1. **THE YAUPON HOLLY** (Ilex vomitoria) is a species of Holly that is native to southeastern North America. The word yaupon was derived from its Catawban name, yopún, a form of the word yop, meaning “tree”. Yaupon Holly is an evergreen shrub or small tree reaching 5–9 meters tall, with smooth, light gray bark. The flowers are white with four-lobed pedals. The fruit is small round, shiny, and red (occasionally yellow) containing four pits, which are dispersed by birds eating the fruit.

2. **THE SABAL PALM** (Sabal palmetto) is native to the southeastern United States, Cuba, and the Bahamas. It is the state tree of Florida and the state tree and symbol for South Carolina. It is a distinct fan palm. The flowers are yellowish-white extending out beyond the leaves. The fruit is a black berry-like structure containing a single seed. It is extremely salt-tolerant and is often seen growing near the Atlantic Ocean coast. For a palm tree, the Sabal palmetto is very cold hardy.

3. **MUSCADINE** (Vitis rotundifolia) is a grapevine species native to the southeastern United States. It is well adapted to its native warm and humid climate. Muscadine berries range from bronze to dark purple to black and even to green in color when ripe. Muscadines are not only eaten fresh, but also are used in making wine, juice, and jelly.

4. **THE LIVE OAK** (Quercus virginiana) is an evergreen oak tree native to the southeastern United States. Though many other species are loosely called live oak, the southern live oak is particularly iconic of the Old South. The bark is dark, thick, and furrowed up and down. The leaves are stiff and leathery, with the tops shiny dark green and the bottoms pale gray. The male flowers are green hanging catkins (slim, cylindrical flower cluster) while the acorns are small and oblong in shape, with shiny tan-brown to nearly black color. Depending on the growing conditions, live oaks vary from shrubbery to large and spreading: typical open-grown trees reach 15 meters (45 feet) in height, but may span nearly 50 meters. The branches frequently support other plant species such as Ball Moss, Spanish Moss, Resurrection Fern, and Mistletoe. They can withstand occasional floods and hurricanes, and are resistant to salt spray and moderate soil salinity.

5. **THE RED CEDAR** (Juniperus virginiana) is a species of Juniper native to eastern North America from southeastern Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and east of the Great Plains. It is a dense slow-growing evergreen tree that may never become more than a bush in poor soil conditions. The bark is reddish-brown and peels off in narrow strips. The leaves are of two types: sharp or spreading and needle-like and are arranged in pairs or occasionally in trios. The seed cones are berry-like with fleshy scales, dark purple-blue with a white wax cover giving an overall sky-blue color. The trees usually have pollen and seed cones on separate trees.

6. **LAUREL OAK** (Quercus hemispherica) is a species of Oak native to the Southeastern United States. It is a medium-sized evergreen to semi-evergreen tree that can grow as tall as 115 feet (35m) tall, although it is more commonly around 60 to 65 feet (18m-20m) tall. The acorns are hemispheric in shape and take 18 months to mature. The Laurel Oak grows on dry sandy soils. Its leaves are narrow, ovate or elliptic.

7. **THE AMERICAN HOLLY** (Ilex opaca) is a species of Holly, native to the eastern United States, from coastal Massachusetts south to central Florida. It is a medium-sized broadleaved evergreen tree growing to 10–20 m in height. The bark is light gray with small warty lumps. The leaves are yellow green and sub-shiny above pale yellow beneath. The leaf edges are curved into several sharp, spike-like points. The flowers are greenish white, small, and borne in late spring. The fruit is a small red berry often persistent into winter. It will grow in both dry and swampy soil, but grows slowly.
8. **THE SALT MARSH** is an environment between land and salt or brackish water dominated by salt-tolerant plants such as herbs, grasses, or low shrubs. These plants are terrestrial in origin and are essential to the stability of the salt marsh in trapping and binding sediments that has built up over time. These salt marshes are common along the eastern coast of the United States and are important in the delivery of nutrients to coastal waters. They also act as estuaries for fish and other aquatic wildlife.

9. **THE RED BAY** (*Persea borbonia*) is an evergreen tree that is native to North America, north of Mexico. *Persea borbonia* has several common names; among them are Red Bay, Scrubbay, Shorebay and Swampbay. It can be present as either a small tree or a large shrub. It has lance shape, evergreen leaves that are about 3 to 7 inches long. These trees are capable of producing fruit that is small, blue or black, and contains a seed.

10. **POISON IVY** (*Toxicodendron radicans*) is a poisonous North American plant that is well known for its production of Urushiol, a clear liquid compound found within the sap of the plant that causes an itching, or sometimes painful rash in most people who touch it. Poison Ivy can be found growing in three different forms: a trailing vine, a shrub, or a climbing vine. All three forms are most common in wooded areas.

11. **THE MUSCLEWOOD** (*Carpinus caroliniana*), or Iron Wood, is a small Hardwood tree native to eastern North America. It reaches heights of 10–15 m and often has a crooked trunk. The bark is smooth and greenish-gray. The leaves are rounded and wedge-shaped. Full grown they are dull, deep green on top and paler beneath but in autumn they change to bright red, deep scarlet and orange. The fruit matures in autumn and is small and surrounded by three to seven pointed leaves. The Musclewood is a shade-loving tree with a shallow, wide-spreading root system and prefers moderate soil fertility and moisture.

12. **THE CAROLINA LAUREL CHERRY** (*Prunus caroliniana*) is a flowering tree native to the Southeastern United States, from North Carolina south to Florida and westward to eastern Texas. It is a small to medium sized evergreen tree with dark green, glossy leaves. Its twigs are red to grayish brown and slender. White to cream-colored flowers are produced in racemes (stalked bunches) 5–8 cm long in the late winter to early spring. The fruits are tiny black cherries about 1 cm in diameter, which are present throughout the winter and are primarily consumed by birds. The leaves and branches contain high amounts of prussic acid (cyanide), making it a potential toxic hazard to grazing livestock and children. Due to this, it is considered highly deer-resistant.

13. **SPANISH MOSS** (*Tillandsia usneoides*) is a flowering plant that grows upon larger trees, commonly the Southern Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) or Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) in the southeastern United States. It grows wherever the climate is warm enough and has a relatively high average humidity. The plant consists of a slender stem bearing thin, curved or curly, heavily scaled leaves growing in a chain-like fashion. The plant has no aerial roots and its flowers are tiny and unnoticeable. A common use is by birds as their nesting material.

14. **BEAUTY BERRY** (*Callicarpa*) is native to east and southeast Asia, Australia, southeast North America and Central America. It is in the species of evergreen and has clustered flowers that are white to pink. The fruit is a berry that is pink to red-purple in color and lasts well into the winter or dry season. These berries are an important survival food for birds and other animals. The berries are highly astringent but are made into wine and jelly.

15. **MARITIME FORESTS** occur along the entire chain of North Carolina’s barrier islands, from Currituck Banks in the north, to Bald Head Island in the south. They generally occur in locations that are somewhat protected from the harsh winds and salt spray. A natural forest that occurs on a barrier island, the maritime forest is home to a diversity of animal species. Among the many species are raccoon, fox, otter, muskrat, squirrel, snakes (including rattlesnakes and cottonmouths), turtles, frogs and lizards. Plants common in these forests include salt tolerant plants such as Live Oaks, Red Cedar, and Wax Myrtle that grow first to relieve the other areas of salt spray and allow other non-salt tolerant plants to grow such as Loblolly Pines.

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**Boy Scouts of America Outdoor Code**

As an American, I will do my best to
Be clean in my outdoor manners
Be careful with fire
Be considerate in the outdoors, and
Be conservation minded.