

**Request for Proposal – Arboriculture
Youth and Adolescent Programs Review
April 12, 2022**

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is an international membership society representing nearly 26,000 arborists, urban foresters and people who care about trees. ISA is also the credentialing body for the arboricultural profession. There are 68 chapters, associate organizations, and professional affiliates of ISA.

ISA has partnered with the USDA Forest Service on many projects, one of which brought together green industry and non-profit organizations for a 'workforce summit' in 2018. ISA convened a knowledgeable group of representatives to discuss the different issues and opportunities involved with ensuring the workforce of tomorrow. The attendees identified several topics that need attention, two of which were 1) the importance of credentialing/badging/recognition in arboricultural learning and, 2) how to ensure parents and young people know that arboriculture and the green industry is a viable option for a career.

There are early youth programs, pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, programs and trainings focused on high-school graduates and college-age students, four-year program graduates and otherwise, still, ISA has identified a large gap in programs for adolescents. Adolescents are defined by the World Health Organization as individuals in the 10 to 19 year age group. This project would focus on middle-school/high-school age people in the US who would be interested in tree-related programs, have taken ecology or biology classes that include natural resource assessment and management in the curriculum, have spent a summer(s) working with nurseries, or other organizations responsible for tree planting or tree inventory, or other plant-science focused projects (e.g., girl scouts, 4-h, botanical gardens, and arboreta).

There is a need to recognize the expertise of these adolescents and set them up for future success in addition to keeping them engaged and excited about future arboriculture careers.

Project:

ISA will hire a contractor/firm to undertake a review and examination of the different organizations and programs focusing on arboricultural careers and/or training in the adolescent age range. This person/company will conduct this scoping work and produce a report that will be used by ISA, the USDA Forest Service and other partner organizations. The data from this report will be used to create a webpage tailored to those searching for programs of this kind.

The report must include details of each program and how long the program has been in operation. The final report should also include a contact list of the key person for each program.

The contractor/firm will conduct interviews and surveys or use other outreach techniques as a first step to create the report. They will then work with subject matter experts to 1) identify and document gaps and 2) outline potential approaches for ISA and partners to fill the identified gaps.

The scope of this project is currently programs within the United States. Future phases may amplify the scope to include programs in other countries or for other age groups.

Additional information on ISA can be viewed at: www.isa-arbor.com.

Specific requirements of a formal response shall include:

1. An overview of the bidder's experience in conducting this kind of review. Examples of past work would be helpful.
2. A narrative description of the approach and the key steps that would be taken during the research phase.
3. A narrative description of the final report that would be provided to the ISA.
4. Timeline for development of the scoping and final report.
5. Other information the bidder may wish to highlight regarding their capabilities or those of their organization to manage this project to successful completion.

The timeline for RFP responses is as follows:

1. RFP Issue Date: April 12, 2022
2. Questions due May 15, 2022
3. RFP Responses due: June 1, 2022

RFP responses should be sent to:

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