Walk in the Forest

A GUIDE FOR PROMOTING FORESTS & FOREST MANAGEMENT

Share and print out this manual of ideas and make notes as you plan your walk in the forest! (Downloaded from www.forestfoundation.org/publications

American Forest Foundation

Society of American Foresters
Growing better all the time

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The Walk in the Forest program is a wonderful opportunity for the public to experience forests and forestry hands-on.

APRIL 22
EARTH DAY

LAST FRIDAY IN APRIL
ARBOR DAY

3RD SATURDAY IN MAY
NATIONAL WALK IN THE WOODS DAY

3RD FRIDAY IN OCTOBER
NATIONAL WALK IN THE FOREST DAY

This guide will help you plan an event—for adults, families, students or teachers. A Walk in the Forest helps audiences of all ages unplug from their busy lives and witness the wonder of nature. It provides a great opportunity for people to appreciate forests, and to teach others about the benefits forests provide and how forest management can enhance those benefits.

This guide was developed and produced by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the American Forest Foundation (AFF). SAF is the scientific and educational association representing nearly 17,000 professional foresters and natural resource professionals in the United States. The Society's primary objective is to advance the science, technology, education, and practice of professional forestry for the benefit of all society. AFF works on-the-ground with families, teachers and elected officials to promote stewardship and protect our nation's forest heritage. A commitment to the next generation unites our nationwide network of forest owners and teachers working to keep our forests healthy and our children well-prepared for the future they will inherit.

There are many opportunities throughout the year to plan a Walk in the Forest. Each season brings with it something new to show and tell about trees and the forest. The **third Saturday in May is National Walk in the Woods Day™**, and on that day the American Forest Foundation invites its network of family forest owners and American Tree Farm System® Certified Tree Farmers to offer tours of their properties, or simply take their own families and friends for a walk in the woods. **On the third Friday in October, SAF local units and state chapters join with local educators and landowners to hold a Walk in the Forest Day.** If you can't participate in, or plan an event for National Walk in the Woods Day™ or National Walk in the Forest Day, consider another spring date to tie in with Arbor Day or Earth Day, or another fall date to take advantage of colorful foliage. **National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April**, but many states observe it on different dates according to their best tree-planting times.

The guidelines in this kit will help you plan your event. A planned project is a successful project! The length and detail of the walk will depend on your audience. If your walk involves teachers and their students, or families and their children, AFF's Project Learning Tree® program can provide some engaging and fun activities for youth. Use this guide to plan your walk, and for more guidance, contact Louise Murgia, Director of Field Services at the Society of American Foresters or Vanessa Bullwinkle, Director of Communications at the American Forest Foundation.

GOALS OF WALK IN THE FOREST

> Inform the public of the many benefits of trees and forests.
> Increase public awareness of the dynamic nature of the forest.
> Help the public understand that foresters are uniquely qualified to help maintain the integrity of forest environments while providing many benefits for society.
> Inform the public that private family forestland owners have multiple and diverse objectives and that their investment in forest management results in benefits that we all enjoy.

KEY FOREST AND FOREST MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS

Trees and forests have many benefits.

- Environmental benefits include soil stability, air and water quality, and carbon storage.
- Ecological benefits include landscape diversity and habitat for plants and animals.
- Economic benefits include the forest products industry, suppliers of outdoor recreation equipment, etc.
- Recreation includes activities in the forest such as hiking, camping, and hunting.
- Aesthetics is the pleasure derived from the visual beauty of the forest.

Forests are dynamic and change composition over time.

- Biotic influences on forests include animals, insects, diseases, and non-native invasive species.
- Abiotic influences include flooding, drought, fire and wind events such as hurricanes and tornadoes.
- Competition for resources (sun, water, nutrients) occurs between organisms of the same species and different species.
- Succession is the replacement of one community of plants by another.

Foresters maintain the integrity of the forest while providing benefits for society.

- There is demand for forest products including paper, solid wood, and energy.
- Supplying these products through management does not necessarily compromise a forest's integrity.
- Foresters complete a multi-disciplinary curriculum including ecology, silviculture, forest health, economics, and policy that prepares them for their profession.
- Many states require licensing or registration criteria that may include a code of ethics.
- Foresters use equipment such as a diameter tape, clinometer, and increment borer to gather data in order to make prescriptions.
- Forest management techniques such as herbicide application, prescribed fire, thinning, or final harvests are used to deliver a desired outcome.
- Often these techniques mimic natural events, and may appear harmful in the short-term but have long-term benefits.

Private family forestland owners have multiple and diverse objectives and their investment benefits the public.

- Individuals and families own forests for a variety of reasons, including quality of life, environmental values, investment income, and/or recreation.
- A landowner invests his or her time and money in forest management activities to accomplish his/her objective(s).
- A landowner's investment in forest management also provides benefits to society, for example, a prescribed fire lowers the risk of uncontrolled wildfire.
- Other societal benefits from private forestland management include clean air and clean water, soil creation and stabilization, and protection of biological diversity.
- A landowner's participation in forest certification programs like the American Tree Farm System is verification of sustainable forest management.

Additional Talking Points

- ☐ Focus on **current issues**, such as biodiversity, biomass, wildland-urban interface, or forests with high conservation value.
- ☐ Explain the **history of forestry** in the United States and your state and discuss trends using the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Inventory Analysis.
- ☐ Explain **residential tree and landscape care**, including species selection and planting, impacts on energy use, root damage, and proper pruning.
- ☐ **Observe a harvest** operation in progress, explain what is happening, and point out measures being taken to avoid harming the surrounding environment.
- ☐ Showcase an example of **ecosystem restoration** such as a longleaf pine forest in the Southeastern U.S. Coastal Plain.
- ☐ Show the use of **good silvicultural practices** in a wetland environment.
- ☐ Discuss the **current health of local forests** and tell guests how they can help keep forests healthy, for example, removal and prevention of non-native invasive species.
- ☐ Discuss the **history of the Society of American Foresters** and the **American Forest Foundation's Tree Farm** or **Project Learning Tree** programs.
- ☐ Discuss the Society of American Foresters' **mission to advance** the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and, to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

☐ Discuss the importance of **private forest owners** to protecting America's forest legacy and point out the value of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS)—the largest and oldest sustainable woodland system in America. ATFS is a network of family forest owners protecting 26 million acres of forest land.

☐ Discuss the importance of **environmental education** and how it is vital that the next generation have an understanding and appreciation for the natural world. Describe how Project Learning Tree (PLT), uses forests as a window on the world to engage students of all ages in outdoor learning. PLT has a 50-state network and trains more than 30,000 educators a year.

☐ Gather local and national **forest facts** to share.

- 56% of America's forests are privately owned and of this private forest land, most (62%) is owned by families and individuals. The remaining private forest land is owned by corporations, conservation organizations, clubs, Native American tribes, and others.
- 25% percent of America's fresh water comes from private forests
- 60% of at-risk wildlife depends on private forests for habitat.
- More than 90% of our wood products in America come from private forests.

FOCUS OBSERVE EXPLAIN SHOW GATHER DISCUSS

PLANNING A WALK IN THE FOREST GUIDELINES

Before the Walk

Establish Objectives

Who?

- ☐ Set your objectives, taking into consideration the goals of the walk.
- ☐ Determine your target audience. Examples include students, teachers, landowners, elected leaders, government officials, conservation groups, clergy, scouts, civic groups, media, or the general public. (See examples for specific groups in later pages.)
- ☐ Consider audiences that may have different viewpoints or values about the forest. Consider whether these groups should attend the same walk or if the walks need to be separate.

