

Winter 2025

SUCCESSES FROM OUR 30TH YEAR!



Top: Yolanda Elementary School Students posing after their tree farm field trip; Bottom left: 'Find Your Forest Path' students learning about scaling before their sawmill field trip; Bottom Middle: Justin Helgren, FTF board member and Roseburg forest engineer, teaching Forest Field Day students at the Timber Station; Bottom Right: students observing a cone as part of a lesson on trees delivered at the tree farm by our partners at Talk About Trees.

We concluded our thirtieth year in forestry education reaching a variety of audiences—from elementary students to high school classes and college students. In total, we reached 3,254 people with our programs designed to educate and inspire an appreciation for sustainable forestry. Forest Field Days engaged 1,245 middle school students, with 187 teachers and chaperones learning alongside students in the field. We served 687 4th and 5th graders with tree farm field trips where students experience a working forest while learning about trees, forest fire, protecting water, and more. At the Oregon Logging Conference, an additional 422 elementary school students learned about forest careers, they met a forester, and observed the big machines used in forest operations up close. High school programs collectively reached 461 students, with the forest fire program delivered to 10 classes and the forest careers program to 7 classes. We engaged an additional 40 high school students from Eugene 4J's

CTE program in Forestry and Natural Resources, offering students hands-on experiences with forestry tools and connecting them with professionals. We also launched our 'Find Your Forest Path' summer program where 14 Eugene high school students took a deep-dive into forestry over 5 days—they learned about forestry from 'seedling to sawmill' and explored career opportunities along the way. At the college level, we reached 25 University of Oregon students with a tree farm tour. We are proud of our successes in 2024 and of our work over thirty years in forestry education. With the generous support of many, we are eager to kick off 2025 programming! Thank you to financial supporters who are listed on the next page, volunteers who donate their time and expertise to teach during our programs, and to our many partners including Tom Bauman and Lindsay Reaves, who generously donate their forest so that we many provide field experiences to the public.

THANK YOU 2024 DONORS

We strive to make our donors proud with every dollar spent to educate youth and inform the public about forest management. We are grateful to our community of supporters!

Benefactors (>\$10,000)

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- Oregon Forest Resources Institute
- Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund

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- Roseburg Resources
- Sierra Pacific Industries

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This list is accurate through 12/20/2024.

Additional funding for 2024 may have been received after this newsletter went to print and will be reflected in our annual report and on our website. Thank you for your understanding.

Volunteers Needed for Spring!



Teach middle school students during Forest Field Days! This volunteer opportunity is for everyone who loves the forest and wants to share their passion with the next generation of forest stewards.

5-hour commitment • no experience necessary • scripted lessons • training provided • a fun, change of pace guaranteed!

EUGENE CTE STUDENTS BUILD AT BAUMAN'S



4J Future Build students making measurements for the construction project.

Improvements and additions are underway at the educational site at Bauman Tree Farm thanks to a collaboration with Eugene 4J's Future Build, a construction program for 11th and 12th grade students. Through this hands-on and project-based program, students earn credit in core academic subjects and Career Technical Education as they engage in work that serves or solves a community need—they have built numerous structures for victims of forest fires, people experiencing homelessness, and low-income families. This fall, we are thrilled that Future Build is supporting Forests Today & Forever in service of our work educating local youth. Future Build students are working on two projects at Bauman Tree Farm. First, they are designing and constructing platforms and covers for our port-o-potties. Their work will lengthen the life of the units by providing a stable base and cover to protect them from the elements. Second, students will design and build an educational shelter that is especially intended for our owl pellet dissection activity that we use to teach thousands of middle schoolers about the forest food web. As part of this collaboration, Forests Today & Forever engages in our mission-driven work by teaching Future Build students about forestry. Students toured the tree farm, learned about the sustainable forestry cycle, and how the wood products they use are manufactured. Stay tuned for updates and come out to see the progress at Forest Field Days this spring!

UNDERSTANDING FOREST FIRE IN HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES



Students conducting investigations to examine the effects of fuel, topography, and weather on fire behavior.

Forest Today & Forever's 'Understanding Forest Fire' program explores the essential question, "how does fire burn out of control?". We engage students with a hands-on, inquiry-based activity where students plan and build a model landscape and then set the model on fire to investigate how fire behaves, examining the effects of fuel, topography, and weather. This program is free to

schools and we supply the teaching materials. We bring this important program to high schools in Lane County, Douglas County, Benton County, and communities north of Lane County along the 1-5 corridor up to and including Salem, and coastal communities from Newport to Reedsport. In 2024, 211 students participated in the program from Lane, Douglas, and Multnomah counties.



For more information, see our website:

www.ForestsTodayAndForever.org

Contact Beth Krisko:

coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org





FORESTS

TODAY & FOREVER

PO Box 55 | Eugene, OR 97440

2025 WINTER NEWSLETTER

- Successes from our 30th Year!
- Thank You, 2024 Donors
- Eugene CTE Students Build at Bauman's
- Understanding Forest Fire in High School Classes

THANK YOU

Thank you to International Paper Foundation and Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund for grant funding that supports our work in forestry education.



International
Paper



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Our mission is to promote forest stewardship through education.

We value the feedback of our community. Please let us know how you think we are doing in support of our mission. Thoughts, ideas, and suggestions are welcome!

Introducing the 2025 Forests Today & Forever Board of Directors

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