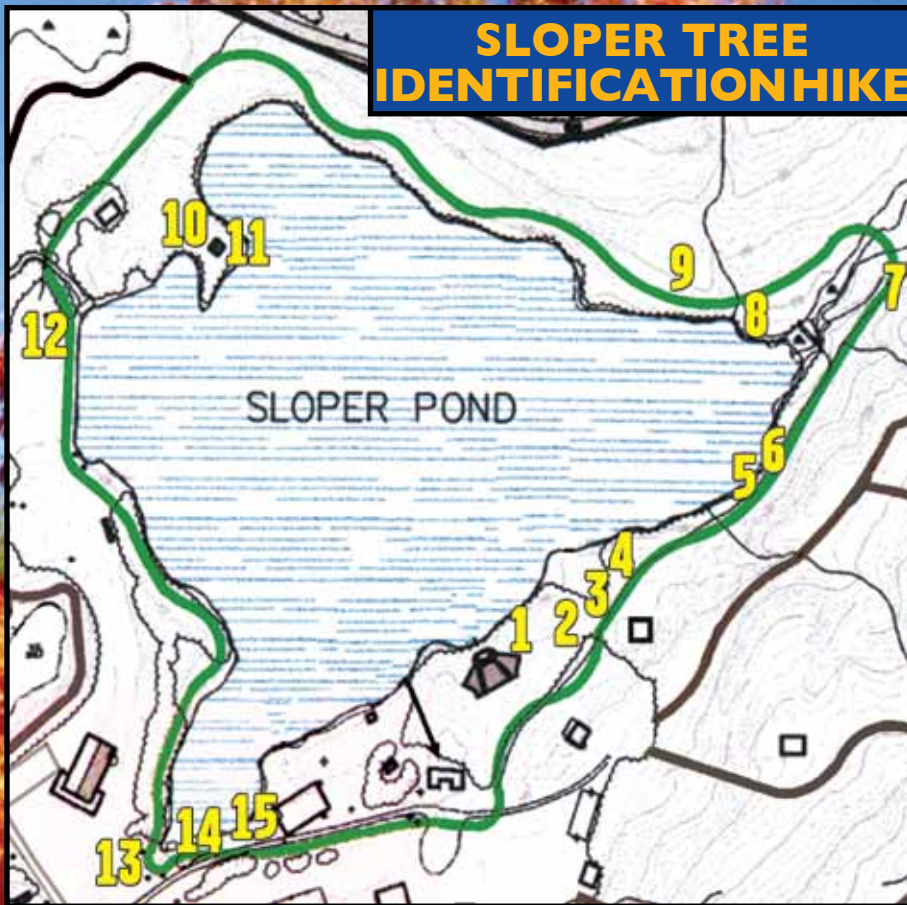


## SLOPER TREE IDENTIFICATION HIKE



- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Shagbark Hickory             | 9. American Elm  |
| 2. Hemlock                      | 10. Tamarack     |
| 3. White Pine                   | “American Larch” |
| 4. Eastern Red Cedar            | 11. Sassafras    |
| 5. White Birch<br>(Paper Birch) | 12. Black Oak    |
| 6. Dogwood                      | 13. Sugar Maple  |
| 7. Sycamore                     | 14. White Spruce |
| 8. White Oak                    | 15. Blue Spruce  |

See corresponding descriptions on reverse side.

**Other hikes available include:**

- Sloper Historical Hike
- Seven Natural Wonders of Sloper Hike
- Sloper Wetlands Hike
- Sloper Wildlife Identification Hike

# YMCA Camp Sloper Tree Identification Hike



**1000 East Street, Southington, CT 06489**

**Phone: 860.621.8194**

**[www.ymcacampsloper.org](http://www.ymcacampsloper.org)**

*Welcome to YMCA Camp Sloper. Here, new experiences are introduced and lasting memories are never forgotten. We reach out to the child in everyone and build character in the leaders of tomorrow. We change lives, build smiles and provide an environment for people to grow. Welcome to YMCA Camp Sloper—love it, share it and preserve it for the next generation.*

*YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.  
The YMCA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.*

## 1. Shagbark Hickory, *walnut family Carya ovata*

Tall tree whose leaves have 5-7 hairless, finely toothed leaflets, each 5; turn golden. Twigs stout, red-brown, slightly hairy to shiny. Bark light-colored, very shaggy, in long, loose strips. Nuts egg-shaped 1-3/8" to 2-1/4", edible. Seeds need shade to grow. Pioneers made a green dye for cloths with the bark and used strips as seasoning for smoking meats.



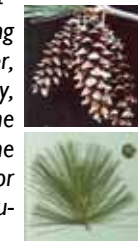
## 2. Hemlock, *Tsuga Canadensis*

Needles mostly 5/8" to 7/8" long, in flat sprays, whitened beneath, attached to the twigs by slender stalks. Cones only 5/8" to 1" long, brown, few-scaled. Bark dark and rough. In some areas, seeds and needles are eaten by ruffed and sharptail grouse and red squirrels, twigs browsed by deer, snowshoe hares, and cottontail rabbits. Birds nest in the tree.



## 3. White Pine, *Pinus strobus L.*

Tall upland tree with needles 2" to 4" long, slender, flexible, and occurring five to the bundle with cones slender, tapering, thornless. Bark not scaly, dark with deep furrows. One of the most important timber trees in the Northeast. Seeds are used as food for birds and the bark is eaten by porcupines and small rodents.



