

# How Can YOUR School Recognize **ARBOR DAY?**

## Plant a Tree!

Host your own  
school-wide  
**ARBOR DAY**  
contest OR  
challenge a  
neighboring school!

Write Poems  
about  
**ARBOR DAY**

**Make Arbor  
Day  
Posters**

Sing Songs  
about  
**TREES**

Participate in  
your local Arbor  
Day Celebration!

For Classroom **Ideas** and  
**Information** visit the  
National Arbor Day  
Foundation Website:

[https://www.arborday.org/celebrate/  
educational-resources.cfm](https://www.arborday.org/celebrate/educational-resources.cfm)





## **Arbor Day Letter**

**President Theodore Roosevelt**

### **To The School Children of the United States**

Arbor Day (which means simply "Tree Day") is now observed in every state in our Union - and mainly in the schools. At various times, from January to December, but chiefly in this month of April, you give a day or part of a day to special exercises and perhaps to actual tree planting, in recognition of the importance of trees to us as a Nation, and of what they yield in adornment, comfort, and useful products to the communities in which you live.

It is well that you should celebrate your Arbor Day thoughtfully, for within your lifetime the Nation's need of trees will become serious. We of an older generation can get along with what we have, though with growing hardship; but in your full manhood and womanhood you will want what nature once so bountifully supplied and man so thoughtlessly destroyed; and because of that want you will reproach us, not for what we have used, but for what we have wasted.

For the nation, as for the man or woman or boy or girl, the road to success is the right use of what we have and the improvement of present opportunity. If you neglect to prepare yourselves now for the duties and responsibilities which will fall upon you later, if you do not learn the things which you will need to know when your school days are over, you will suffer the consequences. So any nation which in its youth lives only for the day, reaps without sowing, and consumes without husbanding, must expect the penalty of the prodigal, whose labor could with difficulty find him the bare means of life.

A people without children would face a hopeless future; a country without trees is almost as hopeless; forests which are so used that they cannot renew themselves will soon vanish, and with them all their benefits. A true forest is not merely a storehouse full of wood, but, as it were, a factory of wood, and at the same time a reservoir of water. When you help to preserve our forests or plant new ones you are acting the part of good citizens. The value of forestry deserves, therefore, to be taught in the schools, which aim to make good citizens of you. If your Arbor Day exercises help you to realize what benefits each one of you receives from the forests, and how by your assistance these benefits may continue, they will serve a good end.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT  
White House, April 15, 1907



# CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY



-  FACT: 1st Arbor Day: April 10, 1872 in Nebraska – brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton, a Nebraska journalist and politician (*originally from Michigan*).
-  FACT: During the 1870s, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day, and the tradition began in schools nationwide in 1882.
-  FACT: *Today the most common date for the state observances is the last Friday in April, and several U.S. presidents have proclaimed a national Arbor Day on that date. But a number of state Arbor Days are at other times to coincide with the best tree planting weather, from January and February in the south to May in the far north.*
-  FACT: **North Dakota celebrates Arbor Day the first Friday in May.**
-  FACT: North Dakota first celebrated Arbor Day in 1892. The first official ND Governor's proclamation was signed in 1895 by Governor Roger Allin.

# Interesting Facts About Trees

Trees are the longest living organisms on the planet and one of the earth's greatest natural resources. They keep our air supply clean, reduce noise pollution, improve water quality, help prevent erosion, provide food and building materials, create shade, and help make our landscapes look beautiful. Here are some more thought-provoking facts and figures about our oldest citizens and living treasures...trees!

- Well-maintained trees and shrubs can increase property value by up to 14%.
- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30%
- A mature tree removes almost 70 times more pollution than a newly planted tree.
- A healthy tree can have a value of up to \$10,000.
- The shade and wind buffering provided by trees reduces annual heating and cooling costs by 2.1 billion dollars.
- Each average-sized tree provides an estimated \$7 savings in annual environmental benefits, including energy conservation and reduced pollution.
- A single tree produces approximately 260 pounds of oxygen per year. That means two mature trees can supply enough oxygen annually to support a family of four!
- Water originating in our national forests provide drinking water for over 3400 communities, and approximately 60 million individuals.
- One tree can absorb as much carbon in a year as a car produces while driving 26,000 miles.
- Over the course its life, a single tree can absorb one ton of carbon dioxide.
- An average American uses about 750 pounds of paper every year, and 95% of homes are built using wood. That means each person uses the equivalent of one 100 foot tall, 16 inch diameter, tree every year for their paper and wood product needs.
- About one third of the United States of America is covered by forests.
- According to the last forest inventory, there are almost 247 billion trees over 1 inch in diameter in the U.S.
- The average tree in an urban/city area has a life expectancy of only 8 years.
- The tallest tree in the country is a Coast Redwood growing in northern California's Redwood National Park. It is 369 feet tall and over 2000 years old!