What?

- ☐ What do you want participants to learn? Do you want to address a current "hot" issue or provide a general overview?
- ☐ What two or three major points do you want visitors to know or understand? See key concepts.
- ☐ Partnering with an SAF Chapter or an AFF state Tree Farm committee or Project Learning Tree state program can ensure that your walk becomes an annual program.
- ☐ Inviting local, state, and federal agencies, forest industry, loggers, consultants, and conservation groups to volunteer may help develop valuable partnerships.

Select a Location

Where?

- ☐ Will the site support your objectives? Is it easily accessible? Do you need permission or a permit to use the site? Is there adequate parking? Will you need restroom facilities?
- ☐ Consider a certified Tree Farm, U.S. National Forest or National Park, urban forest, planting or harvesting operation, seed orchard or nursery.

Insurance

- ☐ SAF state societies, divisions, and chapters are covered by the SAF National Office's liability insurance. For details contact SAF Finance and Administration Department at (301) 897-8720, ext. 103.
- ☐ Walk in the Forest programs sponsored by either the state Tree Farm or Project Learning Tree committees can also be covered by the American Forest Foundation's liability insurance. Contact the Tree Farm program coordinator at 202-463-2733 at least one month before your project and request the liability rider application. Follow up with the program coordinator to ensure coverage.

Consider the Timing

When?

- ☐ A common date facilitates national event publicity. SAF selected the third Friday in October based on school schedules, weather, and fall foliage in many areas of the country. AFF selected the third Saturday in May. If you can't participate in the national Walk in the Forest Day or National Walk in the Woods Day™, consider another date.

- ☐ Spring dates tie in well with Arbor Day or Earth Day. A weekday event in May is a good time for teachers. For the most part, school tests are over and teachers are looking for field day opportunities for their students.
- ☐ Summer may be difficult with students but teachers need professional development hours just like foresters and they may be more available in the summer.
- ☐ Autumn is the time to appreciate the aesthetics of the forest and can be used to engage curiosities of the fall colors.
- ☐ Make provisions for a rain date.

Develop a Plan

How?

- ☐ Designate one person as the coordinator to direct planning and to have primary responsibility for the program.
- ☐ Solicit support from SAF members, Project Learning Tree facilitators, American Tree Farm System members.
- ☐ Decide what you will show. Don't try to do too much. Keep it simple and not too technical.
- ☐ Decide whether to direct guests to learning stations staffed by experts or keep the entire group together with one or more leaders talking.
- ☐ Designate someone to promote the event to your desired audience.
- ☐ Develop a program flyer, see sample, and distribute SAF, Tree Farm, or PLT brochures or fact sheets with the program flyer.
- ☐ Designate someone responsible to attract media to your event, develop press releases, and speak to the media during the event. This person should be free to move about the event with the media.
- ☐ Consider your audience may not want media attention.
- ☐ Assign someone to be responsible for taking photos and/or video of the event.
- ☐ Designate someone responsible for securing local sponsors and apply for grant funds to offset costs.
- ☐ Establish a budget.

Establish Itinerary

- ☐ Determine if your walk will include a meal. Consider a picnic lunch during a break or at the end of the walk, or guests can bring bag lunches. Provide water.
- ☐ Layout the location of each information point.
- ☐ Identify the station presenters and determine what their needs are for materials.
- ☐ Remember to include rest stops, briefing periods, and refreshments in the agenda.
- ☐ Coordinate refreshment and lunch details as well as trash disposal.
- ☐ Send reminders to presenters on times, what is expected, final schedules, etc.

Arrange Parking and Transportation if Necessary

- ☐ Consult and respect the wishes of the landowner. (See the guidelines for Tree Farmers and Family Forest Owners on page 27.)
- ☐ Reserve transportation. Vans are in high demand during the summer and should be reserved well in advance.
- ☐ Consider accessibility of buses on forest roads.
- ☐ Avoid caravans of automobiles due to the risk of accident and their effects on forest roads.

Invite Guests

- ☐ For school groups, make contact at the beginning of the school year before field trip plans are set.
- ☐ For others, extend your invitations four to six weeks in advance. Share your itinerary, the who, what, when, where and why.
- ☐ Provide information about what to wear and what to bring, e.g., long pants, closed-toe-shoes, insect repellant, a hat.
- ☐ Ask for an RSVP. Designate someone to handle registration.
- ☐ Send press releases about your event to local media. Include the date, time, location, length, why your audience should participate, dress requirements, etc.
- ☐ For landowners, promote your event in state Tree Farm committee newsletters, state forestry agency publications, and state forest association publications.
- ☐ For the general public, list the event in community calendars, hang signs in libraries and stores.

Prepare Information Packet to Give to Walk Participants

Extras

Consider including these items:

- ☐ Schedule and a map of the area
- ☐ Briefing paper with key forestry terms they are likely to hear, issues to be discussed, etc.
- ☐ Photographs of "before and after" management
- ☐ Names and contact information of the walk's facilitators for follow-up
- ☐ A list of supporters for the walk
- ☐ State forest facts (available from state agencies or associations)
- ☐ SAF, PLT, and Tree Farm brochures
- ☐ Seedlings or seed packets with planting instructions for participants
- ☐ Sample activities for families to lead with children while out for a walk in the woods. Download these one-pagers from PLT's "Connecting Kids to Nature" series from **www.forestfoundation.org/family-activities**.
- ☐ Make nametags. Consider tree cookie name tags. With a dab of hot glue and a pin, they make excellent name tags. Use color-coded name tags to distinguish leaders from guests.
- ☐ Collect giveaways from donors.

Walk through Planned Itinerary

Rehearse

- ☐ Two weeks in advance, do a dress rehearsal!
- ☐ Clear obstacles from the path and look for any potential distractions, hazards or illegal activities.
- ☐ Do trail maintenance if necessary.
- ☐ Calculate travel time needed between stops.
- ☐ On remote forest roads, flagging turns and stops can be helpful.
- ☐ Be comfortable with your location and material; ask yourself, will the walk be interesting? Does the walk meet your objectives?
- ☐ Revise itinerary as needed.
- ☐ Collect helpful items: air horn to rotate stations, sunscreen, bug spray, toilet paper, hand wipes, first aid kit, and camera.
- ☐ Is there a situation or activity planned that requires guests to wear hard hats or safety goggles?

DAY OF WALK

Ready, Set...

Pre-Walk

- ☐ Arrive early.
- ☐ Review the site for any potential hazards and flag the boundaries.
- ☐ Welcome guests and have them sign in with name, address, and emergency contact information.
- ☐ Distribute nametags and walk information packet.
- ☐ Give brief introduction with information about the walk sponsors and an explanation of the site.
- ☐ Give an overview of the day's activities.
- ☐ Review a map that shows the project boundaries and facilities.
- ☐ Describe the plan for bad weather. In hot weather, tell guests to make sure they drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- ☐ Allow time for a brief question and answer session.

Go!

Proceed with Walk in Accordance with Schedule

- ☐ Stick to the schedule while respecting individual needs.
- ☐ Avoid technical jargon; answer all questions candidly.
- ☐ Be sure to listen carefully and avoid doing all the talking.
- ☐ Remember safety precautions.
- ☐ Involve the audience, for example ask open-ended questions about the topic rather than a question that could be answered with a yes or no.
- ☐ Be animated. Have good eye contact with your audience.
- ☐ Most importantly, remember to make the walk fun!

