

# CAREERS IN ARBORICULTURE

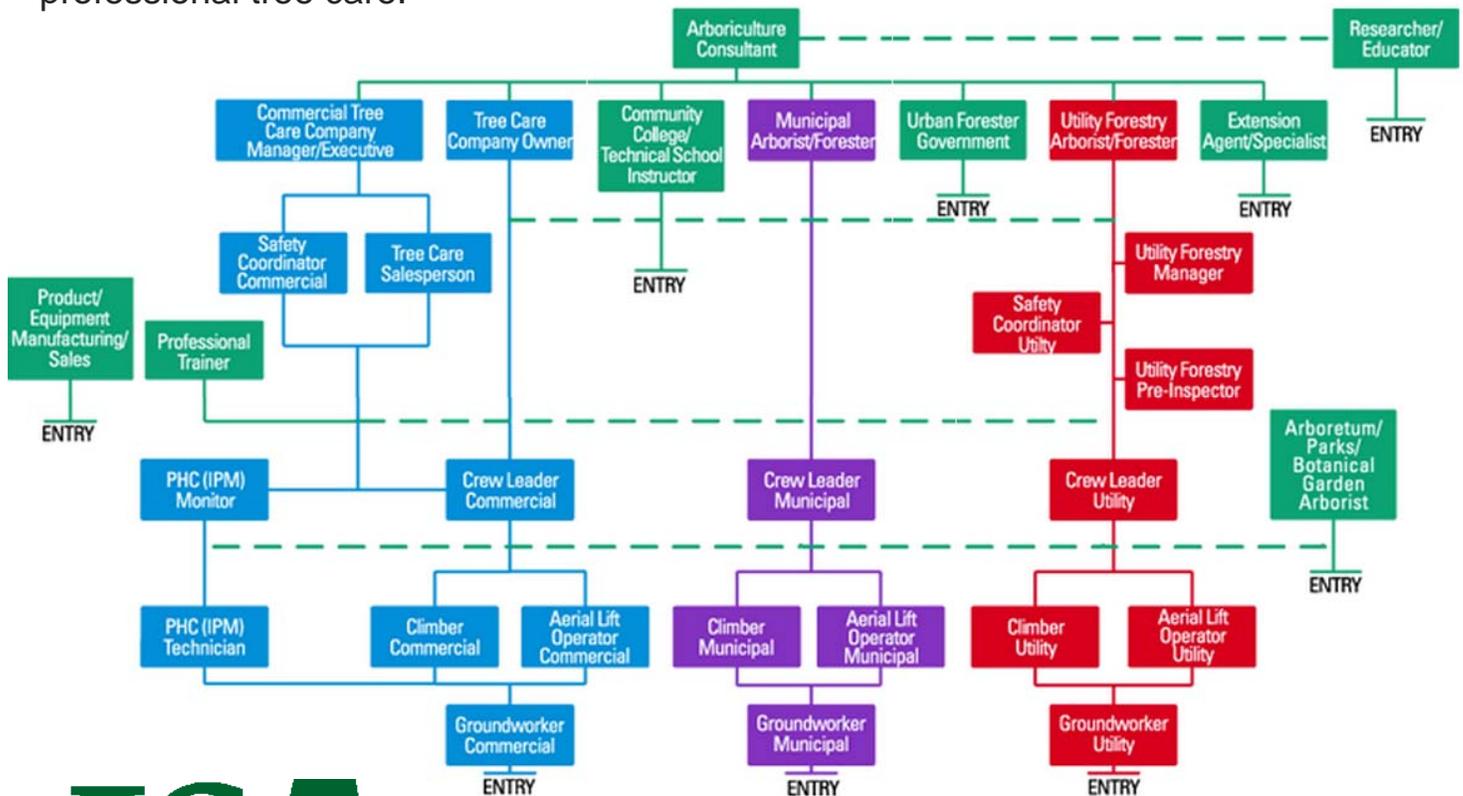


Arboriculture is both an art and a science, crafting research-based methods of professional tree care by combining physical skill with modern technology.

Those looking to get into the industry might be wondering where to start. Whether as an instructor, groundworker, speaker, or proponent of safe work practices, the number of possible career paths varies.

## CAREER PATHS IN ARBORICULTURE FLOW CHART

View the Career Paths in Arboriculture flowchart below to learn more about the types of positions available in the industry. See the back of this handout for a variety brief job descriptions. This resource will allow you to look at the "big picture" of working in professional tree care.



### MORE RESOURCES

- International : [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com)
- Western States: [www.wcisa.net](http://www.wcisa.net)
- Local: [www.alohaarborist.com](http://www.alohaarborist.com)
- Always: [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com)

### **Equipment Manufacturing/ Sales**

Equipment and supply sales in arboriculture is often supported by a retail dealer that depends on business from a well-populated region. Duties might include direct customer contact by phone and/or in person, demonstrations of machinery and tools, performing quotes, and individual or group presentations.

### **Safety Coordinator**

Safety coordinators are responsible for developing and maintaining strong integrated safety programs within a company. This includes written policies, an ongoing training program, site inspections, and record keeping.

### **Government Urban Forester**

Individuals serving as an urban forester for a governmental agency will administer grant applications and programs, oversee industry promotional programs like TREE CITY USA, and serve as an information source/ resource to the public, municipal arborists, and other tree professionals.



### **Climber: Residential/ Commercial Tree Care**

The primary duty of climbers is pruning trees of various sizes, types, and pruning needs. Climbers also must be skilled in removal techniques, cabling and bracing, and sometimes the installation of lightning protection. A climber must also be proficient with a chain saw and should possess all of the skills and training of a groundworker.

### **Professional Trainer**

Typically larger companies or municipalities with safety programs will enlist a professional trainer to work with employees to increase their skill level and make sure they are complying with the company safety policies and national regulations. Trainers may be employees of the company or private contractors. Responsibilities of trainers may include running safety meetings, performing hands-on training, and making sure company equipment meets standards. In smaller companies, many of these tasks are performed by a crew leader or foreman as part of their overall duties.

### **Municipal Arborist**

The municipal arborist, or forester, is the individual responsible for the long-term care and management of city trees. Duties include the application of a tree management plan including planting, pruning, and removal programs; budget preparation; and interaction with residents, politicians, and other agencies.

### **Extension Agent/Specialist**

Extension agents and specialists in arboriculture & horticulture at universities across the United States are responsible for educating arborists, landscapers, and homeowners to help them manage landscapes and care for trees using the most up-to-date information available.

### **Tree Care Company Owner**

Although there are some prominent large and medium-sized tree care companies, the vast majority are small companies. Owners typically handle the management and administration of the company, from sales and daily work operations to accounting and personnel. It is not unusual for company owners to work with the crew in a climber or supervisor capacity.