



# Arborist

Arborists plant, grow, maintain, and remove trees. For some employers, arborists may also have responsibilities for the sale of trees.



Inspiring Minds to Grow

Funded by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

# career profile

Name: Kenneth Morrison  
Job Title: Arborist

Employer: Lindberg Tree Service

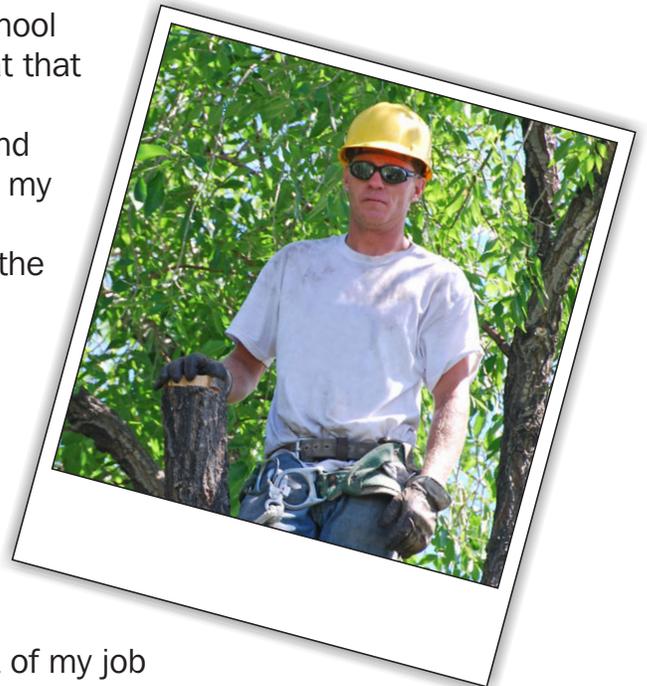
Education: BS, Western Illinois University; Macomb

☀️ I decided when I was a freshman in high school that I wanted to work with trees. I did not know at that time that the field I was interested in was called arboriculture. I talked to my parents, teachers, and counselor, and they helped me outline a plan for my education. I took the recommended high school classes and attended a college where I received the necessary training.

☀️ I have since been employed with a tree service company. I have a wide range of job responsibilities. In the course of a day's work I may have to identify trees, identify and diagnose tree diseases and pests, and prescribe treatments for disease and pest problems. I sometimes fertilize trees. However,

the biggest part of my job involves the safe removal of trees and tree limbs. I use a harness and ropes for climbing trees (some of which can be 80 feet tall) and chainsaws for cutting. Safety is a major concern because of the climbing and the power equipment used. An arborist has one of the most dangerous jobs in America.

☀️ I am happy to say that my career path has worked out well for me. I like working with the other people on my crew, and I enjoy the teamwork that is involved. I love working outdoors and the challenge of the physical nature of the job.



# Arborist

## overview



An **arborist** is a specialist in the culture of trees.

## suggested high school courses



[horticulture science](#), plant science, biology, chemistry, and mathematics

## experience needed



Seek seasonal employment with a municipality or tree care company. Participate in an internship program while in school. Plan and implement a related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

## degree(s) required



A bachelor's degree in arboriculture, urban forestry, plant science, horticulture, biology, or a related field is required. Some states require a license in order to practice arboriculture.

## potential employers



municipalities, private tree care companies, self-employment, universities

## salary range



\$39,915 to \$75,330

## employment outlook and trends



The rate of job growth for arborists is expected to be **average** in relation to other career fields.

## professional organizations



Society of American Foresters [www.safnet.org/](http://www.safnet.org/)  
International Society of Foresters [www.isa-arbor.com/](http://www.isa-arbor.com/)



## Want to Learn More?

[www.agcareers.com](http://www.agcareers.com)

[www.illinoisworknet.com/vos\\_portal/industry/en/Home](http://www.illinoisworknet.com/vos_portal/industry/en/Home)

[www.mycaert.com/career-profiles](http://www.mycaert.com/career-profiles)

[www.ffa.org/documents/prof\\_handbook\\_introduction.pdf](http://www.ffa.org/documents/prof_handbook_introduction.pdf)

[www.forestrycareers.org/](http://www.forestrycareers.org/)

[www.rileyguide.com/](http://www.rileyguide.com/)