



Alaska Community Forestry Program



National Association of State Foresters Centennial School Tree Challenge

Grant Instructions

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1450, Anchorage, AK 99501 / 907-269-8466 / <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/index>

Introduction

In 2020 the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) celebrated its 100th Anniversary by launching the Centennial Challenge Campaign. NASF will be spotlighting state forestry agencies and their work to complete 100-themed challenges throughout the centennial campaign. In Alaska we want 100 schools (or more!) to plant a tree in celebration of Arbor Day and the strength and resiliency of Alaskans.

Thanks to the US Forest Service, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry has grants for up to \$400.00 for the purchase, shipping and planting of trees. Trees can be planted on school grounds, or even indoors if your school has a suitable space or a greenhouse. Trees may also be planted on an approved public property.

Forests are vital infrastructure, conveying many benefits to the humans and wildlife that occupy Alaska's communities. Forests clean the air and water, contribute to the livability of our cities, and promote the health of those that live within. Planting a native tree or grove of natives can improve the soil; attract pollinators; and provide habitat to our native wildlife.

Community forests also provide valuable spaces for students to learn about nature and explore environmental issues. Trees and green spaces around schools have positive effects on student productivity, mental health, and quality of life. The purpose of these grants is to supplement local resources and facilitate education about the environmental, social, and psychological benefits provided by trees.

Projects should raise awareness about the benefits of trees and the many ecosystems services that they provide. Ideal proposals will involve students in the research and design process and will demonstrate proper tree planting and care techniques. Instructors should consider using the grant application as part of a school project. Educational resources and pre-made lesson plans about the benefits of trees are available through the Alaska Community Forestry Program and Project Learning Tree: <https://www.plt.org/>

This is also an excellent opportunity for schools to become recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus K-12. The goal of this program is to "inspire the next generation of tree stewards through experiences that bring the benefits of trees to life both outside and in the classroom." For more information about becoming a Tree Campus K-12 and the many benefits associated with recognition, visit the Arbor Day Foundation Website: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/tree-campus-k-12/>

How can the Grant be used?

The grant can be used for the purchase of: A) trees, saplings, seedlings, or orchard trees; B) educational materials; C) items such as mulch, stakes, hoses, gloves, or other planting materials; and D) shipping costs. If trees are planted indoors, grant funding may be used for the purchase of LED grow lights.

General Requirements

- Applicant must be an **Alaska school** with a current IRS 501(C)3 status.
- Trees must be planted on **public land** and have a three-year **maintenance plan**.
- Applicants may apply for up to **\$400**. Approximately \$43,000 is available to fund projects.
 - Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Applications will be accepted until funding is exhausted or until this grant program is closed.
- Grant funds **may not** be used to pay wages.

Grant Eligibility Criteria

- Increases public awareness of the benefits of community trees and forests;
- Demonstrates to students how to select, plant, and care for trees;
- Demonstrates a well-organized plan and budget;
- If planting fruit trees, develop harvest guidelines so that the fruit is shared or donated for a specific purpose, fruit is harvested only when ripe, and plants are not damaged during harvest.

Application Process

Complete parts I and II of the application packet. Applications will be accepted until funding is exhausted or until this grant program is closed. Alaska Community Forestry staff will review proposals and notify all applicants. The state and grantee will sign a grant agreement before the project begins. Funds will be paid to the grantee after receipt of the final report.

Resources

- Plant high quality trees that are appropriate for the site and meet the *American Standard for Nursery Stock 2014*:
http://americanhort.org/documents/ANSI_Nursery_Stock_Standards_AmericanHort_2014.pdf
- Use *Plant a Tree: Alaska's Guide to Tree Selection, Planting, & Care* to plan and carry out your project. Request copies from the Community Forestry Program or see online at:
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/community/publications/plant%20a%20tree%20web.pdf>
- Division of Forestry Community Forestry Program: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/news.htm>
- Landscape Plants for Alaska: <http://www.alaskaplants.org/>
- UAF Cooperative Extension Service: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/>
- Cooperative Extension Service publication: Growing Tree and Bush Fruits in Alaska
<http://www.alaska4h.org/uploads/1/4/0/2/14026701/hga-00038.pdf>
- Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association: <http://www.apfga.org/>
- An internet search for “food forest” will lead you to information and examples from around North America. Several interesting and entertaining videos are available featuring Bill Mollison, a founder of Permaculture: *The Permaculture Orchard* and the *Global Gardener*
- Project Learning Tree: <https://www.plt.org/>
- Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus K-12: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/tree-campus-k-12/about.cfm>

Please contact us if you need help with your proposal. We can help you write specifications to ensure that the trees you buy are of high quality, in excellent condition, and appropriate for your site. If you need help from an experienced fruit tree grower in your community, contact your nearest UAF Cooperative Extension Service office, the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association, a Master Gardener, or a local garden center. For additional educational resources contact Molly Gillespie, Alaska State Coordinator for Project Learning Tree: <https://www.plt.org/network/alaska/>

Email proposal to:
communityforestry@alaska.gov

OR

Mail or deliver proposal to:
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
Community Forestry Program
550 W. Seventh Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

For additional information contact:

Josh Hightower
Community Assistance Forester
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907-269-8466

OR

Jim Renkert
Community Forestry Coordinator
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Mission of the Alaska Community Forestry Program:

Help communities build effective, self-sustaining community forestry programs with strong local support.

Grant funds provided to the State of Alaska Division of Forestry from the USDA Forest Service.

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