Tree Facts retrieved from: <https://www.savatree.com/tree-facts.html>

## Notable Quotes

To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees.

~ Theodore Roosevelt

Entrances stamp the community in the minds of visitors in a lasting memory. Cheers to all who promote and preserve our heritage of natural beauty.

~ Lady Bird Johnson

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

-- *Warren Buffett*

"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now."

— *Chinese proverb*

"People who will not sustain trees will soon live in a world that will not sustain people."

— *Bryce Nelson*

"The best friend on earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on the earth."

— *Frank Lloyd Wright*

When we plant a tree, we are doing what we can to make our planet a more wholesome and happier dwelling-place for those who come after us if not for ourselves."

— *Oliver Wendell Holmes*

In 1913, North Dakota Governor Louis Hanna wrote an article in the National Journal of Forestry stating:

*"...feel that we should do all that may be within our power to encourage our farmers... to plant shrubs, different kinds of berries and fruits... and to plant north and west and perhaps on the other sides of their buildings groves of trees".*

# ONE CORD OF WOOD YIELDS:

**7,500,000 toothpicks**

or

**942 one-pound books**

or

**4,000 milk cartons**

or

**4,384,000 commemorative sized postage stamps**

or

**460,000 personal checks**

or

**1,200 copies of National Geographic magazine**

or

**12 dining room tables that seat 8**

**One cord of wood (128 cubic feet) is a pile 4'x4'x8'**

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## The Value of a Tree

**Over a 50 year lifetime, one tree generates:**

⌲ **\$31,250 worth of oxygen**

⌲ **Provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control**

⌲ **Recycles \$37,500 worth of water**

⌲ **Controls \$31,250 worth of soil erosion**

*(Facts from Michigan State University)*

# Paper Recycling Facts

- To produce each week's Sunday newspapers, 500,000 trees must be cut down.
- Recycling a single run of the Sunday New York Times would save 75,000 trees.
- If all our newspaper was recycled, we could save about 250,000,000 trees each year!
- If every American recycled just one-tenth of their newspapers, we would save about 25,000,000 trees a year.
- If you had a 15-year-old tree and made it into paper grocery bags, you'd get about 700 of them. A busy supermarket could use all of them in under an hour! This means in one year, one supermarket can go through over 6 million paper bags! Imagine how many supermarkets there are just in the United States!!!
- The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This amounts to about 2,000,000,000 trees per year!
- The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.
- Approximately 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.
- Americans use 85,000,000 tons of paper a year; about 680 pounds per person.
- The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper each year. Most is packaging and junk mail.
- In 1993, U.S. paper recovery saved more than 90,000,000 cubic yards of landfill space.
- Each ton (2000 pounds) of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4000 kilowatts of energy, and 7000 gallons of water. This represents a 64% energy savings, a 58% water savings, and 60 pounds less of air pollution!
- The 17 trees saved (above) can absorb a total of 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each year. Burning that same ton of paper would create 1500 pounds of carbon dioxide.
- The construction costs of a paper mill designed to use waste paper is 50 to 80% less than the cost of a mill using new pulp.

Information from [Recycling Revolution](#)

Retrieved from: <https://www.usi.edu/recycle/paper-recycling-facts/>



One day a very old man left his house early in the morning and returned several hours later with a sapling. The sapling was half as tall as you are and as thin as a wooden pencil. The old man began planting it at the roadside in front of his house. He worked slowly because he was old and because he enjoyed the work. As he planted, a neighbor came by and looked at the tiny sapling.

“Why, you silly old man,” the neighbor laughed, “you’re wasting your time planting such a small sapling! You’ll be gone before it grows large enough to fill this space with beauty and shade.”

“You are correct,” the old man calmly replied as he continued planting. “But, I am not planting this tree for myself. All my life I have had fine trees to look at and walk under because when I was young, old people planted trees. Now, I plant trees - for those to come!”

*From: “What’s A Tree To Me?”, a special Urban Tree Project funded by the International Paper Company Foundation.*