

Forest Field Days Program Overview for Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in Forest Field Days! The information in this document will orient you to our organization and the Forest Field Day volunteer opportunity. The front of this document describes the program, and the back gives important information about the day you are volunteering. Please read through and feel free to contact me with questions.

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Forests Today and Forever Forest Today and Forever (FTF) is a 20 + year old non-profit foundation *promoting forest stewardship through education*. We provide programs to educate the public about forest management to a variety of ages in a variety of venues. We are entirely volunteer dependent, and operate with a 12-person board, a director, and part-time educator.



Forest Field Days The Forest Field Day (FFD) program is FTF's largest program, with more than 1,700 students attending at family owned tree farms. To execute Forest Field Days, more than 150 volunteer "days" are required each year. Our volunteers from ODF, ODF&W, the Small Woodland Owners Assoc., the BLM, the USFS, the timber industry, watershed councils, the educational community, the business community, Women Owning Woodlands, the Master Woodlands Program, the educational community and forest lovers in general.

Forest Field Days Program Description The program contains a six-week curriculum for middle school students, designed to expose students to typical issues an Oregon family encounters if they owned forested property. There are two parts to this program: (1) the in-class curriculum, facilitated by the teacher, and (2) a field component, which FTF volunteers facilitate.

During FFDs, students take on the role of an inheriting grandchild, with three siblings, who is being left 200 acres of forested property by "Grandma Petersen." The rules are that they cannot sell it, must harvest sustainably, and must create a five year land management plan that meets all regulations to protect water, soil and wildlife while providing for recreation and paying taxes. Students work in family groups of four, each with a specific interest:

1. Alex wants to make money through timber harvests.
2. Chris wants to have fun and develop recreational opportunities.
3. Kelly wants to assure that wildlife is protected and its habitat enhanced, and
4. Sam is focused on maintaining healthy water and soils.

At the field day, the kids rotate through four learning stations to gather information for their management plan. The four stations are:

1. Timber- focuses on math skills to measure a stand of trees and determine value, discussion of forest succession and what a forest requires for health. Students also get to use a forester's tools.
2. Soil & Streams- Students learn soil identification, components of healthy soil, the concepts of compaction and erosion; and understand riparian issues such as plant life, fish habitat and water flow.
3. Wildlife- students identify wildlife through scat, tracks & nests; dissecting owl pellets; and by taking a walk to look for wildlife and signs of wildlife.
4. Recreation- students hike a 1/2-mile loop stopping at sites to discuss safe and responsible recreation in the forest.

The culmination of the curriculum happens back in the classroom where students apply what they learn to devise a comprehensive management plan for their forest property.

Forest Field Days Volunteer Information

Training We provide training materials called Resource Leader Guides. These are on the web site (foreststodayandforever.org) and distributed to you by email. The guides are specific to the station that you signed up for. Please read through the guide in advance of your volunteer date. We like for new volunteers to come out to the site to learn about the program, or to observe a FFD in action if that is possible. We understand busy schedules, though, and know that this is not an option for many people. If you would like to make time for this, please use the contact info on the reverse side of this page.

Site Directions We host programs at three different tree farms. Here is information for all three. If you do not know what tree farm you signed up for, please use the contact info on the reverse side

1. *Bauman Tree Farm*- 84289 Territorial Rd, Eugene. The property is 15 minutes south of the Eugene intersection of W. Eleventh and Greenhill Road. Go south on Greenhill (it becomes Crow Road) to Territorial, turn left and go about four miles. It's on the left, at Milepost 29 across from Willow Springs Farm. Please drive 15mph on gravel roads. Continue to straight to volunteer parking area (a sign is posted)
2. *Happy Valley Tree Farm*- From I-5, go into Lebanon following the South Truck Route, which turns into Oak St. At Park Street, go left (99 Northbound), travel a couple of blocks to Grant, and turn right (east) on Grant. Go past the park on the left and across the bridge. Turn right onto Berlin Rd. Go 5.2 miles on Berlin, turn left (north) onto Berlinger Scale Rd., and drive 1.2 miles. Turn right at the Happy Valley Tree Farm sign. Go up gravel driveway about .5 miles, stay to right at the fork by the gate. Park in the field.
3. *Huntington Tree Farm*- 07959 N. Fork South River Rd., Florence. 8.4 miles up the North Fork of the Siuslaw. Parking on the right at the white barn.

Timeframe Schools are scheduled to arrive anytime between 9:00am and 9:45am. We ask volunteers to be there between 8:15am and 8:30am depending upon arrival time. An email will be sent to you in advance of your day to confirm your arrival time. School leaves anywhere from 1:30pm to 2:30pm. Volunteers stay for about ten minutes after student departure to debrief the day.

Schedule There are four 45-55 minute sessions in which the students rotate between stations, and a short (20 minute) lunch break. You will facilitate your station several times during the day.

When you Arrive Connect with a FTF staff member so that you can be oriented to you station, and collect any new information. You will also be asked to do a Station Safety Check, where you check your station to ensure everything is set and in good condition. There will then be a quick Site Safety Orientation for all the guides. Allow a half hour to ready your station, and attend the Site Safety Orientation.

Dress It's Oregon! Dress in layers and for all types of weather. The mornings can be quite chilly. There will not be any indoor spaces to warm up, so consider this when preparing for the day.

Lunch & Hospitality Pack a lunch. You will have about 20 minutes in the middle of the day to enjoy a break. FTF provides coffee, water, fruit and pastries in a shelter especially set up for volunteers.

Your Goal for the Day A fun and educational time with the students! We look forward to seeing you in the woods!

Bauman Tree Farm



