

Alaska

2012 State Report



Alaska's State Tree is the Sitka Spruce.

Alaska State Statistics

Active Arbor Day Foundation Members
in Alaska: **379**



TREE CITY USA®

Program in Alaska:

Tree City USA Communities: **8**
Total population served: **388,293**

Largest Tree City USA in Alaska:
Anchorage, population 286,174

Smallest Tree City USA in Alaska:
Eielson AFB, population 2,740

Tree Line USA Utilities: **3**

Tree Campus USA Colleges: **1**

Certified Nature Explore Classrooms: **0**

**Alaska celebrates Arbor Day
on the third Monday in May.**

Nature Explore Classrooms Are Changing the Lives of Children

Children today spend less time outdoors and are more disconnected from nature than ever before. At the same time studies show increasing rates of childhood obesity, diabetes, and behavior challenges. Addressing the problem is the growing Nature Explore program, a collaborative project of the Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. Nature Explore provides comprehensive, field-tested resources to help educators, administrators, and families make nature part of the daily lives of children – at child care centers, schools, nature centers, parks, and at home.



Nature Explore Classrooms, in spaces large and small, continue to be designed and built across the country using field-tested principles in the *Learning With Nature Idea Book* (available at natureexplore.org). In Nature Explore Classrooms, children begin to understand the natural world around them, instilling a lifelong sense of wonder and a love of nature...creating the earth's next generation of tree planters and environmental stewards. To learn more about Nature Explore Classrooms in Alaska, please visit natureexplore.org/classrooms.

Alaska Members Plant 9,312 Trees

The Arbor Day Foundation's dedicated members are making a difference by planting trees in their communities across the United States. Our 379 Alaska members have helped plant more than 9,312 trees across the state last year.

Trees provide numerous benefits to us and our environment. Whether it is planting just one or the thousands of trees mentioned above, our members in Alaska have added beauty to their homes and neighborhoods, increased their property value, attracted birds and other wildlife, provided shade and windbreaks, decreased energy costs, and created a more livable community.



Our State and National Forests are National Treasures

From coast to coast, they are more than our national forests. They are national treasures. They thrill us with towering majesty and inspire us with breathtaking beauty. They provide wood for our homes, habitat for wildlife, clean air, and drinking water for millions of us.

But, in recent years, record wildfire seasons have destroyed millions of trees in forests around the country. Many areas have burned so severely that replanting is necessary. Yet much of the U.S. Forest Service budget has been diverted to simply fighting these massive fires, with much less funding left for replanting. The Forest Service has identified a backlog of more than one million acres of America's national forests that need to be replanted. And each year, with every wildfire, storm, or insect epidemic, the backlog steadily increases.

Our forests are our future. And you can help protect them... one tree at a time.



Alaska Tree City USAs Support Community Forestry

The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA® program encourages, supports, and strengthens effective urban and community forestry programs in diverse communities nationwide through recognition, education, and publicity. From the humble beginning of the program 36 years ago, it has grown to be the leading community forestry recognition program in the country, with more than 3,400 designated Tree City USAs across America.

Tree City USA is thriving in Alaska because of the strong partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the Alaska Division of Forestry. Alaska boasts 8 certified Tree City USA communities. Last year, Alaska's Tree City USAs spent a combined total of \$3,311,710 on their urban forestry budgets benefiting the more than thousands of Alaska residents who live in those communities. The dedication of Alaska's urban and community foresters, city officials, and citizens to planting and caring for trees in their cities and towns helps increase energy savings, clean the air and water, and beautify the entire state.

Tree Campus USA

The Tree Campus USA program recognizes college and university campuses that:

- Effectively manage their campus trees.
- Develop connectivity with the community beyond campus borders to foster healthy urban forests.
- Strive to engage their student population utilizing service learning opportunities centered on campus, and community forestry efforts.

Colleges and universities can be recognized, just like the **University of Alaska Anchorage**, as a Tree Campus USA college by meeting five standards developed to promote healthy trees and student involvement. By meeting the annual standards and being recognized as a Tree Campus USA college, the campus not only benefits the environment but it instills pride in the students, faculty, and community.

Learn more about the Tree Campus USA program at arborday.org/treecampususa.

Contacts

For more information about programs offered by the Arbor Day Foundation and our work in Alaska, please visit arborday.org or call:

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