



Career Paths in Arboriculture

Groundworker Residential | Commercial Tree Care

JOB DESCRIPTION

THE GROUNDWORKER POSITION is often the introductory level in arboriculture. Duties include assisting climbers, chipping brush, cutting wood, and site cleanup after tree care operations. In the commercial/residential tree care industry, clients may be campuses, parks, hospitals, residences, etc.



International Society of Arboriculture

TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Workers entering at this level usually do not have any background in arboriculture.

EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ An understanding of work orders and plans
- ✓ Back injury prevention
- ✓ Basic knots and rope operation for rigging
- ✓ Chain saw use and safety
- ✓ Chipper use and safety
- ✓ Electrical hazards training
- ✓ Emergency procedures
- ✓ General work site safety
- ✓ Hazard recognition
- ✓ Job briefings
- ✓ Orientation to the tree care profession
- ✓ Proper equipment use and maintenance
- ✓ Pruning principles and techniques
- ✓ Selection and use of appropriate PPE
- ✓ Tree identification
- ✓ Vehicle safety, safe operation, and safe driving

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *Arborist Equipment: A Guide to the Tools and Equipment of Tree Maintenance and Removal* (Blair)
- ✓ *Arborists' Knots for Climbing and Rigging DVD and Workbook* (ISA)
- ✓ *ArborMaster® Training Video Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Basic Training for Ground Operations in Tree Care DVD and Workbook* (ISA and TCIA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practices Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Chain Saw Safety and Field Maintenance* (Eckert)
- ✓ Electrical Hazards Awareness Program
- ✓ *Glossary of Arboricultural Terms 2013 Edition* (ISA)
- ✓ *Introduction to Arboriculture Training Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr)
- ✓ *The ABCs Field Guide to Young and Small Tree Pruning* (Pleninger and Luley)
- ✓ *To Fell A Tree: A Complete Guide to Successful Tree Felling and Woodcutting methods* (Jepson)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

A high school diploma is recommended. A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) may be required.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

CDL is recommended.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Groundworkers usually progress to the position of climber, aerial lift operator, or Plant Health Care (PHC) technician. Some workers may switch to other tree care fields such as municipal or utility arboriculture.