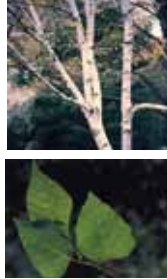
## 4. Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana L.*

Narrow, medium-sized tree, usually with both scale like and longer, sharply three-sided, needle-like leaves. Leaves 1/16" to 1/4", entirely green, in pairs along four-sided twigs and branchlets. Hard whitish to blackish green berries about 1/4" in diameter. Bark, dry, shreddy; trunk single, often fluted. Birds pass the seeds through their digestive tracts undamaged, dropping them particularly along fences.



## 5. White Birch (Paper Birch), *Betula papyrifera*

Narrow crown, leaves 3", ovate, long-pointed, toothed, turn light yellow. Bark when young chalky to creamy white, with thin, horizontal stripes, peels in papery strips to reveal orange inner bark. Native Americans used bark layers for canoes and shelter coverings. In some areas, seeds and buds are eaten by ruffed and sharptail grouse and the twigs are cropped by moose, deer, and snowshoe hare. Many mammals feed on the foliage, twigs, and inner bark.



## 6. Dogwood, *Cornus florida L.*

Medium-sized tree with egg- or wedge-shaped leaves in 5-6 pairs. Twigs green but mostly dark purple. Flowers small, clustered with 4 white or pink bracts (not true petals). Fruits are red or yellow. Bark is deeply checkered. Bark of the roots yields a scarlet dye. Tool handles, mallets and the heads of golf clubs are manufactured from the hard, close-grained wood. Fruits are important foods for numerous song and game birds, skunks, deer, rabbits, and squirrels. Twigs used by Native Americans as a tooth brush.



## 7. Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*

Trunk massive, leaves 6", broadly ovate, maple-like with 3-5 pointed lobes, alternate leaf/bud arrangement; turn brown. Bark smooth; silvery-white base overlaid with peeling patches of darker gray and brown. Fruit 1" balls. Hard coarse-grained wood used for butcher blocks, and furniture. Native Americans used trunks for dugouts. One such canoe reported to have been 65' long and to have weighed 9,000 pounds. Twigs are eaten by deer and muskrats. Cavities sought for nests and shelter by wood duck, opossum, and raccoon.



## 8. White Oak, *Quercus alba*

Leaves are alternate, simple, 5" to 9" long and half as broad. They are deeply divided into five to nine rounded, finger-like lobes. Wildlife relish the acorns. The wood is useful and valuable for construction



## 9. American Elm, *Ulmus americana*

Full-sized wild trees are becoming scarce as a result of Dutch Elm disease, spread by beetles which killed most trees from 1930 to 1960. Leaves are somewhat hairy beneath. Seeds are eaten by squirrels and opossum. Some rabbits and deer browse twigs. The wood is heavy, hard and strong used for hubs of wheels, boats, and baskets.



## 10. Tamarack "American Larch", *Larix laricina*

Needles 1" in soft, brush-like clusters. Cones 1/2", egg-shaped, yellow-brown, upright. Bark scaly, thin, reddish brown. An important timber tree used for poles, posts, and railroad ties. Seeds, needles, or inner bark eaten by ruffed and sharp-tail grouse, snowshoe hare, red squirrel, porcupine, and deer in areas where they live. It is the only conifer in this region which sheds its leaves in autumn.



## 11. Sassafras, *Sassafras albidum*

Leaves not toothed; lobed or not in 3 patterns. Twigs green, often branched, sometimes hairy. Crushed leaves or twigs are spicy-fragrant. Flowers greenish yellow; fruits are blue, fleshy, one-seeded. Lumber was once used for small boats and fuel. Sassafras oil is used in some soaps. Fruits are eaten by songbirds, bobwhite, wild turkey, and black bear in the areas they live. Twigs browsed by marsh and cottontail rabbits and by whitetail deer.



## 12. Black Oak, *Quercus velutina*

Grows 60 to 80 feet tall with other hard woods and white pines. Leaves are dark shiny and covered with down on the under surface. Many wildlife rely on acorns for food. Squirrels use the leaves and twigs for nests. The wood is used for furniture and flooring.



## 13. Sugar Maple, *Acer sac-*

*charum*  
Crown rounded, dense. Leaves 5 mostly five-lobed, opposite, with moderately deep U-shaped notches between lobes, multicolored in fall. Bark deeply furrowed, gray. Key 1-1/4"; wings at 60-degree angle. Valuable hard-wood tree. Supplies sap for maple syrup. Declining vigor of Sugar Maples in some area is attributed to acid rain. One difference between the Sugar Maple and the Norway Maple is that the broken leafstalks of the Norway Maple exude a milky sap when squeezed.



## 14. White Spruce, *Picea glauca*

Needles 1/2" long, blue-green; exude skunk-like odor when crushed. Cones 2", cylindrical, light brown, hang from branch tips. Bark smooth or scaly, thin gray to brown. Spruce trees provides a principal source of pulp for paper and is valuable for sounding boards in pianos and for construction and boatbuilding. Tannin is used for varnishes and medicinal compounds.



## 15. Blue Spruce, *Picea pungens*

Needles 1", blue-green to silvery blue, sharp. See White Spruce for uses.