Q & A

Conclusion

- ☐ Give a summary or a fun quiz covering the tour, highlights, etc.
- ☐ Allow time for a final question and answer session.
- ☐ Distribute and collect evaluation forms. Encourage participants to complete the section on the evaluation form to sign up to receive news, information and resources from the sponsors, or join for example, Facebook.com/AmericanForestFoundation or Twitter@AmForestFndn.
- ☐ Encourage additional contact with SAF, AFF, Tree Farm, or PLT volunteers. Offer to schedule a Project Learning Tree workshop for educators, Tree Farm certification for landowners, or follow-up visit by an SAF member.
- ☐ Thank guests for attending and make sure all guests have transportation.
- ☐ Collect trash and dispose of it properly.
- ☐ Notify the landowner that the event has concluded and the site is in order.

AFTER THE WALK

Thank you

- ☐ Clean up the site—leave no trace.
- ☐ Send thank you letters to all participants, volunteers, sponsors, and the landowner.
- ☐ Summarize the participant evaluations and distribute to partners.
- ☐ Evaluate guests' attitudes: did the tour have a positive effect? What worked and what didn't? Answer unresolved questions immediately.
- ☐ Distribute a post-event press release (include a quote if you can from a student, teacher, or other guest about the event and what they learned or experienced) and photographs to your local media, and SAF and AFF's communications department.
- ☐ Begin preparations for the next Walk in the Forest!

Example #1
WALK IN THE FOREST FOR

CHILDREN

This outline supplements the Planning a Walk in the Forest guidelines on page 8. These guidelines are well suited for the elementary grade level, but can also be adapted for other grade levels.

Benefits of a Walk in the Forest for Children

- **Teach children about forests, forestry, and foresters. Parents and educators also benefit from exposure to the information presented to the children.**
- **Provide children with a positive outdoor, hands-on learning experience about forests, natural resources, forestry, and foresters.**
- **Increase children's awareness, appreciation of, and respect for nature, forests, and foresters.**
- **Expose children to the many benefits of forests—biological, aesthetic, recreational, educational, environmental, and economic.**
- **Expose children to the many aspects of forestry, such as forest management, fire prevention, forest health, forest products, forest ecology, and wildlife management.**

BEFORE THE WALK

Who?

What?

Determine Your Audience and Objectives

- ☐ Decide how the walk can best support your goals and the goals of the school or youth organization.
- ☐ Decide which grade levels you wish to target and how many students can attend.
- ☐ Contact an educator, school administrator, or youth leader to suggest a walk.
- ☐ Contact your state's Project Learning Tree Coordinator for assistance. Visit **www.plt.org** for contact information.

Meet with Educator or Youth Leader

Where?

- ☐ Be prepared to discuss the goals and show how they correlate with state learning standards.
- ☐ Decide when and where to hold the walk—on or near school grounds is best to avoid excessive travel.
- ☐ Set your agenda according to your goals. **See attached sample.**
- ☐ Provide teachers with materials they can use to prepare students for the walk, such as books, posters, or hands-on items.
- ☐ Encourage educators or youth leaders to provide questions they would like answered at each station.

Pre-Walk Introduction

- ☐ Visit the school or youth group one to two weeks before the walk so volunteers can meet the students and vice versa.

Gear Up

- ☐ Provide teachers with sample activities that differ from activities that will be conducted on the day of the walk. See attached **Connecting Kids to Nature** activities. You can download these and others from **www.forestfoundation.org/family-activities**. These are more simple versions of activities from Project Learning Tree's curriculum guides.
- ☐ Read a forestry-related book or show a video or slide show.
- ☐ Have children brainstorm how many items come from trees and then show samples and discuss some of the products.
- ☐ Briefly explain what a forester does and demonstrate some tools.
- ☐ Have each student write answers to the following on an index card along with his or her name: "What do I want to know about forests or foresters?"
- ☐ Conduct a pre-walk test of knowledge/attitudes about forests.

Helpers

Define the Responsibility of the School

- ☐ Divide students into groups.
- ☐ Provide at least two adults per group (for example one teacher and one parent).
- ☐ Encourage students to dress properly (long pants and closed-toe shoes).
- ☐ Bring a school nurse or someone else to distribute medication and first aid if this becomes necessary.

DAY OF THE WALK

Serious Fun

Focus the Children's Attention without Delay

- ☐ Set the tone of the walk immediately.
- ☐ Consider giving instructions about the walk and other logistics while children are still seated on the bus.
- ☐ Set clear and simple rules. Sample rules include the following:
  - Stay on paths whenever possible.
  - Watch where you are walking so you avoid crushing plants and animals.
  - Do not pick flowers and leaves unless directed.
  - Walk quietly to focus on observation.
  - Do not litter.

Topics

Possible Topics and Associated PLT Activities during the Walk

- ☐ Count tree age using growth rings and/or an increment borer.
- ☐ Show how to measure trees, determine board feet, etc.; relate this to how many trees it takes to build a house.
- ☐ Show how dead trees are home to a lot of living creatures.
- ☐ Explain how seeds are carried (by wind, water, squirrels, etc.).
- ☐ Explain the types of food that come from trees (maple syrup, etc.).
- ☐ Show a recently planted area with seedlings sprouting and explain the life cycle of trees.
- ☐ Identify the living creatures in the woods.
- ☐ Do leaf rubbings with crayons and explain the parts of a leaf.
- ☐ Show the parts of a tree and compare them to vital human functions. Explain that trees essentially use their leaves for breathing and then ask what else a tree needs to live. Someone will probably mention eating and you can explain how trees "eat" through their roots.

- ☐ Show the kids an insect gall and explain how the tree has encased encroaching insect eggs.
- ☐ Find a hole or pruned branch and show how the tree covers the wound.
- ☐ Consider using these activities from Project Learning Tree's *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide* on your walk. Contact your state's PLT coordinator to get this and other PLT curriculum guides.
  - Measurements: PLT Activity #67 "How Big is Your Tree"
  - Forest products: PLT Activity #13 "We All Need Trees"
  - Habitats: PLT Activity #23 "The Fallen Log"
  - Seed dispersal: PLT Activity #43 "Have Seeds Will Travel"
  - Tree ID: PLT Activity #64 "Looking at Leaves"

Conclusion

Q & A

- ☐ Allow time for a question and answer session.
- ☐ Ask children what they learned and liked best about the walk.
- ☐ Ask the teacher to have the students write a thank you with their answer to what they liked best about the walk.

Extras

- ☐ Children love souvenirs! Give away SAF and AFF items like pencils or magnifying lenses, etc.
- ☐ Give educators or youth leaders an evaluation form to complete.
- ☐ Schedule a follow-up classroom session.

AFTER THE WALK

Suggestions for a Follow-Up Visit to the Class

Recall

- ☐ Ask questions and get feedback.
- ☐ Use the index cards to make sure the children can answer the questions they originally asked about forests.
- ☐ Have the kids draw pictures or collaborate on a class mural depicting what they learned on the walk.
- ☐ Conduct a post-walk test and compare to the pre-walk test to see if students' knowledge or attitudes about forests have changed.
- ☐ Help the children plant trees on school grounds.
- ☐ Show the SAF video, "Foresters: Growing Forests for Our Future."
- ☐ Leave worksheets or PLT activities with educators or youth leaders for their use.
- ☐ Encourage educators or youth leaders to contact SAF or their state PLT coordinator for teaching tools and other resources, and professional development opportunities.

