

# NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest  
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## *Free 2015 Christmas tree permits for fourth graders through Every Kid in a Park Initiative*

**Colville, Washington** (November 9, 2015) – The Colville National Forest is excited to announce that all fourth-graders are eligible for a free Christmas tree permit through the new White House initiative Every Kid in a Park (“Every Kid”). Every Kid is a nationwide call to action to inspire every young person across the country to visit our national parks, forests, public lands and waters. All fourth graders are eligible to receive a pass that allows free access to federal lands and waters across the country for a full year. In support of this initiative, the Forest Service will make available a free Christmas tree permit to every interested fourth-grader with a 4th Grade Every Kid in the Park Pass or paper voucher. Christmas tree permits are available on a first-come, first served basis while supplies last.

### **Instructions on how to obtain a pass or voucher and collect a free tree permit:**

- In order for students to receive a free tree permit, they must present a valid paper voucher printed from the Every Kid in a Park website: <https://everykidinapark.gov/>.
- Visit the website and follow the instructions on the website to obtain the paper voucher.
- Print out the paper voucher.
- Bring paper voucher with you to one of our ranger stations or headquarters office on the Colville National Forest to claim the free permit.
- The fourth-grader and an adult must present the voucher in person
- One free tree permit per fourth-grader.

### **Background on Every Kid in a Park Initiative:**

Forest Service Every Kid events in November and December will emphasize recreating on National Forests and Grasslands, winter sports, and the annual Capitol Christmas tree campaign. Please visit the following website for more information on U.S. Forest Service events and activities for Every Kid in a Park: <http://www.fs.fed.us/rmrs-beta/events/every-kid-park>. Every Kid is an Administration-wide effort among the National Park Service, Forest Service, Department of Education, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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Today, more than 80 percent of American families live in urban areas, and many lack easy access to safe outdoor spaces. At the same time, kids are spending more hours than ever in front of screens instead of outside. The Every Kid in a Park initiative encourages valuable opportunities to explore, learn, and play in the spectacular places that belong to us all and aims to inspire stewardship of these places for future generations.

Starting Sept. 1, 2015, fourth graders (including home-schooled students) can obtain a paper pass for free entry into all federal lands and waters by visiting the Every Kid in a Park website at [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov). Students participate in an educational activity and receive a paper pass to print and bring with them to visit public lands. At certain participating sites, fourth graders can exchange the paper pass for a durable plastic Interagency Annual 4th Grade Pass. Fourth graders must be present for free entry into parks and to exchange the paper pass for a plastic pass. The fourth-grader can use either the paper pass or the durable pass for fee-free entry for them and their family, and both are valid from Sept. 1, 2015, through Aug. 31, 2016. Please note that fourth graders must be present at entry.

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*The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.*



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