



# The South African Pony Club



## TREES ACHIEVEMENT BADGE (UK)

### GUIDELINES:

To be able to identify any 12 species of woodland and hedgerow trees, which may include: Oak, Ash, Beech, Sycamore, Lime, Holly, Yew, Horse Chestnut, Sweet Chestnut, Birch, Hazel, Larch and Hawthorn.

### KEYPOINTS:

Identify plants by shapes of leaves and for fruit types, and/or distinctive tree shape, and/or bark pattern/colour.

### TEACHING, TESTING IDEAS AND RESOURCES:

The identification of woodland and hedgerow trees can be tackled in a number of ways, the majority of children will probably know an Oak tree from a Horse chestnut but it is still important that their memories are refreshed. Members need to be able to distinguish between species to prevent poisoning of their ponies and horses.

Outdoor activities can be conducted throughout the year, during evening sessions, rallies or camp.

- (a) Farm walks will give members an idea of the trees in their environment, rather than looking at pictures in isolation.
- (b) Members can be asked to bring in leaves or fruit, so that the whole group can contribute, study the exhibits and discuss the differences in shape, colour and texture.
- (c) Members can be asked to make a collection of 'bark rubbings'.
- (d) Whilst looking at trees and shrubs which make up local hedgerows, Members can be asked what they would do if they found poisonous plants, sharp barbed wire or plastic bags in the hedgerow. This will interlink ideas and encourage Members to think about issues across the Achievement Award subject boundaries.
- (e) During the winter months pictures or photographs may be your only available resource. Exercises can be devised where Members have to match fruit with leaves, or bark, or pictures of tree-outlines and their names. Members can also be asked to draw each leaf, fruit type, etc. in preparation of their Award. Additional information can be introduced if you think that it is relevant to Members in your local area and that it will enhance their knowledge and understanding of the countryside.
- (f) Use and complete a record book.
- (g) Scavenger hunt in pairs

### **Recommended Reading:**

The Pony Club Tree Achievement Badge Buddy (UK)

### NOTES:

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