

Me and the forest

Memory collection campaign about Finns' relationship with the forest 15 Jan 2020–15 Oct 2020

Forests are an essential part of the Finnish lifestyle. Forests awake our feelings and thoughts, and our experiences and memories are connected to the forest. Tell us about your own, your family's and your community's relationship with the forest. We would also appreciate photographs with accompanying information (subject, time and photographer). You may use these questions to help you while writing your memories:

The forest as part of my life

- What kind of forest-related experiences have you had?
- What role does the forest play in your living environment, work and recreation time or family history? What kind of things have you done in the forest?
- Are you a forest owner? Is your profession related to the forest? How would you describe the impact of ownership or occupation on your relationship with the forest?

Experiences and conceptions of the forest

- What does the forest mean to you? What do you think is valuable in the forest?
- What has been the most significant forest experience in your life? What kind of experiences have you heard about from your family and friends?
- Describe your favourite forest. What makes it your favourite forest? What do you do there? What kind of memories, emotions or thoughts do you have about your favourite forest?
- What kind of nearby forest do you have? What do you do there?
- Does any single tree have a special role in your life? Describe this tree. Why is it important to you?
- In your opinion, what is a forest? What do you think about old-growth forests, managed forests or urban forests?
- What kind of forests do you dislike? Why?

The forest in society

- What do you think about the current forest debates? Have they changed in any way? How?
- What do you think about contemporary forestry and the use of forests in general?
- Is there anything that worries you when you think about forests? Is there anything that makes you happy?
- What do you think is man's place/position in nature?
- How would you describe man's current relationship with the forest? Has it changed and, if so, how?

The future

- Do you think that the meanings and the use of forests are changing? How?
- What do you think about the future of the forests?
- What kind of relationship with the forest would you like to pass on (to the next generation)?

The collection is organised by the Finnish Literature Society (SKS), the Human-Forest Relationship in Societal Change research project and LUSTO – The Finnish Forest Museum. All responses will be archived in the SKS archive. We will publicise the results of the survey in spring 2021. All respondents will be entered into a prize draw for books.

Photo: Timo Kilpeläinen,
LUSTO – The Finnish Forest Museum

Guidelines for replies

Enter your name or alias, contact details and date and place of birth in your response. We also accept photos, audio recordings, writings about memories and reminiscences and interviews. By submitting your material, you consent to the material being stored in the SKS archive and to the material being used for research purposes in accordance with the archive rules. For other contributions, please contact arkisto@finlit.fi.

See the SKS Archive collection guidelines www.finlit.fi/luovutus_ja_keruuohjeet.

Submit your writing by 15 October 2020

- Using the online form at www.finlit.fi/metsa; or
- By post to the Finnish Literary Society, Archive, P.O. Box 259, 00171 Helsinki – please write “Metsä” on the envelope; or
- As an email attachment to keruu@finlit.fi – please write “Metsä” in the subject field.

Further information:

SKS Archives, tel. +358 201 131 240, keruu@finlit.fi
The Human-Forest Relationship in Societal Change research project, metsasuhteita.fi/en/research/