

Lions Clubs who are looking for a Community Service Project should consider the one proposed in the following letter.

(Forwarded by Lion Ronald J. Seibel, President, College Park Lions Club)

Dear Lions Club Members,

The Lions Club's Mission of community service, good citizenship, and promoting the welfare of the community is a very noble one. The 4th Grade Foresters project is a great opportunity to visibly demonstrate your mission. The trees that will be planted will promote the welfare of the community because they will beautify the locale as well as help meet basic air quality standards. You will serve the community by teaching children to be good stewards and good citizens. With your support, 4th Grade Foresters USA can help with your mission by providing trees for 4th Graders to take home and plant on Arbor Day. These tree packages could have your message attached to them.

Maryland Arbor Day is April 27, 2012. The deadline for participation is March 21, 2012. There are approximately 60,000 4th graders in Maryland. We can provide you with the approximate number of students at public and private schools in your area.

**A Remarkable Idea, Arbor Day at School.
In the beginning . . . and almost the end**

In 1885 the National Education Association called for observation of Arbor Day in all of the nation's schools on the official Arbor Day of their own State. It was a resounding endorsement of J. Sterling Morton's founding of Arbor Day. When the Nebraskan was later asked about the holiday he remarked, "All other holidays repose upon the past, while Arbor Day proposes for the future."

School observations grew by leaps and bounds. Over the years, millions of children received and planted millions of seedlings . . . millions of seedlings that grew into millions of mature trees. Together, those trees make up a unique forest. A forest planted by generations of America's children. Somehow the School Arbor Day tradition began to fade away and now only relatively few kids get a tree to take home and plant it on their State's Arbor Day.

It's time to reverse the decline.

Now in the era of global warming and air pollution, tree planting is even more important than ever.

Trees take carbon dioxide (CO₂) out of the atmosphere to help reduce warming and help clean the air we breathe. Planting trees is a simple, inexpensive and easy way to address the problem.

The Fourth Grade Foresters Project has four major goals:

1. To revitalize observation of Arbor Day in America's schools on the official Arbor Day proclaimed in their own state.
2. To send every fourth grader home with a tree of their own to plant and care for.
3. To support employment of workers with disabilities. *(Each tree is individually packaged for distribution by workers with disabilities.)*

4. To bring schools, community service organizations, businesses, and private individuals together to have direct positive impact on the urban forests of their communities.

In its first five years, the Fourth Grade Foresters USA and over 400 sponsors provided more than 300,000 trees to fourth graders in 39 states. For more information visit: www.fourthgradeforestersusa.com.

How Lions Clubs Can Help

If a Lions Club becomes a sponsor of the Fourth Grade Foresters they will:

1. Build a new connection with the community by making it possible for trees to be planted and cared for in your local Urban Forest . . . the trees surrounding the homes of your citizens.
2. Share the message and vision of the Club directly with local families.
3. Help kids learn that they make a difference in their community and have a direct impact on the environment.
4. Help local Fourth Grade Foresters set an example for the entire community. The trees they plant will become a forest that will benefit the environment and generations to come.

There is absolutely no cost to the student, the teachers, the schools, or the school district. The individually packaged 12" – 18" trees are available for \$1.59 per tree. Every tree is, packaged by workers with disabilities.

The cost to provide a tree to a Fourth Grader includes:

- *An individually packaged 12" to 18" evergreen tree recommended for growth in your state.**
- *A bag tag attached to each tree featuring planting and care instructions and you attach any information about the Club you wish to include.**
- *You will be provided with media kits to send information to local media.**

Fourth Grade Foresters USA is not a nonprofit organization but rather a catalyst for direct sponsorship of the project in local communities and at the grass roots level. Your sponsorship takes center stage as a community service and public relations outreach while we provide trees, packaging, and logistics. Our role is that of a service resource for the program. In providing those services we hire workers with disabilities to prepare and package all of the trees given to fourth graders.

As leaders in this program the Society will set an inspiring example to organizations across the state and nation and will be known by their good work at home and afar.

Sincerely,
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