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PRESS RELEASE

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## **Alaska schools can apply for grants to plant trees on campuses**

**(Anchorage, AK)** – The Alaska Division of Forestry is looking for 100 schools around the state to apply for funding to plant trees on their campuses in honor of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) one-hundredth anniversary.

Schools may apply for grants of up to \$400 to buy, ship and plant trees on school grounds. Funded by the U.S. Forest Service, the grants celebrate NASF's partnership with forestry divisions in Alaska and around the country, said Jim Renkert, community forestry program manager for the Alaska Division of Forestry.

"While the COVID-19 pandemic and its ensuing impact on schools disrupted the original plan to have schools plant trees on Arbor Day 2020, we would like to get these grants awarded so schools can plant trees during the 2021 school year," Renkert said. "We encourage schools to apply for a grant and plant a tree to beautify their campus and foster student interest in nature."

In sponsoring the NASF "Centennial Challenge," the Alaska Division of Forestry's goal is to see 100 schools plant at least one tree each, Renkert said.

The national grant campaign is part of NASF's Centennial Challenge, which seeks to honor the association's work to provide a unified voice for state and private forestry in the United States since 1920, and to highlight the social, environmental, and economic contributions state forestry agencies have made nationwide.

For applications and instructions on how to apply for NASF Centennial School Tree Challenge grants, go to the Division of Forestry's Community Forestry Program website at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/grants>. Schools are encouraged to involve students in the grant application and planning process.

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