Ps & Qs

- ☐ Have the children write thank you notes to the landowner whose property they toured, or SAF/AFF and other volunteers who helped organize the walk.

NOTE: If you cannot do a follow-up visit, have the educator or youth leader give the children a follow-up quiz. Research projects could be assigned by the educator or youth leader based on what the students learned from the walk.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR WORKING WITH KIDS

Think

- ☐ It is better to interpret and aid children in their exploration rather than just give information.
- ☐ If a child comes up with a wrong answer help guide them to the correct answer.
- ☐ Be aware of teachable moments. If children's attention strays to follow a woodpecker or other animal, incorporate it into the walk—why is the woodpecker hammering that tree? Why that tree?
- ☐ Use superlatives: that tree has the biggest cones, the most colorful flowers, or the most interesting trunk. Everyone reacts enthusiastically to superlatives.

Touch

- ☐ Satisfy the children's need to touch, smell, and taste (with a disclaimer of danger) whenever opportunities to use these senses present themselves. The smell of sassafras or juniper, the taste of maple syrup, or the fact that it took 12 of us to hug that tree all are ways for children to code their memories with positive associations to trees.

Do

- ☐ Many books are available to help teach about trees and forests. Try *Sharing Nature with Children, The Classic Parents' and Teachers' Nature Awareness Guidebook* by Joseph B. Cornell.
- ☐ Project Learning Tree offers plenty more helpful tips and reading connections in its activity guides.

Sample questions asked by 4th and 5th graders:

> How many acres are in the forest? How many trees? Have you counted the trees?

> What tree is the biggest in the forest? Can we plant a tree?

> Are there animal tracks in the forest? How does wildlife use trees?

> Are deer living in the forest? Can we feed the deer our lunch?

> I want to walk in the mud. Can we get dirty?

SAMPLE AGENDA FOR STUDENTS

Society of American Foresters and Project Learning Tree
WALK IN THE FOREST
Alabama Nature Center, Lanark
Tuesday, April 19, 2011

Station 1 – Mammals, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Station 2 – Reptiles, Alabama Wildlife Federation
Station 3 – Soils & Water, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Station 4 – Raptors, Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center
Station 5 – Project Learning Tree—"How Big is Your Tree," Registered Forester
Station 6 – Freshwater Fishing, Alabama Wildlife Federation
Station 7 – Project Learning Tree—"Looking at Leaves," Carignan Forestry Consultants
Station 8 – Project Learning Tree—"Birds and Worms," Alabama Department of Ag and Industries

Agenda

Time	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D	Class E	Class F	Class G	Class H
9:00	PLEASE WAIT ON BUS FOR YOUR GUIDE. SNACK AT YOUR FIRST STATION.							
9:30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:50				ROTATE				
9:55	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1
10:15				ROTATE				
10:20	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2
10:40				ROTATE				
10:45	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3
11:05				ROTATE				
11:10	LUNCH AT YOUR FIFTH STATION. WE WILL PLACE YOUR COOLER THERE.							
12:00	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4
12:20				ROTATE				
12:25	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5
12:45				ROTATE				
12:50	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6
1:10				ROTATE				
1:15	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1:35	HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!							

Connecting Kids to Nature

Try this activity in a forest—a natural place to learn!

For over 35 years, Project Learning Tree® has used the forest as a "window" to help young people gain an awareness of the world around them and their place within it. Blending a walk in the forest with a fun and engaging PLT activity creates a powerful learning experience for children of all ages. Here's one idea in a series from PLT that introduces the concepts of **structure and scale.**

Activity 70: Soil Stories

In this activity, students explore differences in soil types and composition.

Doing the Activity

Who doesn't like getting their hands a little dirty? The next time a child in your care decides to dig a hole in the ground, turn it into an educational opportunity. Describe to children that you will conduct an experiment to analyze the soil sample they have just collected. As you dig and collect soil samples, ask:

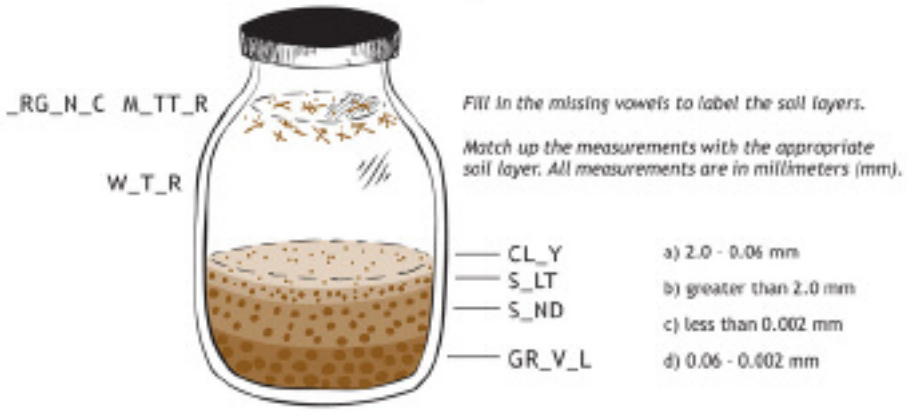
- What do trees and other plants get from soil? If so, why?
- Do different plants have different soil needs?
- Describe the soil: What color is it? How does it smell? How does it feel?

Have children make a "soil shake" by placing one half cup of soil into a jar with a lid and adding two cups of water. Ask them to predict what will happen if they shake the closed jar and let it settle for a few hours. Then, try it. Over time, soil layers will become visible. Gravel will fall first; then sand, silt, and clay; organic matter (leaves, twigs, stems) will remain floating in the water. Have children draw a picture of the layers formed by their soil shake, or collect and test soil samples from other areas (forest, field, yard) for comparison.

Safety! Get permission before taking soil samples. Use plastic jars, if possible.

Challenge students to complete the "Soil Composition" diagram, reminding them that the largest particles fall to the bottom first.

Soil Composition



Fill in the missing vowels to label the soil layers.

Match up the measurements with the appropriate soil layer. All measurements are in millimeters (mm).

a) 2.0 - 0.06 mm
b) greater than 2.0 mm
c) less than 0.002 mm
d) 0.06 - 0.002 mm

Adapted from Activity 70: Soil Stories from Project Learning Tree's *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide*.

Discover how PLT can help you teach... from nature!

- Attend a workshop near you to receive PLT activity guides, ideas, and materials.
- To contact your local PLT State Coordinator, visit www.plt.org or call 202-463-2475.

Answers: c) clay, d) silt, a) sand, b) gravel, water, organic matter

PLT®

Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is a program of the American Forest Foundation.

Connecting Kids to Nature

Try this activity in a forest—a natural place to learn!

For over 30 years, Project Learning Tree® has used the forest as a "*window*" to help young people gain an awareness of the world around them and their place within it. Blending a walk in the forest with a fun and engaging PLT activity creates a powerful learning experience for children of all ages. Here's one idea from PLT that introduces the concept of **forest cycles.**

Activity 78: Signs of Fall

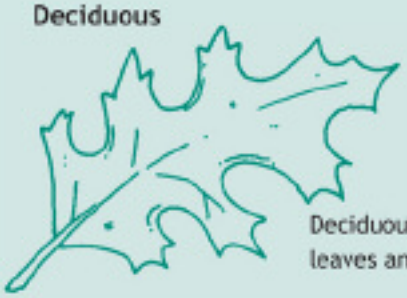
In this activity, children look for signs of autumn. They observe the annual change of seasons, and investigate why leaves of deciduous trees change color in the fall.

