

Hello Volunteer! Thank you for joining us for Forests Field Days! Since it is your first time volunteering, I wanted to share some context with you that will help you understand the program.

First and foremost, Forest Field Days is a program that gets students learning outdoors! We hope students leave with a newfound connection to the forest and an excitement to return many times again. Secondly, and also very important, Forest Field Days is an opportunity for FTF and volunteers to cultivate and appreciation and understanding of sustainable forestry - how forests are managed to protect the multiple important resources they provide.

The field day itself, which you are signed up to volunteer, is a component of a larger Forest Field Day curriculum. Here is a brief description:

**BEFORE** the field day, students engage in a variety of lessons and classroom activities that introduce them to forest stewardship and the concept of multi-use forests. That said, students should come to the field day somewhat prepared. All schools are different, though, so there are varying degrees of preparedness depending on the teacher.

**AFTER** the field day and back in the classroom, students work in groups to complete a 5-year management plan for a fictitiously inherited forest property. Each student in the group becomes a character that represents a different viewpoint that they advocate for. Please see the attached one-page document to learn about each character.

**DURING** the field day, students work with volunteers (YOU!) to collect pertinent information that they use when they devise their forest management plans. The 'Leader Guides' will tell you all that you need to know about the content to deliver at your station. You can find the leader guides here: <http://foreststodayandforever.org/volunteers/forest-field-days-volunteer-resources/>. Please read this over in advance of your volunteer day.

**NOTE** that some volunteers like to talk about the characters during their time with students, and some do not mention the characters at all. It is up to you!

Thank you again for signing up! I am excited to see you out there and work with you to connect students to Oregon's forests.

