field Monitoring Practice in Small Groups



Questions? Contact us!



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