Doing the Activity

As autumn approaches, take children on a walk through a wooded area, schoolyard, local park, or neighborhood sidewalk to look for signs of fall. Point out the differences between *deciduous* and *evergreen* trees. Have children find at least five of each and collect sample leaves. Create leaf rubbings by covering a leaf with a piece of paper and rubbing a crayon over it. The leaf's margin and veins will appear. Use crayons to match the fall colors found in the leaves. Encourage critical thinking by asking:

- What signs of fall can you see in the trees and on the ground?
- How many different leaf colors can you find?
- What will happen to the leaves?

Deciduous



Deciduous trees lose their leaves annually. Example: Oak

Evergreen

Evergreen trees keep their leaves (needles) year-round. Example: Pine

Have children use the colorful fall leaves to create a picture. For ideas, see *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert, published by Harcourt Children's Books, 2005, ISBN: 0152053042.

Adapted from Activity 78: Signs of Fall from Project Learning Tree's *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide*.

WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR?

With fall's colder temperatures and shorter days, the cells of deciduous tree leaves begin to die. The dead cells block water and nutrients from the leaf. *Chlorophyll*, the green pigment in the leaves, breaks down and the yellow and red pigments begin to show through.

Native Americans had legends to explain the fall colors. Invite children to create their own imaginative stories.

Discover how PLT can help you teach... from nature!

- Attend, host, or sponsor a local PLT workshop where participants receive PLT activity guides, ideas, and materials.
- Contact your PLT State Coordinator. Visit www.plt.org or call 202-463-2475 for their contact information.

www.plt.org

PLT®

Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is a program of the American Forest Foundation.

Connecting Kids to Nature

Try this activity in a forest—a natural place to learn!

For over 30 years, Project Learning Tree® has used the forest as a "window" to help young people gain an awareness of the world around them and their place within it. Blending a walk in the forest with a fun and engaging PLT activity creates a powerful learning experience for children of all ages. Here's one idea from PLT that introduces the concept of **measurement.**

Activity 67: How Big Is Your Tree?

Trees come in various shapes and sizes. In this activity, children will measure trees in different ways and become familiar with tree scale and structure. They will also learn the importance of standard units of measure and measuring techniques.

Doing the Activity

Any time you are outside, select a tree for children to measure. Begin by asking youth how they might measure something without the proper tools. Then challenge children to measure small outdoor objects (leaves, branches, rocks) using their own body parts: a foot, hand, arm, or finger. Guide children to your selected tree and ask them to estimate the following:

- Height
- Circumference
- Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)
- Width of Canopy (or Crown Spread)

Depending on the age and ability of the children, you may want to provide a six inch ruler or five foot piece of string for assistance. You can request that calculations be estimated in body measurements (hand spans, arm lengths, etc.) or accepted units of measure (feet, meters, etc.) Ask: why might it be useful to measure trees?

On a sunny day, show students how to measure shadows and use a ratio comparison to determine tree height. The mathematical proportions are outlined in the box below. Invite children to practice using the illustrated example.

$$\frac{\text{Tree's Height}}{\text{Tree's Shadow}} = \frac{\text{Child's Height}}{\text{Child's Shadow}}$$

OR

$$\text{Tree's Height} = \frac{\text{Child's Height} \times \text{Tree's Shadow}}{\text{Child's Shadow}}$$

Adapted from Activity 67: How Big Is Your Tree? from Project Learning Tree's PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide.

Discover how PLT can help you teach… from nature!

- Attend a workshop near you to receive PLT activity guides, ideas, and materials.
- To contact your local PLT State Coordinator, visit www.plt.org or call 202-463-2475.

www.plt.org

PLT®

Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is a program of the American Forest Foundation.

Answer: x = 42 feet

Example #2
WALK IN THE FOREST FOR

TEACHERS

This outline supplements the Planning a Walk in the Forest guidelines on page 8. This example combines a Walk in the Forest with a Project Learning Tree educator workshop.

Benefits of a Walk in the Forest for Educators

> Teach educators about forests, forestry, and foresters.
> Provide educators with positive outdoor, hands-on learning experiences about forests, natural resources, forestry, and foresters.
> Increase educators' awareness, appreciation of, and respect for nature, forests, and foresters.
> Explain to educators the many benefits of forests—biological, aesthetic, recreational, educational, environmental, and economic.
> Expose educators to many forest issues, e.g., forest management, fire prevention, forest health, forest products, forest ecology, and wildlife convservation.
> Encourage educators to share their knowledge and understanding with students in the classroom and out-of-doors.
> Encourage educators to take their students outside to learn about trees and forests.

The Goals of a PLT Workshop

> Encourage educators to approach learning and teaching from an ecological and multi-disciplinary perspective.
> Prepare educators to use PLT materials by modeling a sample of PLT activities and teaching strategies.
> Show educators how they can incorporate PLT into their current and future lesson plans and curriculum.
> Increase educators' confidence in teaching environmental education concepts and taking their students outdoors to learn.
> Enrich educators' knowledge of content included in PLT lessons.
> Create a setting in which educators can meet other professionals in their region interested in environmental education.
> Provide a fun and motivating forum that encourages educators to enjoy their own learning process.

Project Learning Tree provides tens of thousands educators every year with environmental education curriculum materials and resources to help them incorporate teaching about the environment into their everyday lesson plans—and take their students outdoors to learn. More than 500,000 educators have been trained to use PLT curriculum, reaching more than 75 million students.

NOTE: A PLT workshop must be coordinated by a trained Project Learning Tree facilitator. Costs for PLT workshops and PLT curriculum materials vary from state to state. For help identifying PLT facilitators, or to become a PLT facilitator, contact your state PLT coordinator. Visit **www.plt.org** *for contact information.*

BEFORE THE WALK

Develop a Plan for a PLT Workshop in Conjunction with a PLT Facilitator

Who?

- ☐ Determine target audience (for example, preK through 12th grade educators in public or private schools, home school parents or tutors, camp staffs, Girl Scouts and Boy Scout leaders, state Parks and Recreation Department staffs, university professors of pre-service teachers, forestry or environmental science majors).

When?

- ☐ Contact the school's science coordinator several months in advance to select a teacher in-service day for the PLT workshop and another date for the walk, or one date for a combined workshop and field day. Similarly, contact your targeted nature center, university department, regional youth group or education center, etc.
- ☐ Submit a Project Learning Tree workshop proposal to your state's PLT coordinator as soon as the date is established with an estimated number of participants. Post the workshop on your state's and National PLT's website and promote in other ways, as appropriate.

$$

- ☐ Apply for grant money from National SAF or through local sponsorship to offset costs of the workshop and the PLT curriculum guides.
- ☐ Create a registration form, including payment information (if applicable), and confirmation letters for participants to be sent upon receipt of the registration form—include list of participants, directions, what to expect/wear, etc.
- ☐ Plan for giveaways for the teachers. Your state forestry department, a forest products company, or a local nursery might be willing to donate seedlings or seed packets with planting instructions or other giveaways. PLT and SAF also have promotional items.

