



**Pacific Northwest Region**  
**Malheur National Forest**  
541-575-3000  
[www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur)

# News Release

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## **Forest Service Offering Free Holiday Trees to Fourth Graders through “Every Kid in a Park” Initiative**

**Portland, OR** – The U.S. Forest Service is excited to announce that all fourth graders are eligible for a free holiday tree permit through the national Every Kid in a Park initiative.

In order for students to receive a free tree permit, they must present a valid paper voucher printed from the Every Kid in the Park website.

- Step 1:** Visit [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) and follow instructions to obtain the paper voucher.
- Step 2:** Print out the paper voucher
- Step 3:** Bring the paper voucher with you to a National Forest Office to claim the free permit.

Your local Malheur National Forest offices:

**Malheur National Forest, Supervisor’s Office**  
431 Patterson Bridge Road, John Day, OR 97845

**Emigrant Creek Ranger District**  
265 Highway 20 South, Hines, OR 97738

**Prairie City Ranger District**  
327 SW Front Street, Prairie City, OR 97869



The Every Kid in a Park initiative is a national effort to encourage children to visit national parks, forests, and public lands. As part of the initiative, all fourth graders in the country 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). The Forest service Every Kid events in November and December emphasize recreating on National Forests and Grasslands, winter sports, holiday tree permits, and the annual Capitol Christmas tree campaign.

The Pacific Northwest Region consists of 16 National Forests, 59 District Offices, a National Scenic Area, and a National Grassland comprising 24.7 million acres in Oregon and Washington and employing approximately 3,550 people. To learn more about the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest, please visit [www.fs.usda.gov/r6](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r6).

### **Holiday Trees**

Most national forests allow users to harvest trees for personal use firewood and holiday trees, but you must first have a Forest Service-issued permit and you must follow specific guidelines, which can vary from forest to forest.



for the greatest good

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*(continued)*

For those harvesting Christmas Trees on the Malheur National Forest, avoid cutting trees in or near developed campgrounds, tree plantations, stream site areas and marked old growth areas. Maximum height for Christmas trees on the Malheur National Forest is 12 feet and a 12 inch or less stump height must be left. Only trees that have another tree within 20 feet may be cut to maintain disbursement of trees and optimum growth for the future. Harvesters are asked to not cut larger trees just to remove the tops. Trees are not to be cut within 150 feet of Highway 26, County Road 62 or Forest Road 16.

### ***General Guidelines***

- Contact the forest district office nearest you to obtain a permit.
- Holiday trees cannot be sold. Christmas tree tags must be secured to the tree before leaving the cutting site.
- Contact each forest district office for specific dates, maps, times and accessibility.
- Before heading out, check the local forest for the latest warnings, such as fire or road closures.
- Always check weather conditions for proper dress attire in the forests.
- Tell someone you know where you are going and when you will return
- Stay away from areas along the sides of streams, rivers, lakes, wet areas. Check with the ranger district for proper distance.
- Be aware of areas where trees may be weakened by storms, insect damage or fire.
- Most holiday tree permits sales begin in November. Know your location, the weather, and your ability to traverse through snow.
- Dress for the season. Always be prepared for the cold and snow, and start tree hunting early in the day to have plenty of daylight hours.
- Bring emergency supplies, including water and food and a first-aid kit.
- Remember to tell someone where you are going. Your cell phone may not work on many forests.
- Never cut a tall tree just for the top.
- Select a tree from overstocked areas and thickets. Watch restricted areas. Cut only one tree per tag.
- Attach your tree tag to harvested tree before placing in vehicle.
- Bring a rope and tarp to move your tree from the harvest area to your vehicle.
- Learn how to read a map and use a compass- and carry them both with you.

***Please remember: You are responsible for your own safety and for the safety of those around you.***

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