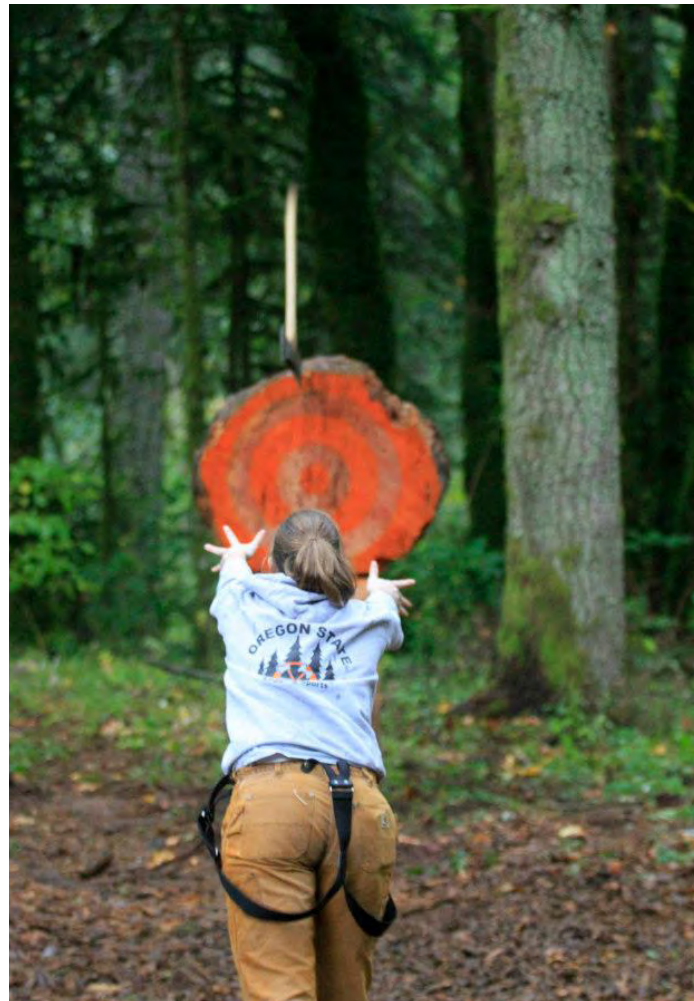


OSU Forestry Logging Sports Events

Before mechanized equipment, loggers would spend weeks in logging camps cutting and hauling timber from deep within the forest. Arguments often erupted between men, each claiming he was the most skilled. These arguments eventually resulted in competitions between the men in the camp to determine which man was the best at each particular skill. As these competitions began to evolve, loggers would travel to other camps for competitions.

Logging sports, also known as timber sports, were developed from these historical logging practices. Today, both men and women compete in all events, and the sport has evolved to incorporate modern logging techniques.

The OSU College of Forestry’s logging sports team is an active member of the Association of Western Forestry Clubs (AWFC) and is managed by OSU’s Forestry Club. Several OSU and high school tournaments happen here annually and OSU’s team practices on-site weekly during the school year. The events in a logging sports competition pay homage to the past and present of logging and forestry, keeping these rich traditions and skills alive.



Event: Axe Throw
Description: Throw a double-bit axe from a distance of 20 feet.
Origin: Loggers would throw their axes at distant trees so they would not have to carry them. This soon became a contest of accuracy.



Event: Horizontal Chop
Description (Speed): Chop a block of wood in half as quickly as possible.
Description (Hard Hit): Chop a block of wood in half in as few hits as possible.
Origin: Before crosscut saws, loggers used axes to cut logs to the desired length.



Event: Burling
Description: Balance on a rotating log and attempt to remain the last competitor in control of the log.
Origin: On log rafts, loggers would stand on logs as they floated through the water. It was necessary for survival to stay balanced.



Event: Choker Race
Description: Run an obstacle course while carrying a choker, then set the choker correctly around a log.
Origin: Chokers are used in modern day cable logging to move fallen trees to the landing.



Event: Power Buck
Description: Use a chainsaw to cut the top of the log, remove the saw, and make an upward cut accurately.
Origin: The power buck event originates from traditional logging practices. Chainsaws, also known as power saws, are used in modern logging to fell trees.



Event: Buck Sawing
Description (Single): Working alone, use a cross-cut saw to cut through a log for time.
Description (Double): Working in a team of two competitors (jack-jack, jill-jill, or jack-jill), complete the same challenge.
Origin: In the past, sawyers used cross cut saws, either alone or in pairs, to fell a tree and cut a log into smaller pieces.



Event: Pole Climb
Description: Race to the top of a pole or tree using only climbing spurs and a waist belt.
Origin: In the past, loggers would climb trees in order to top them for use as a spar pole. This skill continues to be used in modern logging, although not as frequently.



Event: Vertical Chop
Description (Speed): Chop a vertical block of wood in half as quickly as possible.
Description (Hard Hit): Chop a vertical block of wood in half in as few hits as possible.
Origin: Before crosscut saws, loggers used axes to chop down trees.



Event: Caber Toss
Description: Throw a large log (caber) as far as possible.
Origin: The caber toss is a Scottish athletic event whose origins are unclear.



Event: Obstacle Pole
Description: Run up a balanced log with a chainsaw, start the saw, make a match cut at the end of the log, then race back .
Origin: Today, many loggers carry and use chainsaws over unstable ground. This requires great speed, balance, and skill.



Event: Limber Pole
Description: Use balance to walk out and back on the “limber pole” and earn a point for each line crossed.
Origin: The limber pole is a test of balance for all competitors. As an open event, every member of each team participates.



Event: Pulp Toss
Description: Throw small logs back and forth through two standing poles. Each log that lands inside the poles is worth 1 point. The first to 21 points wins. Teams consist of one lumberjack and one lumberjill.
Origin: Unknown