Establish Objectives for the Walk

- ☐ What topics do you want to cover? What PLT activities will you use to address these topics?
- ☐ Determine if the PLT activities meet the objectives of a Walk in the Forest and the needs of the teachers (i.e. grade level, subject, etc.)
- ☐ What two or three major points do you want teachers to know or understand? (See pages 4-6 for some **Talking Point** ideas, and consider local, national, or international issues.)
- ☐ Connecting teachers with foresters (in local, state, and federal agencies, forest industry, or consulting firms), conservation organizations, and your state's PLT program will help develop valuable partnerships.

Plan the Itinerary

- ☐ Allow one hour to welcome all participants, conduct a PLT activity "icebreaker," and give an introduction to PLT.
- ☐ Plan to divide participants into groups based on their school, or grade level they teach, or for rotating a large group through several stations.
- ☐ Layout the location of each station, decide which PLT activity will be conducted at each station, and assess material needs. Use a hands-on PLT activity at each station—you're in the woods, take advantage of it!
- ☐ Plan to gather all participants in one place at the end of the walk to distribute the PLT curriculum guide books, *Hike Through the Guide*, "Lesson Planning Worksheets," an evaluation form, and to wrap up.

Extras

Prepare Information Packet to Give to Walk Participants

Consider including these items:

- ☐ Walk schedule and map of walk area
- ☐ Briefing paper with key forestry terms, issues to be discussed, etc.
- ☐ Photographs (e.g., harvesting methods)
- ☐ State forest facts (available from state agencies or associations)
- ☐ Website resource list
- ☐ Information about trails in the area to take students to, or tips on how to start their own trail on their school campus. Provide information about PLT's *GreenWorks!* grants for funding to develop a trail, plant trees, improve a forest, or another environmental service-learning project.
- ☐ PLT workshop objectives
- ☐ SAF and PLT brochures and information
- ☐ Participant list
- ☐ Names/phone numbers of SAF/PLT contacts for further information
- ☐ Correlations to state and national academic standards for the PLT guides that will be distributed (available online at **www.plt.org**)
- ☐ Blank "Lesson Planning Worksheets" (found in the back of PLT's *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide*)

Finalize Plans

- ☐ Place an order through the PLT workshop facilitator for the appropriate number of PLT curriculum guides based on the number of registered participants.
- ☐ Send invitations to media to cover the event. Have a designated spokesperson.
- ☐ Gather PLT supplies and props for the facilitators of each station.
- ☐ Coordinate lunch details
- ☐ Send reminders to presenters on times, what is expected, final agenda, etc.
- ☐ Collect giveaways from donors.
- ☐ Prepare PLT certificates

Registration Information

- ☐ Organize a registration table and develop a sign-in sheet (including payment information if applicable)
- ☐ Make nametags. Consider using tree cookies (a cross-cut section of tree stem) for the tags.

"The visits into the woods and mills was a wonderful experience that gave a whole new perspective on forestry, and the dedication to stewardship by those working in and managing the forests."

Martha Borden, Maine middle school teacher

DAY OF WALK

Pre-Walk

- ☐ Welcome guests and ask them to check in at the registration table.
- ☐ Distribute nametags, group assignments, and walk information packet.

Proceed with Walk in Accordance with Schedule

Get Set, Go!

- ☐ Start on time.
- ☐ Gather all participants together in one place for the welcome, icebreaker, and introduction to PLT.
- ☐ Give brief information on safety (i.e., snakes, poison ivy, and heat), restrooms, lunch, and the site.
- ☐ Allow time for a brief question and answer session.
- ☐ Break out into different groups and send participants to their first station stop. Rotate stations to the sound of a horn.
- ☐ At each station, the presenters should introduce themselves, conduct the activity, involve the audience, i.e., ask open-ended questions about the topic rather than a question that could be answered with a yes or no.

Conclusion

- ☐ Bring the group back together for the conclusion. Distribute PLT curriculum guides, *Hike Through the Guide*, and "Lesson Planning Worksheets."
- ☐ Promote other PLT workshops including facilitator training, PLT *GreenWorks!* grants, and Teachers Conservation Institute if present in your state.
- ☐ Allow time for a final question and answer session.
- ☐ Encourage additional contact with SAF members and PLT facilitators.
- ☐ Distribute and collect both PLT's workshop evaluation form and a Walk in the Forest evaluation form.
- ☐ Thank guests for attending and make sure all guests have transportation.
- ☐ Have a giveaway table that participants can collect items as they leave and pick up their PLT certificates. Have volunteers staff the table.

AFTER THE WALK

Surveys

- ☐ Review surveys. Evaluate what worked and what didn't work.
- ☐ Return completed PLT workshop participant surveys, PLT facilitator survey including names of all PLT facilitators who volunteered, and all remaining PLT materials to your state PLT coordinator.

SAMPLE PROMOTIONAL FLYER FOR TEACHERS

PLT®

The Cornerstone for Environmental Education

Project Learning Tree's "Walk in the Forest"

Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers, non-formal educators, and other resource professionals working with youth from preschool through grade 12.

PLT uses the forest as a "window" on the world to increase students' understanding of our environment; stimulate students' critical and creative thinking; develop students' ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues; and instill in students the commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

You are invited to "Walk in the Forest" with Project Learning Tree and the Society of American Foresters!

On the walk, learn about trees, the forest ecosystem, and how professional foresters care for the forest. We will follow a trail through Tuskegee National Forest. Please dress for cold weather and wear hiking boots.

To sign up, please complete the attached application and mail it to the address indicated on the form, or email your information to wifinfo@gmail.com. To learn more about Project Learning Tree go to www.plt.org.

When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. January 6, 2012

Where: Visitor parking at Tuskegee National Forest, Tuskegee, Ala.

Cost: Free

Questions: Joe Smith
555 Alabama Street
Tuskegee, AL 36104
(334) 555-1212
wifinfo@gmail.com

Project Learning Tree® Alabama

Example #3
WALK IN THE FOREST FOR

LOCAL LEADERS

This example supplements the Planning a Walk in the Forest guidelines on page 8. Use these guidelines to invite your elected officials and community leaders to see first-hand sustainable forest management, and discuss decisions that impact forests in your area.

Benefits of a Walk in the Forest for Local Leaders

- **Educate your elected officials and local opinion leaders about forests and forest management.**
- **Help policymakers understand the important role forests play in the community, providing clean air, clean water, and jobs.**
- **Demonstrate the commitment in time and resources it takes to responsibly manage forests.**
- **Educate community leaders and local officials about environmental issues and decisions impacting forests.**
- **Become a resource for an elected official and their staff for information about forestry in your state or local area.**

NOTE: For assistance with this type of program consider contacting your state forestry association, or the governmental affairs directors at SAF and AFF.

BEFORE THE WALK

Determine Your Audience and Objectives

☐ Do you want to explain a local forestry-related issue? Teach elected officials about forestry or foresters in their district? Sway opinion on a particular bill or proposed piece of legislation? Address a real-life decision on a forestry or environmental issue in your community? Increase awareness of the forestry profession?

☐ Consider addressing a current "hot" issue.

Where?

☐ Attract attendance by inviting a well-known resident such as a landowner or executive of a forest products company to be a walk speaker.

What?

☐ Look for an opportunity to combine your walk with a tour of a local mill.

Invite Elected Officials, Opinion Leaders

☐ Contact up to six weeks in advance.

☐ Welcome participation from elected official's staff members as well.

Who?

☐ Send personal invitations with background information on forestry, what will be seen on the walk, and who the speakers are; request RSVP.

