

Natural Monument Designated by Gosen City

# Suou Cedar

Location Nagahashi, Gosen City  
Date of Designation February 27, 1976

This Suou cedar tree is said to be over 900 years old, 35 meters tall, with a trunk circumference of 6.9 meters, and is carefully protected by the local people as the sacred tree of Haguro Shrine. The legend of Haguro Shrine is as follows.

In the Heian period (794–1185), during the battles that began with the Former Nine Years' War, Kurotorihyoue Noritou, a vassal of the Abe clan, who had been defeated by the Genji clan, marched from Oshu (present-day Iwate Prefecture) to Echigo, aiming to defeat the Imperial Court. At that time, Suounokami Hanyuda, the lord of Kanasugasawa Castle (present-day Tagami Town), fought to overcome the Kurotori's army, but the castle fell, and even after he fell, he was attacked and beheaded by the Kurotori army.

However, Akishino, the wife of Suounokami, who had been captured by the Kurotori army, avenged her husband's death, took Suounokami's head back from the Kurotori army and escaped to this land. She then asked the villagers to enshrine the head at Haguro Shrine, which became the guardian of Suounokami.

Later, the villagers, who adored Suounokami, built the Hachiman Shrine on the grounds of the Haguro Shrine and enshrined his head. This legend is said to be the origin of the name of this cedar, which came to be known as the "Suou Cedar".

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