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Department of  
Natural Resources

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Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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## Celebrate Arbor Day in Alaska on May 18

**(Anchorage, AK)** – Take the time to plant a tree. Go for a walk in the woods. Learn how to properly prune a shrub. Whatever you choose to do, the Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection encourages Alaskans to observe Arbor Day.

Established in 1872, Arbor Day is the day set aside to plant trees, educate people on the importance of trees, and recognize the important role that trees play in our lives. In Alaska, Arbor Day is celebrated on the third Monday in May. **This year, Governor Mike Dunleavy signed a proclamation denoting May 18 as Alaska's Arbor Day, in which he invites Alaskans young and old to honor one of the state's greatest assets – its forests.**

Arbor Day is only the beginning. Opportunities to plant, maintain, and manage trees grow as the days become longer and warmer. Arborists have a saying - *the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the second-best time is now*. Whether you choose to celebrate on May 18, sometime in early June, or even in late September, planting a tree this year will provide innumerable benefits in the years to come.

To learn more about planting and caring for trees, visit the Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Community Forestry Program website at:  
<https://forestry.alaska.gov/community/index>.

Visit the national Arbor Day Foundation website for more ideas on how to celebrate Arbor Day: <https://www.arborday.org/celebrate>.

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