☐ Follow-up with a phone call, to confirm receipt of the invitation and answer any questions.

☐ Invite the elected official to deliver remarks at the event and work with the legislator's staff to provide talking points.

☐ A few days before the event, confirm attendance and agenda.

Invite Media

- ☐ Check with the legislators or other VIPs to determine if media presence is desired.
- ☐ Invite media to the event and be sure to let them know which legislators or other VIPs have confirmed they will attend, and who the speakers are.
- ☐ Consider inviting:
  - TV, radio, newspaper, and magazine reporters
  - environmental/forestry reporters, outdoor freelance reporters
  - nature/science reporters
  - business/economic reporters
  - feature/local news reporter
  - newsletter editors of local outdoor groups, community associations, etc.
  - bloggers
- ☐ Send a press release or media advisory one week before the event, and be sure to follow up with another email or phone call two days before the event.
- ☐ Prepare press kits. Include a press release, with approved quotes from a legislator or other VIP, and other background information such as forest fact sheets, and SAF and AFF briefings on forest issues.
- ☐ For assistance, contact the communications staff of your state forestry association, SAF or AFF.

DAY OF THE WALK

Hello!

Introduction

- ☐ Welcome guests as they arrive and distribute nametags.
- ☐ Introduce all speakers.
- ☐ Review the walk agenda and answer preliminary questions.
- ☐ Distribute materials such as SAF and AFF program brochures, SAF and AFF briefings on forest issues, forest fact sheets.

Proceed with Walk

- ☐ Allow time for questions, discussion, and photographs.

Q & A

Conclusion

- ☐ Allow time for a final question and answer session.
- ☐ Distribute and collect evaluation forms.
- ☐ Offer to be a resource for elected officials and their staff for information about forestry in your state or local area.

AFTER THE WALK

Thank you

Send Thank You to All Participants and Volunteers

- ☐ Offer SAF and AFF as a source of information.
- ☐ Provide any pertinent follow-up materials from the walk.

Extras

Monitor Press Coverage

- ☐ Send copies of articles, photos, or a description of radio and TV broadcasts, etc., to the SAF and AFF communications staff.

Example #4
WALK IN THE FOREST FOR

TREE FARMERS & FAMILY LANDOWNERS

This outline supplements the Planning a Walk in the Forest guidelines on page 8.
The American Forest Foundation has designated the third Saturday in May as National Walk in the Woods Day™ to encourage Tree Farmers and other private forest owners to treat family, friends, and neighbors to a walk in your woods. This national day acknowledges the dedication of Tree Farmers and other families and individuals who are stewards of America's woodlands.

Benefits of a Walk in the Forest for Landowners

By sharing your Tree Farm or woodland with others you can:

> Help spread the word about the importance of family forests to wildlife, clean water, recreation, and wood products.
> Share with others the joys and rewards of caring for your woodlands.
> Help other people who don't own woodlands understand why caring for America's family forests is so important.
> Show off your accomplishments and commitment to sustaining America's forest heritage!

Before the Walk

When?

Choose a day

☐ If you cannot commit to offering a tour of your property on National Walk in the Woods Day™, consider another date:
- Take advantage of colorful fall foliage
- Look at school schedules
- Coordinate a date to tie in with spring's Arbor Day or Earth Day
- Does your community have a 'special' day that is locally celebrated?

Who?

Whom do you want to invite?

☐ Maybe it's just your family, your children, or grandchildren? Perhaps friends that you have talked with for years about your woods?

☐ If you are interested in hosting a larger group, consider the following:
- A local school, Scout troop, or youth group looking for a field trip
- Your state legislature is discussing a bill that would affect your woods and your elected officials could benefit from seeing first-hand the good work you do to manage your forest.
- Your forester has asked you to share your property with other local landowners.
- Your church, other local groups you belong to, or business leaders in your community are interested in touring your property.

What do you want to share?

- ☐ A recent accomplishment, for example, bird boxes, a newly-thinned area, restored wetlands, or another management activity
- ☐ A unique feature on your property, for example, an historical site, grave yard, or a favorite rock outcropping
- ☐ Your favorite trail
- ☐ An overall appreciation for ecosystems and the dynamics of nature
- ☐ A "hot" issue or a discussion of policies that impact you

Develop a plan

Get Help

- ☐ Do not hesitate to contact the forester who helps you manage your property for assistance with your walk in the woods. Support can also come from American Tree Farm System members and volunteer foresters (**www.treefarmsystem.org/**in-your-state), Project Learning Tree trained facilitators or educators (**www.plt.org/**plt-in-your-state), local naturalists and forestry colleagues, an Extension forester, a local university or high school resource instructor.
- ☐ Decide what you want to show, and what you want your guests to learn at the site(s).
- ☐ Decide if the walk will be led by you, by another professional, or if it will be self-guided.
- ☐ Is there room at the central meeting point for vehicles to park, and to turn around? If it is a field, do you need to mow it to reduce fire hazard from the vehicles?
- ☐ Is the area you want to share accessible by foot? How will you get there? Have maps available that help your guests know where they are and where they are going.

Lunch

- ☐ Are bathroom facilities available?
- ☐ Consider hosting a picnic lunch, catered by your family, a local restaurant, or other co-hosting organization.
- ☐ Seek local sponsors, with whom you do forestry or other business, for support to offset the costs of the day.
- ☐ Contact local media for radio, newspaper, and/or television coverage.

Safety Considerations

- ☐ Make sure there are no low hanging tree limbs blocking the path of your walk. Use a pruning saw and shears to trim vegetation in strategic places so visitors, young or old, can make their way along the path.
- ☐ Walk your woods ahead of time. Make sure that the trail is in good shape and there is safe and sound footing for your guests. Think about what you can highlight on the walk.
- ☐ Make sure restricted areas are clearly marked.
- ☐ Offer an alternative path if the walk goes near a water's edge.
- ☐ Ensure young children are supervised at all times.
- ☐ Pay particular attention if your guests will be using motorized equipment, such as all-terrain vehicles or farm tractors. Will there be a situation in which guests need hard hats or safety goggles?

Insurance

- ☐ Is anyone trained in CPR? Do you have water stations? These are important to ensure a safe and enjoyable walk.
- ☐ Review your property's insurance policy and/or seek professional legal advice for specifics to your property.

☐ As a landowner, you will incur some risk when people are on your property. For more information, you can review "Timberland Liability: Are You at Risk?" in the Nov/Dec 2009 issue of *Tree Farmer* magazine.

DAY OF THE WALK

Hello!

☐ Welcome guests as they arrive.
☐ Review the walk agenda and answer preliminary questions.
☐ Allow time for questions, discussion, and photographs.

AFTER THE WALK

Evaluate

☐ Evaluate what worked and what didn't work.
☐ Would I like to do this again? Can I handle more people? Would fewer have been better?
☐ Did I have good answers to all the questions?

PROMOTION

SHARE YOUR PLANS WITH SAF AND AFF!

Let us know what you plan to do by answering these project questions. This information will help us keep track of projects around the country, and enable us to help publicize your walk.

RETURN TO:

Society of American Foresters
5400 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
Fax: 301-897-3690
safweb@safnet.org

Vanessa Bullwinkle
Director of Communications
American Forest Foundation
1111 19th Street NW, Suite 780
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-463-2472
Fax: 202-463-2461
vbullwinkle@forestfoundation.org

Organizing unit and partners:

Contact name(s), email, and telephone number(s):

What type of walk are you planning?

