



STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska Community Forest Council offers Arbor Day grants

(Anchorage, AK) – The Alaska Community Forest Council is offering grants to help organizations commemorate Arbor Day in Alaska, which will be celebrated on May 17.

Arbor Day is America's national tree planting holiday, a day set aside to plant ceremonial trees, educate children about the significance of trees, and honor the crucial role that trees play in our communities and lives. In Alaska, Arbor Day is celebrated on the third Monday in May.

The Alaska Community Forest Council is a nonprofit organization with 15 members from around the state, which advises the Division of Forestry on how to develop and deliver community forestry programs to Alaskans, support education, and encourage public involvement.

The council is offering grants in the \$200-\$500 range, which can be used to plant trees or shrubs, or support other activities that promote Arbor Day in Alaska. The grants are aimed at local governments, schools, and nonprofit organizations. Grant applications are accepted year-round. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and grant awards will be announced following the council's quarterly meetings in May, August, November, and March.

The grants are intended to fund projects that:

- Generate awareness of and participation in Arbor Day in Alaska
- Increase public awareness of the benefits of trees and forests and build support for planting and caring for public trees.
- Provide a public demonstration of the benefits of trees and/or proper tree selection, planting and care.
- Use trees to solve community problems. Examples include reducing or treating storm water, creating wind breaks or living snow fences, restoring streams and rivers, planting fruit trees to provide healthy food, screening surfaces prone to graffiti, calming traffic, and beautifying school yards.

Grant funds were provided by contributions from the Society of American Foresters Cook Inlet and Yukon River Chapters, and Paul's Tree Service. For more information and grant application forms, visit: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/council>.

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