



Friday, January 20, 2012

10am to 5pm

Held in the JC Penney end court inside Independence Mall

Saturday, January 21, 2012

10am to 5pm

Each year, our community loses many trees to disease, development, and storm events. Trees do much more than provide aesthetic benefits; they help improve our air and water quality, lower energy costs, and provide us with many resources such as food and medicines.

TreeFest distributes over 10,000 tree seedlings annually to local residents to increase the number of trees in our community. A suggested donation of \$3 per household will help make this event possible next year.

You and your students can get involved by entering the TreeFest Poetry Contest (*below*), using the Activity Guide (*back*), or attending the event to receive tree seedlings.

Win a Tree for your School!!!

Enter the TreeFest Poetry Contest for a chance to win a tree planted in your honor at your school! The contest is open to all grade levels. Poems must be 100 words or less and follow the rules of the type of poem chosen by the student. Trees should be the focus of the poem, and entries must be typed or legibly handwritten. We encourage students to go outside to observe trees for inspiration.

Please mail poems with the student's name, grade, school, and teacher's contact information to The TreeFest Committee, 300 Airlie Road, Wilmington, NC 28403 or email them to jeokeefe@nhcgov.com

Entries are due Friday, January 13th. The winning entry will be announced January 19th and the poem will be displayed during the event.

TreeFest Activity and Additional Resources

Introduction:

Trees are amazing! They supply oxygen to breathe, cool the air in summer, hold soil in place and help prevent flooding. They also provide homes and food for wildlife and people.

We build with trees, make all kinds of products out of them, eat their fruit, and extract energy from them. Some trees even provide important medicines. In fact, we use trees everyday. Another terrific thing about trees is that they are renewable. We can use trees and still have future forests, because trees can grow back. (from NC Division of Forest Resources)

Activity:

- 1) Ask students to give examples of the differences between areas that have trees, and areas that don't. (e.g. shade, leaves, acorns, bird nests, etc.)
- 2) Have students research and/or list the benefits of trees.
- 4) Have students make a map of the school grounds, their home or favorite park and mark locations of trees. The activity in this link might be helpful.
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/08/g35/BioBlitzMapping.pdf>
- 5) Using the map, identify any areas that could benefit from a tree.
- 6) Identify characteristics of the sites that will be useful in determining which tree to choose such as how much sunlight it receives, if there are any power lines or buildings nearby, the condition of the soil, and the availability of water for irrigation during at least the first year. A list of available tree species and their characteristics and requirements will be available during TreeFest to help you select the right tree for your site.
- 7) Have students get permission to plant a tree in the location they selected.
- 8) Visit TreeFest to get tree seedlings. One person may pick up seedlings for other people.
- 9) Plant seedlings according the planting instructions provided at TreeFest. Keep them watered and watch them grow!

Additional Resources:

NC Division of Forest Resources. Correlated activities for K-6 and learn about NC Educational State Forests.

http://www.ncesf.org/tg/tg2_main.htm

Nichols Arboretum A lesson that will take you outdoors to meet a tree!

<http://www.reachoutmichigan.org/funexperiments/agesubject/lessons/arb/meetatree.html>

Arbor Day in North Carolina. There is a Poster Contest for 5th graders. This page also contains a link to activities correlated to national standards. Arbor Day will be celebrated in North Carolina on March 18, 2011.

http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/arbor_day_poster_contest.htm

Forsite This link from Virginia has lots of interactive activities, such as the interactive leaf key. This site is geared more towards middle schoolers. <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/forsite/contents.htm>