Who is your walk audience?

Date of your walk:

Additional materials or assistance requested:

Other comments:

Attach copies of plan outlines and any promotion/advertising materials created to date.

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
[Date]

Contact:
[Name, email address, and cell phone number]

Local Foresters Take Fourth Graders on a "Walk in the Forest"
Hands-on activities teach students the many benefits forests provide for people

[CITY, STATE]—The White Mountain Chapter of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters in partnership with Pennsylvania Project Learning Tree will take fourth graders and teachers from Newtown Elementary School on a Walk in the Forest on Friday, October 21 from 9 am-noon at Will and Edna Hamilton's Tree Farm. Foresters will lead the children on a Walk in the Forest and teach them about forests and trees and how foresters work to keep the forests healthy and thriving. Teachers will receive an introduction to the award-winning Project Learning Tree curriculum while the children participate in several hands-on PLT activities.

The Walk in the Forest program is part of a national campaign coordinated by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the American Forest Foundation (AFF). Foresters, environmental educators, and Tree Farmers across the country are inviting school children, teachers, lawmakers, and community members to get outdoors and enjoy the woods on October 21. These walks are designed to be both fun and educational to help people develop an appreciation for nature and an understanding of why caring for America's forests is so important.

"Children and teachers will learn about forests and their importance to people, our health, the environment, and the economy," said [name, organization/affiliation]. "The walk will get children outside and active, having fun and learning about nature."

About the Society of American Foresters
The Society of American Foresters is the scientific and educational association representing nearly 17,000 professional foresters and natural resource professionals in the United States. The society's primary objective is to advance the science, technology, education, and practice of professional forestry for the benefit of all society. The White Mountain chapter has about 120 members. The majority of members are employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmenta1 Resources, Bureau of Forestry; others work for the foresty industry or are professors or researchers at Pennsylvania State University. www.safnet.org

About the American Forest Foundation
The American Forest Foundation (AFF) works to keep forests healthy and our children well-prepared for the future. AFF's sustainable woodland system, the American Tree Farm System®, helps family forest owners manage more than 26 million acres of forest land. AFF's Project Learning Tree® program works with tens of thousands of teachers each year, giving them a peer-reviewed, award-winning environmental education curriculum that opens a door to America's outdoor heritage and has reached more than 75 million students. AFF works with international, national, state, and local partners. In [state], PLT is sponsored by [name of organization(s)]. www.forestfoundation.org.

Note to editors: You are invited to cover this event and can expect good photo opportunities and comments from the children.

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Revise the example below, or develop your own. Visit the media outlet's website and follow instructions for submitting a letter to the editor. Typically letters to the editor should not be more than 150 words.

October 22, 2011

Sue Jones (get name if possible)
Editor, *Daily News*
220 Jones Bridge Road
Simpson, PA 17806

Dear Ms. Jones:

American children ages 3-12 are spending 27 percent of their time with electronic media, and only 1 percent outdoors—sad but true. If we wish for today's youth to become tomorrow's stewards, we must engage them with the outside world.

As a member of the White Mountain Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, in partnership with Pennsylvania Project Learning Tree, I had the pleasure yesterday of taking fourth grade students and teachers from Newtown Elementary School to Will and Edna Hamilton's Tree Farm for a Walk in the Forest. It was a joy to see the children get excited when they saw a woodpecker pecking a tree, or when they explored under a log.

On the walk, children learned about forests and their importance to people and the environment, while their teachers learned some new ways of incorporating nature into the classroom. Some of these students and teachers had never been in the woods before, so this was not only a wonderful learning opportunity, but also a personally enriching experience for the children.

The Walk in the Forest program is coordinated naionally by the Society of American Foresters and the American Forest Foundation (AFF).

Sincerely,
Susan Green
Chair, White Mountain SAF Chapter

IDEAS FOR USING WALK IN THE FOREST LOGOS

The Walk in the Forest digital logo can be used in many ways. Use the suggestions outlined below or let your imagination run wild and promote the Walk in the Forest program.

For SAF logo contact:
Louise Murgia
Society of American Foresters
Director of Field Services
Phone: 202-463-2472

For AFF, PLT, or Tree Farm logos contact:
John Otte
American Forest Foundation
jotte@forestfoundation.org
Phone: 202-463-2428

- ☑ Use the logo on letters, invitations, brochures, and flyers.
- ☑ Use the logo on small, inexpensive items to give away to children who participate in your walk. Examples: stickers, rulers, erasers, folders, etc.
- ☑ Print t-shirts or hats with the logo for walk volunteers to wear to identify themselves. For T-shirts, place partner organizations' logos, including the SAF, PLT, and Tree Farm logos as appropriate, on the back.
- ☑ Make a large walk banner to hang at your walk site, and include organizational logos as appropriate.

WALK IN THE FOREST EVALUATION

Thank you for joining us on our Walk in the Forest today. We hope you enjoyed the experience. To help us evaluate the success of our walk, please answer the following questions. A walk leader will collect this before you leave.

1. Were the goals of the Walk in the Forest clear to you?

2. Did the Walk in the Forest meet the stated goals?

3. Did the topics help meet the stated goals? Any topics omitted?

Topics	Not Appropriate				Appropriate
A. _____	1	2	3	4	5
B. _____	1	2	3	4	5
C. _____	1	2	3	4	5
D. _____	1	2	3	4	5

4. Did the speakers cover their topics in an interesting and informative way?

Speakers	Needs Improvement				Excellent
A. _____	1	2	3	4	5
B. _____	1	2	3	4	5
C. _____	1	2	3	4	5
D. _____	1	2	3	4	5

5. Was the venue appropriate for meeting the goals?

6. How have your impressions of forests and foresters changed?

7. Please note any questions that were left unanswered.

8. Please share any recommendations for ways to improve the walk.

9. AFF and SAF communicates electronically through several newsletters and other publications. Provide us with your name, address, and email address and tell us your interests, and we'll make sure to keep you informed on our latest news, information and resources, and action alerts.

Thank you!

RESOURCES

Web Sites

Connecting Kids to Nature activities **www.forestfoundation.org/family-activities**
Project Learning Tree Coordinators **www.plt.org**
Tree Farm Committees **www.treefarmsystem.org**
Society of American Foresters State Societies and Chapters **www.safnet.org**

Books

For Adults:
Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv
Sharing Nature with Children, The Classic Parents' and Teachers' Nature Awareness Guidebook by Joseph B. Cornell

For Children:
Dawn Publications
The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
The Man Who Planted Trees by Jean Giono

Insurance

Society of American Foresters
Finance and Administration Department
Phone: 301-897-8720, ext. 103

American Forest Foundation
American Tree Farm System Program Coordinator
Phone: 202-463-2733

Promotion

Society of American Foresters
5400 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: 866-897-8720 • Fax: 301-897-3690
safweb@safnet.org

American Forest Foundation
1111 19th Street NW, Suite 780
Washington, DC 20036
Vanessa Bullwinkle
Director of Communications
Phone: 202-463-2472 • Fax: 202-463-2461
vbullwinkle@forestfoundation.org

Logos

For AFF, PLT, or Tree Farm logos:
John Otte
American Forest Foundation
Phone: 202-463-2428
jotte@forestfoundation.org

For SAF logos:
Louise Murgia
Society of American Foresters
Phone: 866-897-8720, ext. 118
murgial@safnet.org