

Increment Borer Procedure:

1. Remove the components stowed within the blue handle by unscrewing the silver tipped extractor tool. The black auger/bit can then be slid out of the blue handle.
2. Assemble the increment borer into its "drill" configuration by attaching the black auger/bit to the blue handle with the latching mechanism.
3. Make sure that the silver extractor mechanism is removed and set aside on the nearby tray before attempting any bore/drill activity.
4. Lubricate the threads of the auger/bit with bees wax.
5. Initiate the bore by selecting a spot on the log and rotating the handle in a clockwise direction while pressing straight downwards.
6. After the auger/bit has passed through the outer bark layer and achieved a bite into the heartwood, stop pressing down and ONLY turn the handle. At this point adult or child guests may take turns boring down into the log. The handle should be turned slowly so as not to overheat the threads of the auger/bit.
7. Once the increment borer is deep enough into the log (usually determined by the attention span of the children present), the silver extractor mechanism may be inserted into the hollow auger/bit. The extractor should have the core sample tray turned upside down during the insertion process. Perform the extractor mechanism insertion slowly and carefully without very much downward pressure.
8. Turn the the blue handle backwards (counter-clockwise) one half rotation.
9. Carefully remove the extractor mechanism. It should contain the core sample.
10. Visibility of the tree rings in the core sample may be enhanced by sanding and/or wetting the core sample.
11. The core sample may be broken into pieces and given away as souvenirs.
12. Very carefully/gently use the small hex-driver tool (looks like a screwdriver) to clear the wood plug at the tip of the auger/bit. While doing this, do NOT damage the circular cutting blade at the tip of the auger/bit.
13. Use the small wire brush to clean all debris from the threads of the auger/bit.
14. Stow the extractor mechanism and auger/bit within the blue handle.
15. Put the tray with the increment borer and all tools/accessories away in the docent cabinet beneath the 3-D map for safekeeping.